

# in Cumbria **Every Child Matters**

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## Changing things for the better for children



Many of you will have heard about the new Change for Children Partnership. This will make the "engine room" concept a reality and build momentum for the change process in children's services across Cumbria.

On page 2 there is a report on the first steps in creating this team – gathering the people who will make things happen from the various organisations already involved, agreeing the terms of reference and setting priorities. This is an exciting opportunity to consolidate the good work that has already been going on and, through better coordination and partnership, to really improve the outcomes for children and young people, their carers and families.

One of the first challenges is to involve children and young people in the strategic development of children's services, enabling them to shape the future. One approach we are using is the creation of focus groups where children and young people can develop our Vision and, in the months to come, monitor progress and let us know how we are doing. We are also liaising with the Sure Start teams to build on their existing consultative work with parents and carers. However, I am very aware that we are struggling to represent the diversity of ability across Cumbria and I ask for your ideas for involving young people with disabilities in this shaping process.

It may seem like everything is going on in the background at first but this foundation work should develop into practical implications very quickly.

Engaging with everyone involved in work with children and young people is a huge challenge but success is crucial. The people that I have met so far are keen to make this change process work. So it may be a cliché but I am convinced that we have the will so there must be a way! Thanks and best wishes,

Paul Moore, Head of Children's Services

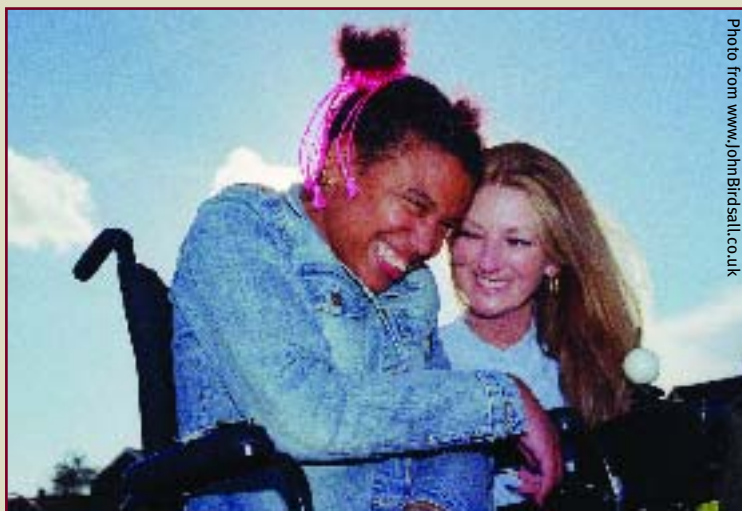


Photo from www.johnbirdsall.co.uk

### Youth Insight Report – Combating Crime

The insurance company, Norwich Union, worked with the charity, Crime Concern, in October last year to find out about young people's attitudes to crime and ideas for reducing it. Although the young people involved in the study were from London and Nottingham, the findings make interesting reading from a Cumbrian perspective.

#### Youth Concerns – the factors that concern young people most

Crime	28%	Getting in trouble	12%
Doing well at school	25%	Fitting in with friends	8%
Their future	22%	How they look	5%

The study also backed up the statistics that 48% of young people will have been victim of crime or aggressive behaviour by the time they reach 16 and that young people aged between 16-24 are most likely to be victims of violent crime.

#### The top issues that young people thought would get worse in the next few years were:

Drug dealing	Terrorism
Under-age drinking	Muggings and violent theft attacks
Violence stemming from knife culture	Racism

Norwich Union is now working with Crime Concern on pilot Youth Apprentice Schemes to equip young adults to work in their own communities with children and young people, offering relevant and practical advice and support.

For further information visit [www.crimeconcern.org.uk](http://www.crimeconcern.org.uk) or call Crime Concern's NW office on 01925 577122.

## Stay Safe – a vital Outcome from Every Child Matters

In Issue 4 we looked in more detail at the first Outcome - Be Healthy - covering the targets and indicators as well as the likely inspection criteria. This issue focuses on the various aspects of Stay Safe, not just for the vulnerable but for all Cumbrian children and young people.

