

## The WARP in Action

Why struggle to find a solution when someone else may already have solved the problem? WARP members have access to a wealth of information, both within the group itself, in peer WARPs and by making use of external expertise.

### The North West WARP is represented at a national level

The North West WARP is advised by Mark Brett of the National Local Authority (NLA) WARP. Mark is well connected within the WARP community and has regular contact with Socitm and various government departments and forums including the Local Government Group, Local CIO Council, NHS Connecting for Health, CESG, Information Commissioners Office. He is also currently the Technical Architect, Infrastructure Security and Cyber Defence at Cabinet Office. He is also the author of the LGA Data Handling Guidelines and is now working on security for the Public Service Network.

### Members are part of a wider, national community

Members of the North West WARP can tap into a wealth of knowledge and information via a national platform of a discussion and collaboration forum. Irrespective of geography members have the opportunity to engage with peers from across the country, share best practice and increase knowledge and expertise.

### Face to face meetings

Mark Brett, a CLAS Consultant, attends quarterly meetings with members of the North West WARP to share latest government policy and advice.

### Annual Conference

Members of the North West WARP can attend the annual WARP conference which features speakers from various government departments including the Cabinet Office, GovCERT UK, and the Public Services Network Programme. It's free to members and offers an excellent opportunity to raise issues, challenge, and meet with members of other local authority WARPs.

## How you can become part of the North West WARP

- As part of your membership, any iNetwork member organisation is able to nominate two representatives to join the Group. These representatives will typically be your organisation's Information Security Officers.
- Send their name and email address to Ajike Alli-Ameh at [ajike.alli-ameh@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:ajike.alli-ameh@tameside.gov.uk)
- On receipt, you will be sent a North West WARP Membership Application Form and Non-Disclosure Agreement.
- The completed forms and passport photographs (digital acceptable) should be sent to [ajike.alli-ameh@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:ajike.alli-ameh@tameside.gov.uk). Upon receipt, colleagues will be granted access to a trusted forum of information security professionals from other WARPs across the country, will be able to sign up to receive security warning alerts and be able to attend meetings.

If your organisation is not yet a member of iNetwork and you would like details on how to join, please contact the iNetwork Director, Phil Swan at [phil.swan@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:phil.swan@tameside.gov.uk)



## The North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point



## The North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point

Be part of a community where you can share trusted, up-to-date advice on information security threats, incidents and solutions.

### Keeping your information secure

The North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point [WARP] is a trusted community for those concerned with their organisation's information security. It provides a forum for members to learn from peers and experts within and outside of the group.

In an age where we are relying more and more upon electronic and web based media communications there has never been a more pertinent time for organisations to take steps to safeguard their information assets.

## Why should you be part of the North West WARP?

### Your reputation will rely on it

People need to trust and be confident in your online services if they are to engage with you. An attack on this service will prove to be more painful on your reputation: if you undermine your customers' confidence, you undermine your reputation.

Being part of the North West WARP will mean these online attacks are minimised, if not eliminated through the **filtered warning alerts service**.

### Threats: You'll be the first to hear

Being part of the North West WARP will mean you will be the first to know about serious threats to information security and we will help you to minimise risk to your organisation through **emergency preventative measures**.

### Safe spaces to talk and share

The North West WARP will give you opportunities to meet with other members to discuss hot topics and share best practice and knowledge. You'll be able to use the group as a 'sounding board' and benchmark against others.

### Save money and reduce the risk of fines

The Information Commissioners Office can and will impose fines of up to £500K for serious information security breaches. Don't get caught out, let the North West WARP help reduce your risk. You'll save yourself thousands in consultancy fees by using the opportunities to collaborate and consult with other members on projects and writing policy documents.

## What do people say about the North West WARP?

"I've found the iNetwork WARP an ideal forum for sharing information on various security and Information Management related topics with my peers. There is often an element that others have explored or developed further which can really help in making progress within your own organisation."

**Colin Rowland, Cheshire West & Chester (July 2011)**

"The ISAG and NW WARP are both extremely valuable groups to be a member of. Having the opportunity to discuss pertinent issues with your peers across the North West really helps me in my role and I always come away from the meetings with useful information. The online forum is also a great information sharing tool. Having the facility to discuss issues on a day to day basis means advice and assistance from colleagues is always at hand."

**Ben Akins, Wirral Council (July 2011)**

"The WARP has grown from a talking shop for techies. The WARP now recognises that Information security is a branch of business risk, and the WARP has become a valuable forum, sharing candid and valuable experiences, opinions and resources that are relevant to all areas of the modern, information driven business. One great strength of the WARP is its informality and honesty. It cuts through the hype, politics and technical speak and addresses real practical issues of interest to its members."

**Richard Roscoe, Sefton Council, Chair of iNetwork Information Security & Assurance Group (July 2011)**

"Membership of the group brings huge benefits in terms of information exchange. Issues can be aired with colleagues facing similar challenges, experiences shared and advice can be obtained. The willingness of colleagues to share ideas, documentation and approaches really helps to reduce the level of effort required for dealing with some key common issues."

**Catriona Thompson, Cheshire East Council (February 2012)**