



Publication of Working together To Safeguard Children 2013

In March 2013 the DfE published the revised version of Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A copy can be downloaded from:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/D FE-00030-2013>

This guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

This guidance replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010); The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000); and statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (2007). Links to relevant supplementary guidance that professionals should consider alongside this guidance can be found at Appendix C of this guidance.

The guidance came into effect from **15 April 2013**.

The Guidance Includes:

- Chapter 1: Assessing need and providing help
- Chapter 2: Organisational responsibilities
- Chapter 3: Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Chapter 4: Learning and improvement framework
- Chapter 5: Child death reviews
- Appendix A: Glossary
- Appendix B: Statutory framework
- Appendix C: Further sources of information

WSCB are developing an action plan to ensure compliance to the new guidance is in place.

Training Programme 2013/14

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is pleased to offer a programme of multi-agency training for 2013 to 2014. This includes courses which are part of a rolling programme as well as new courses that will reflect the changing agenda for safeguarding children.

The full continuum of 'safeguarding' training has been included in this programme so that managers and staff are aware of the range of courses on offer. This includes courses relating to:

- The Warrington Early Help training including the Common Assessment Framework,
- Safeguarding and Child Protection courses as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013); and
- Domestic Abuse training provided by Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership

The WSCB is therefore in a position to maintain an overview of all multi agency training activity across the safeguarding continuum. Information about courses will be updated as it becomes available on the WSCB website www.warringtonlscb.org in the 'Professionals and Volunteers' section

WSCB Update

New Board Members:

We welcome some new Members to the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board, and look forward to the contribution they will make to improving safeguarding for children in Warrington, they are:

Ann McCormack: Assistant Director, Partnership and Resources at Warrington Borough Council. Ann will be chairing the WSCB Quality Assurance and Performance sub group.

Karen Dawber: Director of Nursing, Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Karen chairs the WSCB Policy and Practice sub group.

Martin Cleworth, Operational Superintendent, Northern Division, Cheshire Police.

Nigel Wenham, Detective Chief Inspector Strategic Public Protection, Cheshire Police

WSCB Lay Members:

We were very pleased with the interested generated by advertising for Lay Members for WSCB. Russell Malley and Brian Monaghan have been successful and joined other Board members at the Development Day on 18th April. We look forward to the contribution that Russell and Brian will bring in providing additional perspectives to the work of promoting children's welfare and keeping them safe in Warrington,

Feedback from Young Persons Event, 2/3/13:

WSCB commissioned a consultation with Children and Young People (carried out by Catch 22 and Young Advisors) to stimulate a sustainable way of involving children and young people in the work of the Board. Over 100 young people, aged between 11 and 20, were consulted in a number of ways. Among the findings that emerged were:

- Violence and drugs were perceived as the biggest threat to young people's safety.
- Knowing their area, network of family and friends was an important factor in keeping safe.
- The best way to communicate with Young People was seen to be through Youth Workers/ Youth Provision.
- A strong recommendation for an increase youth provision to improve feeling safe.
- The young people saw the Police as a key organisation in keeping them safe and there was a call for an increase in Police provision and/ or working more closely with young people and youth services
- Young people were keen to continue to be involved in consultation about improving safety.

WSCB Development Session 18th April 2013:

WSCB are committed to the continuous improvement of safeguarding children in Warrington. Part of this involves ensuring that the Board responds to National and local Safeguarding issues, and ensures that the Board remains fit for purpose to support and challenge all partners in our joint responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Borough.

The Development Session held on 18th April considered the implications of the publication of "Working Together" March 2013 for multi-agency working in

Warrington to safeguard children, along with other recent Government Publications including “Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the reformed NHS: Accountability and Assurance framework” (see National Update below). Other high profile issues such as the Savile case and Government response to Lord Carlile’s report on the Edlington case also have key messages for us to consider.