Outcome				
Stay Safe				
Aims				
Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	Safe from accidental injury and death	Safe from bullying and discrimination	Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school	Have security, stability, and are cared for
<b>Support</b> Parents, carers and families provide safe homes and stability				
Priority national targets and other indicators				
Re-registrations on Child Protection Register (DfES)	Number of 0-15 year olds injured or killed in road traffic accidents (DfT PSA)	% 11-15 year olds who state they have been bullied in last 12 months (DWP/DfES)	Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour (HO/CJS/CPS /PSA)	% U16 looked after for greater than 2 years or placed for adoption (DfES PSA)  % care cases completed in the courts within 40 weeks (DCA PSA)
Inspection criteria (subject to consultation via Ofsted from 6 December)				
1. Children and young people and their carers are informed about key risks and how to deal with them.	2. Steps are taken to provide children and young people with a safe environment.	3. Steps are taken to minimise the incidence of child abuse and neglect.	4. Child protection arrangements meet the requirements of "Working Together to Safeguard Children".	5. Children and young people who are looked after are helped to stay safe.
		6. Children and young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities are helped to stay safe.		

*"The pulling together of key targets and indicators, inspection criteria, and supporting evidence is an essential piece of the jigsaw to be undertaken by the multi-agency Change for Children Partnership. This group will*

*recommend ways of developing a "trust way of working" with particular consideration of the rural issues posed by Cumbria's geography."*

**John Swainston**, Cumbria's Head of Standards and School Improvement

### Change for Children Partnership

**The Change for Children Partnership is taking shape with members drawn from across Cumbria. Many organisations and groups have responded positively and some have nominated or offered to second staff including, to date:**

- Cumbria Children's Fund
- Connexions
- Cumbria Prevention Family Support Group
- Local Sure Start Programmes
- Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust
- NCH
- North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- North Cumbria Primary Care Trusts
- North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust
- Youth Offending Team

At its meeting on 26 January, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership agreed Terms of Reference for the Change for Children Partnership and Siân Rees of Connexions was nominated, and agreed by the CYPSP, as the Lead for the Partnership.

*"A first priority is getting the voices of children, young people, parents and carers into the process. We are already working with Sure Start for part of this process and focus groups involving young people around the county are being set up with the aim of first ideas on Vision early in March."*

**Paul Moore**, Head of Children's Services





## Safeguarding and protecting children

Graham Brooks is the Area Children's Services Manager for NSPCC in Cumbria. NSPCC has five teams in the county with 52 staff working with children who have been abused, with adult sex offenders, with children who sexually harm others, and with adults and children in Barrow who are victims of domestic abuse.



Graham has been a member of the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) since 1985 and has chaired it since 2002.

How do you combine your different roles?

Combining the role of chairing the ACPC with managing the multi-agency training service on behalf of the Child Protection Committee requires something of a juggling act - especially as I am also the Lead within NSPCC North Division for training and staff development.

What are the objectives of the ACPC and who else is involved?

Our objectives are based on guidance from the Department of Health document "Working Together to Safeguard Children":

- to bring together key agencies and professionals to develop and implement policies and procedures to safeguard and protect children from abuse and neglect
- to audit and evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding work
- to ensure effective outcomes for children
- to ensure those working with children in Cumbria are competent in safeguarding children through the provision of multi-agency training programmes
- to raise awareness in the community that the need to safeguard children is everyone's responsibility
- to learn from serious case reviews commissioned by the ACPC as well as those conducted elsewhere.

We have representatives from Social Services, Education, Police, Probation, Health, YOT, CAF/CASS and NSPCC. In addition, the ACPC has various sub-committees across Cumbria involving a wider mix of local agencies and professionals and we are well

supported by the member services section of the county council.

How will the Children Act 2004 change your work?

It will see the work of the ACPC coming to end in March 2006 to be replaced by a Local Safeguarding Board (LSB). Many of our current work programmes will continue under the new arrangements but the LSB will also have considerably extended and enhanced powers. Perhaps one of our greatest successes in Cumbria has been achieving a huge amount of goodwill and co-operation across many agencies. This will continue to be important when the LSB is formed - even when that goodwill becomes a statutory requirement!

What is your personal definition of "safeguarding"?

Safeguarding is a much wider concept than child protection - it is ensuring that all children live in a safe environment where they are free from all forms of abuse, neglect and harm.

