

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

POLICY

Name Lead Professional

Purpose This policy sets out principles that underpin the introduction and operation of the role of Lead Professional the organisations of the Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership and Safeguarding Children Board in Wigan Borough.

Policy

Member organisations of Wigan's Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership and Safeguarding Children Board are committed to the implementation of the role of Lead professional. In the Borough, Lead Professionals will be members of the Children's Workforce:

"Who have responsibility for collaborating with professionals from their own and other services to co-ordinate and monitor the delivery of a coherent programme of services for children and young people with 'additional needs', and their family. Workers performing this role may come from different agencies - depending on the particular identified, or unmet, needs of the child"

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

- Identifying managers and staff in their organisation with the qualifications and experience to effectively take on the role of Lead Professional,
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for the effective line management and casework supervision of staff who will take on the lead professional role and associated responsibilities,
- Ensuring those of their staff taking on the role:
 - Have protected time and space within their workloads and caseloads to enable them to effectively undertake the role.
 - Access inter-agency training and ongoing professional support to enable them to effectively undertake the role.

Members of the Children's Workforce will undertake the role and responsibilities of Lead Professional within the context of the implementation and operation of the Change for Children and Young People System by organisations of the Children, Young People and their Families Strategic Partnership/Safeguarding Children Board

- Lead professionals will have prompt access to high quality information to enable them to make effective decisions and oversee planned actions,
- New members of the Children's Workforce will be made aware of the role of lead professional – and those identified to take on the role will receive additional training and support,
- The Change for Children and Young People Co-ordinator will commission regular 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 under section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- Guidance on inter-agency co-operation to improve the well-being of children
- Lead Professional Good Practice Guidance, DfES, July 2005