



Warrington Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2018-19

Introduction and foreword

I am pleased to present the 2018 / 2019 Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report.

As the Independent Chair of the Board I challenge the partnership to meet its responsibilities to work together effectively to safeguard Warrington children and young people.

This year has been demanding as we focus on maintaining scrutiny of our partnership safeguarding arrangements whilst preparing to handover our responsibilities to the new Safeguarding Partnership in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

This report will provide an overview of the work we have undertaken, and progress against our agreed priorities to ensure that children and young people are appropriately safeguarded. Throughout the period we undertook a number of audits and case reviews, highlighting the strengths and areas of development for agencies in Warrington; communicating to all partners the key lessons to be learned.

WSCB partners have developed strategy to support early identification and to address the impact of Neglect and Domestic Violence on Children and Young People. The partnership has recognised the threat to young people from criminal exploitation; including sexual exploitation, trafficking / modern slavery and has developed strategy and procedures to identify risk and support young people to prevent harm.

This work is developing under the title of 'Contextual Safeguarding'. The annual report outlines how partners in Warrington have improved frontline practice in key areas where children are most vulnerable and at risk.



Richard Strachan
Independent Chair
Warrington Safeguarding Children Board

Who & what is Warrington Safeguarding Children Board?

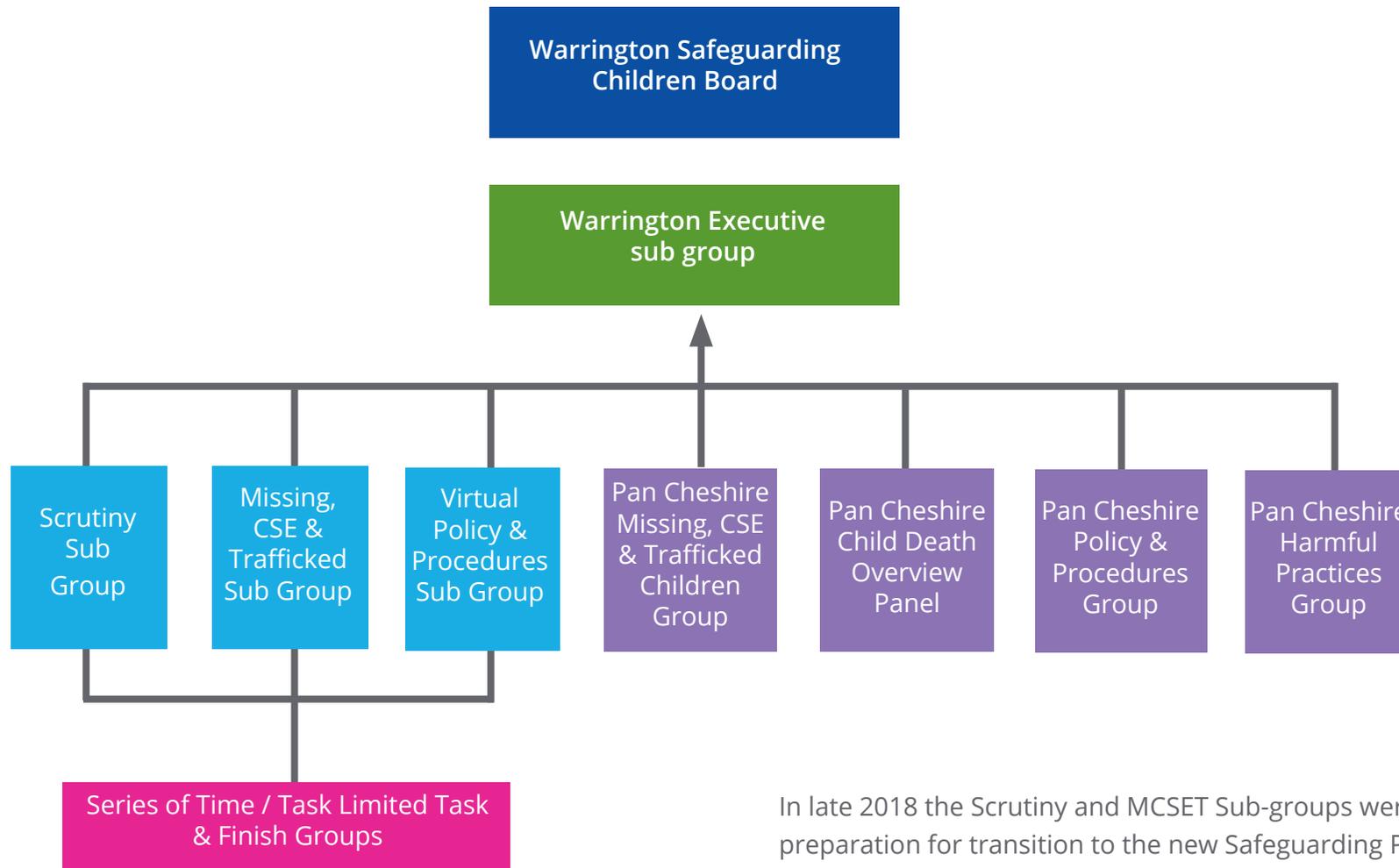
The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board consists of key representatives from the following agencies:

