

WSAB Partnership Expectations

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the expected working relationships and arrangements between Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) and other key local partnerships. Alongside this it aims to clarify the function of the WSAB in relation to these other partnerships and Boards to identify the WSAB role clearly within the area.
- 1.2 This document also identifies expectations on WSAB members in terms of their role as WSAB representatives at other partnerships. This is to ensure clarity for all members in terms of responsibilities and duties at other forums.

2 Partnership Links

- 2.1 The WSAB aims to oversee all adult safeguarding work in the area whilst ensuring that work is contributing to the prevention of abuse and neglect. In order to discharge this function it is vital that the WSAB works effectively with other partnerships to avoid duplication and ensure collaborative working. As the Care Act 2014 Guidance identifies there is an expectation that all partnerships “consciously cooperate” to ensure efficiency especially where objectives may overlap.
- 2.2 Locally the Warrington Community Safety Partnership (WCSP), Warrington Safeguarding Children’s Board (WSCB) and Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDAP) have always worked closely with the WSAB on a range of activities. Agendas of these groups have a tendency to cross-over and benefit from a collaborative approach due to all sharing a common interest in working together to make Warrington a safer place and to protect the most vulnerable within our community. Subsequently, there is regular opportunity to work together to respond to issues.
- 2.3 Areas of collaboration have ranged from general messages of “Whole family” working to specific issue focused action such as supporting the Hate Crime reporting activity. Alongside this all of these partnerships have functions to carry out processes to investigate practice to identify lessons learnt. All partnerships benefit from reciprocal approaches and support when trying to raise awareness of lessons taken from practice across the Warrington workforce. This can best be achieved when WSAB, WDAP and WCSP support the dissemination of these messages. This reciprocal arrangement can be strengthened further by looking to bring together communications plans to promote key messages and events.
- 2.4 The WSAB wishes to build on this to develop links to ensure there are clear lines of information sharing leading to joint working activity. This may include areas of communication, awareness raising, preventative activity and audit work. By exploring means of working together to avoid duplication of messages or materials these partnerships can ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently. This integrated working is dependent on WSAB members aiming to promote collaborative working with the WSAB agenda whilst attending other forums/partnerships. In some instances members will seek to develop more formal joint working arrangements such as joint promotion events or work plans.
- 2.5 Alongside these key partners there are also other forums and partnerships within Warrington that have clear links to the WSAB agenda. This includes Forums that

provide an opportunity for the WSAB to be aware of and support local activity in relation to service users and carers, such as Warrington Carers Partnership or Disability Forum. It also includes groups that have very specific focuses, such as the Autism and Learning Disability Partnership and the Warrington Housing Partnership. Groups such as these, whilst not directly working on safeguarding related issues will through their work aim to improve the safety and quality of life of vulnerable communities. Therefore, it is important the WSAB is sighted on their work and challenges. This allows for the WSAB to reflect on such issues when setting its own priorities and plans.

2.6 Therefore the WSAB is committed to upholding the following principles with key partnerships within our area:

1. Communications Plans will be developed and shared with WDAP, WSCB and WCSP to ensure joint activities continue
2. Strategies and Business Plans will be shared with other forums and partnerships to raise awareness via WSAB members of planned activity and identify initiatives that would benefit from joint approaches
3. Lessons learnt in practice from DHR's, SARs, SCRs and lower level learning reviews will be promoted and shared across all partnership links to ensure widespread learning across the multi-agency workforce
4. WSAB members will ensure that information from other forums and partnerships is reported into the WSAB via the Executive sub group to influence WSAB activity

2.7 For an overview of the current partnership and forums link please see Appendix A which provides an overview of the WSAB, local partnerships and the representatives that maintain the links.

3 Member Expectations

3.1 In order to achieve the partnership links outlined above and uphold the principles the WSAB is dependent on members playing an active linking role. As Appendix A indicates links are predominantly made via WSAB members representing the WSAB at other partnerships and sharing activity. Subsequently, there are several expectations for Board level Members:

- Promoting WSAB priorities in other forums/partnerships
- Reporting activity of other forums and partnerships into the Executive sub group
- Representing safeguarding adult issues when other partnerships or forums are proposing activity to ensure Adults at Risk issues are considered
- Identifying and encouraging joint working with other forums and partnerships when activity aligns with Board priorities
- Sharing lessons learnt across the range of partnerships/forums they engage with

3.2 Each Board member has signed a Memorandum of Understanding as an organisation and individual to commit to representing the WSAB within their own organisation and any other relevant groups. The aspects outlined above represent a clarification of that commitment so that each individual is aware of the expectations at Board Level.

4 Scrutiny of Partnership Activity

4.1 As the WSAB is a multi-agency partnership it is important that some form of scrutiny exists to monitor its partnership working both internally and externally. Currently, the

WSAB is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority who is responsible for ensuring it is in place and achieving its objectives. Alongside this the WSAB also reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board twice a year in relation to its annual report and progress. This is to provide a more senior strategic partnership the opportunity to scrutinise the activity of the WSAB. There are also opportunities for the WSAB to ensure the community representatives have the ability to challenge and scrutinise plans and activity via overview and scrutiny committees. This function is important to ensure that the work of the WSAB is not only linked to the other activity in the area but also to allow challenge at board level.

5 Monitoring & Review

The WSAB will monitor its members commitment to this partnership approach in a range of ways:

1. via its audit processes
2. through feedback received at the Executive sub group on a quarterly basis
3. via feedback from other forums and partnerships on joint activity

This commitment and overview will be reviewed annually to reflect changes in local partnerships and any new areas of partnership activity identified.

Appendix A: Overview of Partnership links

