

Effective Information Sharing and Security Programme

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The overriding challenge for local public services continues to be the response to budget cuts, increasing demand for services (in particular adult social care), opportunities created by the devolution of powers and more broadly by the health & social care integration agenda.

Individuals are being asked by organisations to trust them with more and more data, to drive efficiency and innovation. This is in the context of data protection reform which brings with it, increased rights for the data subject and increased responsibilities for data controllers and processors.

Recent years have brought a steady increase in the frequency and severity of cyber-attacks and data breaches so organisations need to ensure that the personal data they hold is safe, secure and, only shared where this is appropriate. iNetwork has responded to this and has worked with external partners to deliver activities to increase cyber security resilience and respond to a regime of data protection reform.

Priorities and Objectives

Strengthening and Supporting Information Leadership: This priority bolsters information leadership in iNetwork member organisations with the aim to increase influence and strengthen our voice to positively impact government data protection policies.

Improving Cyber Security and Resilience amongst iNetwork member organisations: This priority promotes increased engagement across iNetwork membership in the North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (WARP) which facilitates the sharing of best practice and the exchange of information and cyber security intelligence across the membership strengthening collaboration and communication across the region to improve situational awareness and both organisational and multi-agency response readiness. This should lead to a reduction in the number of data breaches as a result of poor practice and cyber-attacks.

Improving necessary and proportionate information sharing to support effective partnership working and person centred care: This priority is supported via the dissemination and discussion of data protection reform, cyber security and resilience or government policy at events and via newsletters, etc. This leads to greater awareness of relevant national guidance and government policy, supporting organisations to develop information management strategies to support new service models.

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