

# **WIGAN CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP & WIGAN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

**Name** Change for Children and Young People Meetings (Change meetings)

**Purpose** This statement sets out principles underpinning the implementation and operation of Change meetings by members of the children's workforce in Wigan Borough.

### **Policy**

Member organisations of Wigan's Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership and Wigan Safeguarding Children Board are committed to the implementation of 'Change meetings' as a basis for improving outcomes where a child or young person's has additional needs that appear to cut across two or more service areas.

- A change meeting will be convened in one of two circumstances:
  - When a common assessment has identified that a child / young person has additional needs; and meeting such needs requires services from two or more agencies/service providers – and that it may be helpful to bring together all those involved to agree actions.
  - Where members of the children's workforce from two or more agencies have worries about a child/young person - and it would be helpful to meet and discuss whether a 'common assessment' (CAF) may be helpful to identify any additional/unmet needs he/she may have.
- The purpose of a change meeting is to either:
  - Use information from a 'common assessment' to identify the additional/unmet needs of a child/young person, agree and prioritise actions by workers/agencies to meet those needs, and agree on what basis the CAF action plan will be reviewed.
  - Discuss whether a 'common assessment' is relevant and appropriate in collecting and recording information about any additional/unmet needs a child/young person may have.

Commitment to this policy by organisations of the Strategic Partnership will be demonstrated by:

- Ensuring arrangements are in place for the effective line management and casework supervision of staff involved in integrated working with staff from partner agencies, and
- Ensuring managers and staff in their organisation who are involved in such work:
  - Prioritise time and space to enable them to effectively fulfil their role and responsibilities.
  - Access inter-agency training and professional support that enables them to work effectively with colleagues from diverse partner agencies.

The implementation and operation of 'Change meetings' will take place within the context of the operation of the Change for Children and Young People System by organisations of the Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership and Wigan Safeguarding Children Board:

- Members of the children's workforce using interim arrangements - before the implementation of ContactPoint - that enable them to make decisions and oversee planned actions,
- New members of the children's workforce being made aware of 'change meetings',
- The Change for Children and Young People Co-ordinator undertaking audits to report on the compliance of organisations with this policy, and identify areas for development.

### **Background documents**

- Children Act 2004
- Statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services
- Guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, improve their well-being, under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004.