- Chaigeley School
- CAFcASS
- Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Cheshire Constabulary
- HM Prison Service
- NHS England
- National Probation Service
- North West Ambulance Service
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- NSPCC
- Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Warrington Association of School & College Leaders
- Warrington Association of Primary Heads
- Warrington Borough Council
- Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- Youth Justice Service



How the Board works

The structure in place in 2018-19 is represented below:



In late 2018 the Scrutiny and MCSET Sub-groups were paused in preparation for transition to the new Safeguarding Partnership.

Priority activity 2018 / 2019

Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company deliver a perpetrator programme called Building Better Relationships and has launched a new domestic abuse intervention healthy relationship programme called HELP and is available to low and medium risk male perpetrators of both intimate and inter-familial violence.

Cheshire Police have enhanced awareness of front-line officers of the importance of recording the Voice of the Child with. Vulnerable Person Assessments (VPAs) have been digitalised and the voice of the child is now a mandatory field. This information is proactively shared with agencies.

Warrington Borough Council has told us that neglect continues to feature in the majority of child protection cases – 42%. A new Neglect strategy has been developed and will be launched in 2019.

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board continues to monitor and challenge partners on the use of the neglect assessment tool the Graded Care Profile. There has been an increase in the use of the tool. Plans to purchase and roll-out the NSPCCs Graded Care Profile 2 in 2019 are in an advanced phase. Over 350 practitioners accessed training on neglect and the Graded Care Profile.

Warrington Women's Aid provides Refuge Supported Accommodation and there are currently 13 Refuge Units supporting women and children who have experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse. This includes the provision of resettlement support; short term support; promotion of independent living; and provision of housing related support.

Cheshire Police and Warrington School's Operation Encompass continues to ensure that school staff are informed of incidents where children may have witnessed domestic abuse. This allows school staff to offer any support necessary to the child to better cope with their experiences. In 2018 / 2019 550 such notifications were made by the Police to schools.

Agencies in Warrington considered the implementation of contextual safeguarding, which is a different approach to understanding, and responding to risk of significant harm young people face outside of their family, for example from within their neighbourhood, school and online. **Warrington Borough Council** has introduced a new post at manager level which will focus on Contextual Safeguarding' manager.

The National Probation Service (NPS) have launched two national screening tools, one on neglect and one on CSE. NPS have established a network of safeguarding champions and a specialist department to provide advice and guidance to staff around cases where safeguarding of children could be an issue.

The Pan Cheshire area has revised its CSE strategy and screening tool to incorporate other forms of child exploitation including criminal exploitation

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) is an active partner and has raised concerns about 267 children in Warrington, all of which have been reviewed.

Warrington Borough Council has continued to embed systemic practice to support Social Workers to undertake higher quality assessments, drawing on the principles of the C-Change (capacity to change) assessment tool to support analysis of presenting need and risks. This has had a positive impact and provides guidance to support staff to adopt a child-focused approach which clearly evidences the child's lived experiences, including the child's history, times of unmet needs and interrupted relationships.

