

in Cumbria **Every Child Matters**

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Vision for the future



When the Change for Children Partnership was formed in March this year to develop the children's trust arrangements in Cumbria, a number

of work streams were established to focus on some key tasks.

One work stream has been considering the creation of a Vision, Mission and underpinning Values for our work together, within the context of the five national outcomes we must achieve for children and young people. Their work builds on the earlier work with young people, described in Edition 8 of the *Every Child Matters* newsletter, when young people challenged us with their ten expectations for children's services in Cumbria:

Respect
Connected
Reliable
Fair
Comfortable

Trust
Confidential
Easy to use
Professional
Individual

As well as the work stream members, the Change for Children Partnership and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership have also contributed to the development of a Vision, Mission and Values. These must unite us in our purpose as we deliver changes in services for children, young people and their families in Cumbria.

The newly formed Children and Young People's Board (see page 3) met in September and agreed the final wordings to guide our work in partnership.

Siân Rees, Change for Children Partnership

Our Vision

In Cumbria - the best for every child, young person and their family

Enabling children and young people to be healthy; to stay safe; to enjoy and achieve; to make a positive contribution and to achieve economic well being

Our Mission

In partnership, we will achieve our vision and be effective when we:

- Create opportunities for all children, young people, their families and those working with and for them, to be actively **involved in developing and participating in children's services.**
- Find **new ways of working and sharing available resources** to meet the needs of children, young people, and their families **at the earliest opportunity.**
- **Invest in a highly skilled and integrated workforce** to deliver the expectations of children, young people and their families.
- **Commission services to secure improved outcomes**, through evidence based practice, for all children, young people and their families.

Our Values

Respect Trust Inclusion Reliability Fairness



photo from www.ionhtrdsall.co.uk

Protection and broader safeguarding – who is responsible?

A statutory Local Safeguarding Children Board (an LSCB) will replace the current non-statutory Area Child Protection Committee in Cumbria in the coming months – there is a national requirement under the Children Act 2004 for the top tier local authority to establish an LSCB in partnership with other local agencies by April 2006.

“Our Cumbria Child Protection Committee has involved most of the partners now required to participate in the new LSCB. The new Board should be in action by the end of September and its membership will include the County Council, major partners such as Health and Police, and agencies not previously involved in the ACPC. In particular we welcome Connexions Cumbria, the District Councils and additional voluntary sector representatives. I know that we all hope to build on the work of the ACPC so as to enable everyone in Cumbria to play their part in safeguarding our children.”

General Manager (Safeguarding & Review) **Charles Proctor**

The core objectives of the Board will be:

- to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate activity to safeguard children, ensuring that planning for services promotes their welfare and that policies and procedures are in place in all agencies to ensure children are protected from harm
- to communicate the need to safeguard children to the community and, where children are harmed, to ensure that any necessary lessons for the agencies working together are learned.

“This goes back to the definition of safeguarding. Safeguarding and promoting welfare may be described as two sides of the same coin. Safeguarding is about protecting children from maltreatment and preventing the impairment of children’s health and development while the flip side, promoting welfare, is a proactive responsibility for ensuring safe and effective care and creating opportunities.”

Michael Watmough, Head of Access & Inclusion

For further information on Cumbria’s LSCB contact Charles on 01900 325392 or via charles.proctor@cumbriacc.gov.uk.



What do we mean by ... safeguarding?

Various terms are used around this whole area and the new draft statutory guidance, ***Working together to safeguard children***, makes the distinctions very clear:

Safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children is:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development and
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care ...

... and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection is a subset of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

“Safeguarding is not discrete from promoting welfare but the two are inseparable.”

Charles Proctor, General Manager (Safeguarding & Review)

Source: Paragraphs 1:18 and 1:19 of ***Working together to safeguard children*** which can be found in draft form (consultation in progress) at www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations.

In his own words

This brief interview gives a practical insight into what protection has meant to one young person in Cumbria.

What is your understanding of being on the child protection register?

I was protected by Social Services – if my Dad hits me, I stay on their register.

What difference has it made to your life?

Dad hasn’t hit me anymore because he is doing his bit and I am doing mine. It has made me have more support.