There will sadly always be a need to protect children and the LSB will be a key lead in working with others to prevent abuse and neglect, to safeguard and protect children from it and to help children to overcome its effects.

What are your hopes for the future?

That in Cumbria - Every Child Matters and that in Cumbria, every child leads a life free from abuse and neglect, is loved, valued and able to achieve his or her full potential.



### Measuring the difference

**Outcomes and assessment criteria are big factors in the new approaches to children's services and Cumbria Children's Fund is organising a conference in Penrith on Friday 18 March entitled Measuring the difference: Evaluating impact and convincing future funders.**

Speakers will include Sally Wassell, Judith Brown and Mike Blakey and the afternoon workshops will focus on practical measurement tools and their application to real Cumbrian projects.

For further details contact Cumbria Children's Fund on 01539 742345 or email [admin@cchildfund.org.uk](mailto:admin@cchildfund.org.uk)

## Web information

The Every Child Matters website at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk) is a valuable resource for everyone involved in the change process and it is being updated all the time.

The various national documents are available as downloads, there are sections with targeted information for parents and other stakeholders and there are contacts and links to most of the key players in regional and national government and across the spectrum of organisations that are involved.

## Learning networks

Cumbria is one of only 14 local authority areas participating in a new national Children's Services Learning Network. The Network aims to share best practice and learning experience among a cross-section of authorities and then to communicate this more widely to others.

For further information see [www.ten.info](http://www.ten.info) or contact Mike Blakey, Project Officer for the Change for Children Partnership.

*"Cumbria's membership gives us a golden opportunity to learn from experiences elsewhere and to contribute our perspective to national developments. The organisers have run similar networks in the past and the participation has proved to be of lasting benefit."*

**Paul Moore**, Head of Children's Services

*In Cumbria Every Child Matters* is published by the Cumbria Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, a multi-agency group with representatives from both voluntary and statutory organisations covering health, education, social care and all aspects of work with children and young people in Cumbria. It is also available online via the Cumbria County Council website at [www.cumbriacc.gov.uk](http://www.cumbriacc.gov.uk).

Ideas for future issues, requests for further information and comments should be addressed to the Editor, Michael Blakey, Project Officer – Change for Children Partnership on 01228 601192 or via [michael.blakey@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:michael.blakey@cumbriacc.gov.uk).

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## Keeping kids safe with Kidsafe

Kidsafe is a child protection programme delivered into primary schools by **Val Webb**, (Project Manager), and her colleague, **Judith Walker**. Since its first pilot in St Thomas's School in Kendal in early 2003, the Kidsafe project has been delivered into 12 schools across Cumbria and has included over one thousand children. These are mainly in Years 1 to 3 but in some schools the project has worked up to Year 6.

Alongside the children's course, Val and Judith also run separate workshops for parents and carers, including input from each school's Child Protection Officer who explains the school's policies and procedures in relation to Child Protection. The parent/carer workshops aim to build on existing parenting skills such as listening well to children, building children's confidence and self-esteem, and raising awareness of the issues around child abuse and the various sources of help available. The Kidsafe team also explain to parents and carers what the children will be doing in the various sessions of the programme.

Val Webb explains the approach: "The project is spread over ten sessions with each class. We use a puppet called KS with the children – the puppet experiences various situations, such as bullying, inappropriate touching and computer/internet safety. We then use this as the basis for the children to work out ways to help KS so that he can see what he should do and who he should ask for help in the different situations. The teachers and support staff in each school are involved at every stage of the programme."

*"Kidsafe has proved its worth in equipping children to cope with all sorts of situations where they might feel unhappy or scared. It is an investment in prevention and we hope that it can continue to be delivered into more Cumbrian schools in the future"*

**Val Webb**, Project Manager

*"I consider this to be a brave but essential project that will have far-reaching benefits now and into the future."*

**A Parent**

*"I know who to tell if I am feeling bad or sad inside."*

**A Child**

*"Children should be given as much information as possible to keep them safe. This project gives them a voice."*

**A teacher** at a participating school

Child Protection – Abuse Prevention  
For more information on the Kidsafe programme please telephone Val Webb on 015395 30838