The **Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)** has seen a number of changes over the last 12 months including the Chief Nurse and Deputy Chief Nurse and the named GP for safeguarding children. The CCG has refreshed the safeguarding children standards and key performance indicators in contracts for all providers. Three GP practices have played a fundamental role in the identification and management of suspected fabricated or induced illness cases.

The **Early Help** referral service continues to develop processes to improve the triage process and the ability to make appropriate and proportionate decisions to determine support needs. The Early Help Assessment has been reviewed to accommodate areas and presenting issues of CSE, MFH, FM, FGM and HBA.

Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust arranged a raising awareness week which successfully took place week beginning 5th October 2018. Domestic abuse packs consisting of the new reviewed and updated domestic abuse pathway documentation; posters; leaflets; single point lessons and barcode stickers which discreetly hide the national domestic abuse helpline number were distributed to all wards and departments (with help of Cheshire police)

Warrington Borough Council held two themed practice audit weeks that involved meetings with children and families. The feedback from this work highlighted that Social Workers have good relationships with children and families.

In March 2019 **Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** went live with FGM-IS. The FGM-IS system is a national safeguarding system to share information regarding cases of female genital mutilation.

Youth Services working with health colleagues have seen the successful introduction of the Mind-works drop in service for young people and their parents/carers. This service has been well used and received for improving the accessibility of mental health support for young people.



WSCB Resources & Funding Arrangements

The Warrington Safeguarding Board Unit, created to achieve efficient shared resources, now supports both the Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) and WSCB to discharge their functions. Subsequently a combined budget now exists made up of contributions from partner agencies. The total budget for both boards is demonstrated below broken down into contributions from each partner. It should be noted that partners also contribute less tangible resources in the form of the provision of venues and support to multi-agency training.

In 2018-19 the available budget totalled £287,766 which consists of annual contributions and a sum of remaining funds from 2017-18 (Carry Forward) of £69,645. In 2018-19 the majority of costs come from those associated with core day to day running of a statutory WSCB partnership such as staffing and accommodation. This will be closely followed by consultancy costs; for example, independent authors for case review work. Some of the costs are shared costs with the WSAB and cannot be reported separately. The total spend for 2018 / 2019 was £209,479.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken to reduce training costs within the year through use of shared resources with partners to facilitate training events. Moving into 2019-20 there will be a carry forward of £78,287.



Case Reviews

The Board has a legal duty to undertake reviews of serious cases where neglect or abuse is suspected, a child has either died or been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern about the way in which partners have worked together.

In preparation for the transition to the new Safeguarding Partnership the Board piloted 'Rapid Reviews' as outlined in the new Working Together 2018 Guidance This requires that the new partnerships promptly undertake a rapid review of the case, in line with any guidance published by the National Panel. The aim of this rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- Gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time;
- Discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety and share any learning appropriately;
- Consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a Serious Case Review.

In the year 2018 / 2019 agencies referred five (5) cases to the Board for consideration of a serious case review or case review.

- WSCB001/2018 Child Q
- WSCB002/2018 Child R
- WSCB001/2019 Child S
- WSCB002/2019 Child T
- WSCB 003/2019 Child U

Child Q

This case involved a child subject of a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) protection order. The case review was undertaken as an example of learning from good practice in this case.

Child R

In this case the Chair of the Board decided that a Serious Case Review should take place. A review was undertaken and the Board received a presentation from the independent author towards the end of March 2019. The final report will be published on the new Warrington Safeguarding Partnerships website.

Child S

This case the Rapid Review Panel recommended and the Chair of the Board agreed that the criteria for a Serious Case Review or Case Review was not met.

Child T and Child U

In both of these cases it was decided that the criteria for a Serious Case Review or Case Review was not met, however there was learning available from the cases and the panel directed that table top Practice Learning Reviews were held.

In all the cases the Board ensured that learning from them was identified and disseminated to front line practitioners throughout the partnership. Learning has been incorporated into multi agency training and where appropriate widely disseminated through briefing communication products. The board scrutinises the impact of this learning through its multi-agency audit work.

Looking Forward - 2019 / 2020

The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board ceased to exist as of 31st March 2019. It was replaced on the 1st April 2019 by the new Warrington Safeguarding Partnership, led by the three key partners; Cheshire Constabulary, Warrington Borough Council and Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group.