An Action Plan including the development of a new Business Plan for 2013/14 and work plans for the Sub Groups will be produced

Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol

WSCB with partners across the Cheshire and Merseyside foot print have agreed a joint Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol. The protocol is to be ‘launched’ on Friday 28th June at Halton Stadium.

The afternoon is intended for front line practitioners so if anyone wants to attend please email WSCB@warrington.gov.uk.

Further information to follow about this event.

National Updates:

1. Child internet safety:

The internet provides children and young people with a wealth of opportunities for their entertainment, communication and education. But there are also risks of harm through the deliberate behavior of others online, and through exposure to inappropriate content. The DfE website was updated on 8/4/13 and reports that the Government has pressed for progress through the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS). The work of UKCCIS is informed by the [reviews of Professor Tanya Byron in 2008](#) and [2010](#) and [Reg Bailey in 2011](#).

There is a range of information on the site about Internet Safety including and this can be accessed at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/b00222029/child-internet-safety>

2. Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse which involves children (male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of sexual exploitation are found in all parts of the country and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups.

We should all be aware of The National Action Plan for tackling child sexual exploitation, published on 23 November 2011, which brought together actions by the Government and a range of national and local partners to protect children from this largely hidden form of child abuse. The DfE web site was updated on 5/4/13 and refers to a number of reports due later this year:

- Report from the Home Affairs Select Committee **[inquiry on localised child grooming](#)** (date to be confirmed).
- Final report from the Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into **[child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups](#)** due in the autumn.

The site also refers to the **[National Working Group website](#)** for further information on forthcoming events.



This site can be accessed at: <http://nationalworkinggroup.org/>

WSCB is a member of the NWG group and submitted evidence for the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Formal Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups – Year 2 dataset request.

The latest NWG Network Newsletter can be found at: <http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9b0570d613180ef9117789913&id=a01c2cbd1d>

3. The Edlington Case

Lord Carlile carried out an independent review in to the case of the case of 2 boys aged 10 and 11 who committed a very serious assault on 2 young children. The Governments formal response to the Review, March 2013, sets out to “prompt further debate and discussion of the challenges that [Lord Carlile] sets for local authorities and central Government”. Some of the messages that stand out include:

- The extent to which the children who committed the offences were subject to neglect themselves and the different decisions that could and should have been taken at different points during the extensive involvement of agencies with this family.
- Lord Carlile states that “the absence of effective early intervention is the most glaring failure demonstrated by the Edlington case”
- There was felt to be a general issue about the way in which behavioral and emotional issues in children are approached in England and Wales. For example limited attention given to conduct disorders.

- Housing providers and their staff acquire detailed knowledge of trouble spots and challenging families, but there was “little evidence of housing providers being presumed or even recognized as a normal participant in assessment and triage when serious issues arise”.
- This case highlighted once again the importance of considering the whole historical context, and Lord Carlisle’s chronology at the end of his report makes sobering reading.

4. Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the reformed NHS: Accountability and Assurance framework:

This Document prepared by NHS Commissioning Board, published 21 March 2013, updates and replaces *Arrangements to secure children’s and adult safeguarding in the future NHS. The new accountability and assurance framework – interim advice* issued by the NHS Commissioning Board Authority in September 2012. It describes how the new NHS system will work from April 2013.

The framework aims to:

- Promote partnership working to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, at both strategic and operational levels
- Clarify NHS roles and responsibilities for safeguarding, including in relation to education and training
- Provide a shared understanding of how the new system will operate and, in particular, how it will be held to account both locally and nationally
- Ensure professional leadership and expertise are retained in the NHS, including the continuing key role of designated and named professionals for safeguarding children
- Outline a series of principles and ways of working that are equally applicable to the safeguarding of children and young people and of adults in vulnerable situations, recognising that safeguarding is everybody’s business.

The full document can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/protection/a00213905/safeguarding-children-reformed-nhs>

If you or your organisation would like to include anything in our WSCB newsletter about safeguarding children in Warrington then please let us know at WSCB@warrington.gov.uk