

Notes from the North West Regional Meeting

The meeting clearly captured the two different constituencies of leadership in the North West Area:

- 1) ASWIG
- 2) The organisational leads

ASWIG reps expressed concern that a number of authorities didn't have professional or organisational leads for ASW work. In other places people had assumed the lead role, but it may not have been within their actual job description. However, there were two reps present who had either recently been appointed, or were soon to take up the role – which was a positive indication of a growing and positive awareness of the importance of the role.

ASWIG reps made it clear that they valued their organisations' independence – but felt restricted by the low level of funding they currently had access to. One of the organisational leads positively suggested that they re-look at their financial structure and offered to help them do so.

Organisational leads agreed that there was a separate issue that they wanted to address.

It was agreed that reps onto the steering group should include both stakeholder groups.

It was also agreed that organisational leads needed to meet separately to discuss their issues – Chris Southworth from Lancashire and Vince Williams offered to host an event. Claire Barcham (National Coordinator) offered to attend if this were of help, and also offered to contact the regional CSIP lead to ask for support to coordinate the network. Chris Merchant who was also present offered support as well.

Claire Barcham
National Co-ordinator ASW Leads Network