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. A cyberattack or information security breach could prove to have serious implications for your organisation’s reputation. Being part of the North West WARP will mean your organisation is better prepared to respond and defend against online attacks; by receiving early notification of threats and vulnerabilities through the Filtered Warning Alerts Service.

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.

Access to 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.

Reduce the risk of fines
The new Data Protection Act 2018 supplemented by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced on the 25th May 2018. The GDPR contains substantial fines for failing to comply with its requirements including fines of up to €20 million, or 4% of your total worldwide annual turnover, whichever is higher. The North West WARP can help improve your organisation’s capabilities to keep your data safe.

Who can join and how?
The North West WARP is designed to serve public sector organisations including Local Authorities, NHS Trusts, Health organisations, Fire & Rescue Services, Police, and Housing Associations within the North West region that also subscribe to iNetwork.

- The WARP service is included for all organisations with a FULL iNetwork Membership
- Each organisation is invited to nominate three representatives. These individuals will have responsibility for information security matters in their organisation. Typically they may be in one of the following roles: Information Security Manager, Cyber Security Manager, Information Governance Manager, IT Security Manager, Head of IMT, etc.
- If you would like details on how to join the North West WARP or if your organisation is not yet a member of iNetwork, please contact iNetwork at info@i-network.org.uk

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"The ever-changing landscape of security and compliance can be a real challenge; so being part of a group that you can call upon, and rely on, to help and keep you informed is a great asset. I think the biggest benefit is the collective voice; a single council complaining to a central government department about a particular aspect of their standard would fall on deaf ears, whereas the WARP is heard.

The WARP is a great go-between; I had a dilemma where I had a question for the Cabinet Office but I didn’t want to divulge how we were currently doing something that could affect our PSN Coco. But NWWARP kindly asked the question on my behalf, keeping my identity anonymous. Another true benefit is hearing about upcoming changes and having the chance to give input/feedback."

- Debbie McCarron (Salford City Council)
The North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point

Welcome to the North West Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (NWWARP). The North West 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. Members are able to confidentially receive and share up-to-date advice on information security threats, incidents and solutions. It is designed to facilitate appropriate vigilance, in a timely and cost effective way. iNetwork offers its membership support through access to the NWWARP. It is chaired by Alan Boardman from Lancashire Care NHS FT and the Deputy Chair is Nadeer Hussain from Oldham Council.

Information is a key organisational asset and its security is of paramount importance to reduce risk to business processes, reputational damage and loss in confidence of customers and citizens. Where this has been compromised, it has resulted in significant issues for the organisations concerned and is increasingly reported by the media.

A report by the Government’s Office of Cyber Security estimates that cyber-crime costs the UK £27 billion a year. The same report stated that:

“Our society is now almost entirely dependent on the continued availability, accuracy and confidentiality of its Information and Communications Technology (ICT). We need it for our economic health, for the domestic machinery of government, for national defence and for our day-to-day social and cultural existence”. [1]

“Being part of the WARP allows you to keep on top of threats to information security and support you in minimising risk. WARP gives you an opportunity to meet good people who will make a fantastic addition to your network”

- Nadeer Hussain (Deputy Chair, NWARP)

What does the NWARP Offer?

- Catherine Burke (Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM))

Representation at a national level
Our close working relationship with national bodies and partnerships such as MHCLG, Cabinet Office, Local Government Association, NHS England, NHS Digital and the ICO means that the NW WARP is well positioned to raise your concerns and issues and collective voice to a national platform. Similarly, members of the NW WARP are often the first to hear about national initiatives and policies from our national partners. Additionally, the NW WARP is advised by Mark Brett of the National Local Authority (NLA) WARP. The NLA WARP itself is well connected to national agendas.

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 for discussion and collaboration. Irrespective of geography, members have the opportunity to engage with peers from across the country. Additionally, the NW WARP enjoys a mutually supportive relationship with other regional WARPs.

Face to face meetings and online collaborative resources
The NW WARP provides quarterly face to face meetings. Each meeting provides information from expert speakers as well as the opportunity for the group to share community news, issues and developments in a safe and trusted environment. There are a number of online collaborative spaces and resources open to members, including KTAC, SLACK, Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership (CISP) and the Knowledge Hub (KHUB).

Access to iNetwork wraparound service
The NWWARP service is only one of the many activities delivered by iNetwork’s Effective Information Sharing & Security Programme (EISS). The EISS programme supports its members in areas of information governance and information security which is a fantastic complement to the work of the NWWARP. In addition to the four information security and assurance forum meetings you can access all the events, support and guidance provided by the EISS programme.

“The key benefits are huge, for me in a busy role being informed by WARP emails, on what’s new, what’s coming, what to be aware of before it hits social media is excellent. Also meeting people in the same profession at the meetings, and having contacts to engage and share experiences is really beneficial. The presentations, the talks, ideas and people discussing their experience is really useful.

I would encourage colleagues to join WARP, excellent resource. Listen to what people have tried, what worked, what didn’t. Getting advice from professionals, all the resources available. I have found what I have been missing by attending the WARP. I have already told management and colleagues how highly I recommend these meetings.”

- Catherine Burke (Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM))