

The Child Death Overview Panel is developing systems and protocols ready for April 2008 when this is a requirement of all LSCBs. The Panel will look at all child deaths and analyse the information and make recommendations, if appropriate, to departments and agencies so that practice can be improved and similar deaths prevented.

Serious Case Reviews take place when a child has either died or suffered a serious injury as the result of abuse or neglect. The practice of all involved with the child and their family will be looked at objectively, as well as the application of policies, procedures and protocols in the case. Following analysis of all the information a report written by an independent person will be published along with recommendations to improve practice, policy etc.

In addition, other relevant multi-agency working groups in the borough, such as the Domestic Abuse Forum, the Multi-Agency Public Protection Group and the Children And Young People's Strategic Partnership work closely with the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). The Board is open to inspection and will be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis. They are accountable to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The WSCB has produced an Annual Report and Business Plan. Information about the Board and safeguarding can be found on:

www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk

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For further information visit our website
www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk

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Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



ABOUT WARRINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

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About Warrington Safeguarding Children Board

WHAT IS THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD?

Background

Following changes in government legislation and the Children Act 2004, every local authority now has a statutory duty to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), co-ordinating integrated, multi-agency responses to children's safety and welfare locally.

Government guidance on "Working Together to Safeguard Children - 2006" describes LSCBs as "the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do." It defines safeguarding children and promoting their welfare as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Enabling those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully

Roles and responsibilities of LSCBs

LSCBs have a much broader remit than the old Area Child Protection Committees, working within the wider context of the government's "Every Child Matters" agenda, which states that children should have the support they need to

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

In practice, the LSCBs work falls into three main areas of activity, namely:

1. Activities that aim to identify and prevent the maltreatment of children and the impairment of children's health and development, and activities that ensure children receive safe and effective care as they are growing up. This work might include:
 - Developing multi-agency mechanisms for identifying abuse and neglect
 - Publicising the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
 - Ensuring that children and adults know who to contact if they have concerns about a child's safety
 - Monitoring local organisations and agencies' implementation of their duties under the Children Act 2004
 2. Pro-active activities targeting particular groups. LSCBs might undertake early intervention and prevention, such as:
 - Agreeing thresholds, procedures and policies for working with children in need, but who are not at risk of suffering significant harm.
 - Seek ways of promoting the welfare of children who may be more vulnerable than the general population, including children with disabilities, children in custody and looked after children
 3. Responsive activities to protect children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. This would include co-ordinating responses to children who are being abused or neglected in a range of contexts, including domestic abuse, substance misuse, abuse by persons who work with children, sexual exploitation, abuse by other young people and abuse via technology
- The work of the Board is for all children in Warrington and covers a vast spectrum, from protection to prevention. Every child has the right to be kept safe so they can achieve their full potential.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN WARRINGTON

The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board met for the first time in February 2006. The Director of Children's Services in the borough currently chairs the Board. A wide range of agencies are pro-actively involved as Board members or members of the sub-groups, including Warrington Borough Council's Children's Services, Community Services Departments, the Primary Care Trust, the Hospital Trust, the 5 Boroughs Trust, Police, Youth Offending Service, Probation, CAF/CASS, Connexions and voluntary organisations. The following sub-groups regularly report to the board:

- Policy, Practice and Quality Assurance Group
- Training and Development Group
- Monitoring and Performance Group
- Child Death Overview Panel

The Policy, Practice and Quality Assurance Group is responsible for the development of policies, procedures, standards and protocols in safeguarding.

The Training and Development Group produces a comprehensive multi-agency training programme annually, ensuring all staff from all the agencies have sufficient training in child protection and related areas. The Group also assists other sub-groups in developing service provision when areas of need are identified.

The Monitoring and Performance Group tracks and measures the Board's effectiveness in delivering multi-agency safeguarding practices and evaluates in light of the regional and national context, finally making recommendations to the various sub-groups for action.