

# in Cumbria **Every Child Matters**

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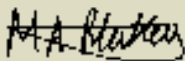
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## Welcome

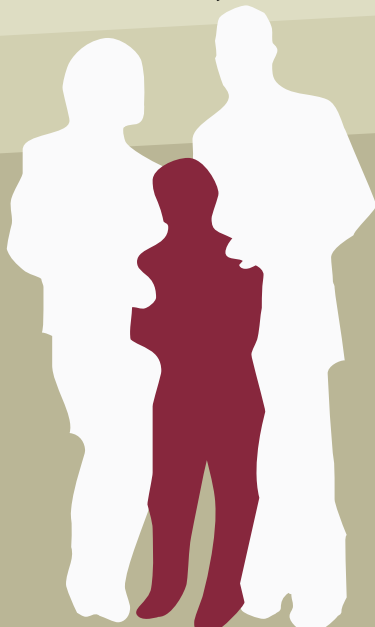
Although this is the third newsletter with the Every Child Matters title, it is the first to be published on behalf of the Cumbria Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and it reflects a shift towards a more multi-agency approach. This and future monthly issues will include contributions from and about a wide range of those working with children and young people in Cumbria - not only the public sector but also voluntary organisations - and I hope that you will find it useful in keeping you up to date on developments in children's services in the county and beyond.

I also hope that it will make a useful contribution to an effective process of developing a Children's Trust approach in Cumbria and look forward to your comments, constructive criticisms and contributions. Contact details can be found on the back page and I look forward to hearing from you and from others in your organisation.

Best regards,



**Mike Blakey**, Project Officer – Children's Services, Cumbria County Council



### CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION - Director of Children's Services

Thanks to everyone who contributed their comments on the creation of a new county council post of Director of Children's Services in Cumbria.

As promised, here is a summary of the feedback, as presented to Children's Services Panel – Development and Improvement at the beginning of November:

- The consultation process so far has clearly shown that there is a strong desire to move towards the creation of a single children's services directorate within CCC.
- There are concerns about managing the change process and around some of the practicalities of integrating services.
- There is a significant need to continue to develop the current strategy of informing council staff and other partners as the integrated services agenda progresses.

*"I believe that the kind of structure proposed will provide a more holistic service to young people and will help improve the life chances and well-being of children. I am supportive of the proposal to create a single post of Director of Children's Services alongside a similar post of Director of Adult Services."*

**Tony Cunningham, MP**

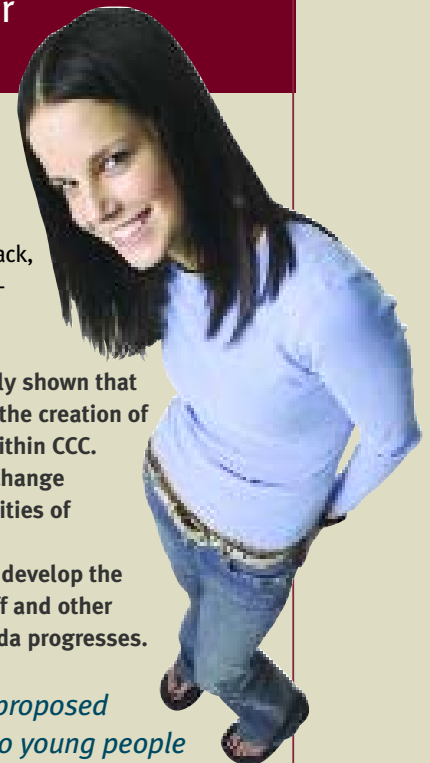
*"This reflects an important and much needed structural response to the current agenda and to bringing about the necessary changes in the Council's services."*

**Alan Walters**, Senior School Improvement Officer

*"Understanding what different people do is key to joining together and there need to be more opportunities to consult. This is an opportunity rather than a threat but it must be a joining up and not a take over."*

**Eileen McLean**, Senior Educational Psychologist on behalf of LACES (Looked After Children Education Service)

Consultation will continue and the learning from each stage of the process will be shared and integrated into planning and decision-making processes.



# Every Child Matters Caring for Children Outcomes Framework

You will probably have heard reference to “the Framework” or “the Outcomes” described in the Children Bill (now Act) and wondered what exactly these contain. The chart below gives

the current top level information and, in the coming months, this newsletter will try to elaborate on the more detailed targets and indicators associated with each outcome.

## Every Child Matters

Outcomes				
Be Healthy	Stay Safe	Enjoy and Achieve	Make a Positive Contribution	Achieve Economic Well-being
<b>Aims</b>				
Physically healthy Mentally and emotionally healthy Sexually healthy Healthy lifestyles Choose not to take illegal drugs	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	Ready for school Attend and enjoy school  Achieve educational standards at primary school  Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation  Achieve educational standards at secondary school	Engage in decision making and support the community and environment  Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school  Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully and discriminate  Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges  Develop enterprising behaviour	Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school  Ready for employment  Live in decent homes and sustainable communities  Access to transport and material goods  Live in households free from low income
<b>Support</b>				
Parents, carers and families promote healthy choices	Parents, carers and families provide safe homes and stability	Parents, carers and families support learning	Parents, carers and families promote positive behaviour	Parents, carers and families are supported to be economically active

## Progress of the Children Bill

The Children Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November and is therefore now the Children Act (2004). The new Act sets the aims of **Every Child Matters** (see above) firmly at the centre of future delivery of children’s services. It also reinforces the need to move towards a Children’s Trust approach and strengthens the role of partners including, for example, the voluntary sector and the existing Children’s Fund, in catalysing change.