The new partnership will develop arrangements on how those agencies who work with children across Warrington will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area and to identify and respond to their needs.



Independent Chair's Closing Remarks

This is my fifth and the final Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report.

The past five years has seen much change in relation to safeguarding children and child protection locally as well as regionally and nationally. Agencies in Warrington work much closer together in safeguarding and protecting children and young people and this has further been enhanced with the introduction of the M.A.S.H. (Multi-agency safeguarding hub).

The emergence of 'new' threats and themes has seen practitioners work expand with more awareness of risks from outside the family network such as Child exploitation, including sexual and criminal exploitation, modern slavery, human trafficking, terrorism and radicalisation. Safeguarding practitioners in Warrington have embraced these changes and the additional demands placed upon them and continued to work tirelessly to ensure that children and young people in our area are safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board partner agencies and their representatives for the commitment and support they have given to the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board. I believe that the WSCB has, since it was formally launched on 15 February 2006, demonstrated its effectiveness in meeting key statutory and local objectives and that the new Warrington Safeguarding Partnership is in a strong position in regard to fulfilling its statutory obligations and commitments.

I would like to thank, personally and on behalf of the Board, all those practitioners and managers from the various agencies in the public private and voluntary sectors across Warrington for their continued dedication and commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in Warrington.

Richard Strachan

Independent Chair

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board

Appendix: Membership of Warrington Safeguarding Children Board 2018-19

Name	Title	Role
Amanda Amesbury (from June 2018)	Operational Director, Deputy DCS Children's Social Care, WBC	Board Member
Anne Towey (until June 2018)	Head of Service - Quality Assurance and Safeguarding, WBC	Advisor to the Board
Caroline Owen	Lead Solicitor - WBC	Advisor to the Board
Caroline Watts	Manager, NSPCC	Board Member
Cath Gill (from March 2018)	Service Manager, CAF/CASS	Board Member
Dawn Chalmers	Deputy Chief Nurse & Quality Lead, Warrington CCG	Board Member
Dee Davis	NHS England	Board Member
Donna Yates	Assistant Chief Executive, Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company	Board Member
Kristine Brayford-West	Associate Director for Safeguarding, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Board Member
Fiona Cowan (from June 2018)	Head of Service - Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Families and Wellbeing Directorate, WBC	Advisor to the Board
Fiona Waddington (until April 2018)	Assistant Director, Children Social Care, WBC	Board Member
Gareth Jones	Head of Service, Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington Youth Justice Service	Board Member

Name	Title	Role
Harvey Gordon	Safeguarding Lead, HM Prison Service	Board Member
Hilary Smith	Operational Director Education, WBC	Board Member
Jan Barlow	School Principal, Chaigeley School	Board Member
Jean Carter	Lead Elected Member for Children and Young People, WBC	Participant Observer
Jean Williams	Lay Member	Participant Observer
Judith Wright	Warrington Association of School & College Leaders Representative	Board Member
Karl Hough	Advanced Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service	Board Member
Kimberley Salmon-Jamieson	Chief Nurse, Director of Infection, Prevention and Control, Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Board Member
Lisa Jenkins	Senior Operational Support Manager, National Probation Service	Board Member
Mike Kenny	Assistant Director CAMHS, North West Boroughs Healthcare Partnership	Board Member
Muna Abdel Aziz	Director Public Health, WBC	Board Member
Paula Worthington	Interim Operational Director, Early Help, WBC	Board Member

Name	Title	Role
Pauline Owens	Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children and Children in Care, Warrington CCG	Board Member
Peter Shaw	Detective Superintendent, Cheshire Constabulary	Board Member
Richard Strachan	Independent Chair	Chair
Rosie Lyden	WSCB Board Manager	Board Member
Sara Lawrenson	Warrington Association of Primary Heads Representative	Board Member
Susan Hewitt	Advanced Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service	Board Member
Steve Peddie	Executive Director, Families and Wellbeing Directorate, Warrington Borough Council	Board Member
Steven Broomhead	Chief Executive Officer, Warrington Borough Council	Board Member
Tracy Morris (from April 2018 to June 2018)	Interim Assistant Director, Children Social Care, Warrington Borough Council	