*“We welcome the progress on The Children Act. Many and various organisations in the county are already tackling the practicalities of making these changes happen and I am confident that we will continue to make progress – creating the right structures for the future so that we can deliver better and better services to children and young people, their families and carers, across the county.”* **Jane Humphries** of Cumbria Children’s Fund.



## Change of support in the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership



Ged (left) and Paul (right)

Many of you will be aware of the Cumbria Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), its broad membership and its continuing role in making effective change happen in children's services. *Paul Boyce*, Senior Joint Commissioner for Children's Services in Cumbria County Council (Social Services) and North Cumbria Primary Care Trusts, is handing over the support function of the CYPSP to *Ged Campion*, Prevention and Family Support Services Manager for Cumbria.

Here Paul looks back on progress and, in the first issue of 2005, Ged will explain something of his hopes for the coming months. The next issue will also include a report on the Children's Trusts - Vision to Reality conference.

### Paul Boyce

When did you start as support officer of the CYPSP and what did you expect to achieve?

I became the support officer to the CYPSP just over three years ago. I was a lot younger then than I feel now but I will resist the temptation of putting the blame on the partnership!

I hoped and expected that the CYPSP would become the place where all partner agencies in the statutory and voluntary sector would come together to support children in achieving the best possible outcomes for them. We have a long way to go yet before this hope becomes a reality but I do think that, after a slow start, significant progress has been made, particularly in the last year.

How have things developed? Any surprises?

The increasing commitment of agencies to work together for children has been the main development in the CYPSP. This has been a slow process but the recent development of a partnership work plan has been a real milestone. The decision for Councillor John Mallinson to chair the partnership has also been significant and his commitment has really helped us move on into action mode. The government's programme for children's services (Every Child Matters and National Service Framework) has also helped the development process.

The main surprise for me has been that people have stuck with the birth of the CYPSP. I have seen lots of partnerships come and go but this one has survived. This is a real testament to the membership and is why I think we should be optimistic about the future for children's services in Cumbria.

What have you enjoyed most about your role?

Working with agencies outside of the council and getting to know more about how the council works outside of social services.

I spend a lot of time working with partner agencies and working with the CYPSP has brought me into contact with Chief Executives, Directors and Service Heads in these various organisations. It has been reassuring to find that there is a commitment to children and to doing things better at every level in these partner agencies.

What is your message to anyone working with children and young people in Cumbria who is concerned about the forthcoming changes?

I find this difficult because I really enjoy change. The simple message is that existing approaches have not worked and do not work well for children. There is a mountain of evidence to support the need for change and so change is a good thing. I think if people are concerned they should be concerned about the kind of changes planned - in the past we have moved desks, changed structure, changed people's job titles. I would be very concerned if this was what we were about this time.

This is about putting children first, a change in culture, values and expectations.

How can that be a bad thing?

### Contributing to the debate

If you'd like to see an interview with a particular Cumbria children's services leader or influencer in a future issue or if you'd like to interview someone yourself then please contact the editor, **Michael Blakey** (contact details overleaf). We also hope to include interviews conducted by young people so please let us have your suggestions and ideas to make this happen.



## Learning and networking

### Children's Services Learning Network

Some readers may already have come across **TEN** (The Education Network), **LGIU** (Local Government Information Unit) and the **Democratic Health Unit** (DHU). These three partner organisations are in the process of establishing a **Children's Services Learning Network** where participants from a representative cross-section of about 14 local authorities will meet regularly to address specific aspects of the new legislation and its implementation.

The aims of the network are to:

- promote learning amongst participating partners in each local authority area
- build capacity between these partners
- disseminate learning more widely through a national conference, a dedicated website and other channels.

*"We're not yet sure that Cumbria will be one of the authorities represented in the network, but we'll certainly be keeping a close eye on the subjects covered and any areas where we can learn from experience elsewhere."*

explains **Mike Blakey**,

Further information is available at [www.ten.info](http://www.ten.info).

This website also has an excellent Links page with website links to everything from LEAs, professional bodies and learning materials through to voluntary organisations, lobbying groups and central government websites.

There are new developments in the NW and nationally aimed at increasing networking across children's services and providing better channels for communications and learning from best practice and experiences elsewhere. Not everyone can participate in these but there are usually ways of finding out what's happening and the relevant websites and other contact details are included here where possible.

### NW Learning Coordination Group

This regional group involves representatives from the equivalents of the Cumbria Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership across the North West. **Mike Blakey**, Project Officer – Children's Services in the county council and **Ged Champion** (see page 3) will be attending the first meetings and we will try to feature any key learning in the newsletter in future.

*In Cumbria Every Child Matters* is published each month 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.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk).

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

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