What could be improved and what changes could be made for the future?

It seemed to happen very quickly but it was right for it to be done properly, I think.

Young People's Panel

On Monday 4 July, three young people participated in the selection process for Cumbria's first Director of Children's Services.

To prepare for the day the young people were supported to understand the job and its responsibilities. They prepared the questions and developed a consistent process for evaluating the candidate's responses within the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. They were briefed about each candidate's qualifications, experience, skills and their motivation for wanting the job. Finally they spent time together to rehearse who would ask which questions and how they would manage the interviews.

Becca (17) is a looked after young person and she chaired the panel as she has a variety of previous recruitment experience. Janine (16) is a young carer and has already been involved in the development of Cumbria's vision for the Every Child Matters agenda. Robert (14) attends St Aidan's School and is involved in his school council.

They interviewed the three candidates

with each interview lasting 30 minutes and they asked each candidate the same questions and also gave them a task to complete.

The questions* were:

- 1 Please give an example of when you have worked directly with children and promoted their decision making - what did you learn and how has this influenced you?
- 2 How is/could/should Article 12 of the UN Convention be seen in practice across the services to children in Cumbria?
- 3 What will be your top priority?
- 4 What difference will your getting this job make to young people's lives in Cumbria?
- 5 Please give practical examples of the ten key words in action from your experience.
- 6 What three words do you hope we use to describe you after this process?

The panel was supported by Lindy Ketchen, the Children's Rights Officer. She took notes to enable the panel to concentrate on the candidate's answers and these notes were then used by the panel to evaluate and feedback.

After the interviews the panel feedback to the Chief Officers and the Chief Executive. Their feedback was considered along with that from the two adult panels, psychometric tests and the interview with the Chief Executive and the Head of Performance. All this information supported the formal Chief Officer's interviews on the following day.

Special permission was obtained to enable Janine and Robert to participate on a school day. One of them commented: "I wasn't sure what to expect but have learnt loads about how to handle myself when I start to go for interviews."

For further information about young people's participation in recruitment contact Lindy Ketchen, Children's Rights Officer on 01539 773352 or 07968 545988.

** Moira Swann's answers to some of these questions will be published in a future issue of Every Child Matters. If you have a question that you would like to see answered in these pages then please send it through to the Editor, Mike Blakey - see back page for contact details.*

Children & Young People's Board

The recently-established Children & Young People's Board (CYPB) met for the first time on 4 August, and will meet on the first Thursday of every month. The CYPB has agreed a vision, mission and values for a children's trust approach in Cumbria (see front page of this issue) and agreed a set of multi-agency priorities for children's services. The CYPB has also endorsed a set of principles and standards of participation to ensure that children, young people, their families and communities are engaged in children's services developments.

The CYPB is guided by the final version of the Statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation to improve the wellbeing of children: children's trusts, which was published at the end of August. The guidance states that "whilst each partner is responsible for the exercise of its own functions, robust governance arrangements for inter-agency co-operation will set the framework of accountability for the improvement and delivery of effective services. The cornerstone must be the creation of a strong integrated governing board or structure representing all key delivery partners at senior level, able and determined to drive whole-system change with clear leadership and effective local change programmes".

"In Cumbria, the CYPB will be the strong integrated governing board for Children's Services. It is

supported by a reconfigured Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, allowing other children's services organisations to influence and guide the emerging children's trust approach." Michael Blakey, Project Manager seconded to the Change for Children Partnership.

The membership of the CYPB includes a voluntary sector representative and all those organisations which have a duty to co-operate and are named under section 10 of the Children Act (2004) as follows:

- 3 representatives of the district councils;
- 1 representative of Cumbria Constabulary;
- 1 representative of the local probation board;
- 1 representative of the Youth Offending Team (Youth Offending Service in Cumbria);
- 1 representative of the Strategic Health Authority
- 2 representatives of the Primary Care Trusts;
- 1 representative of Connexions Cumbria; and
- 1 representative of the Learning and Skills Council for Cumbria.

The CYPB will be chaired by Moira Swann, the Director of Children's Services, who is also joined by Philip Chappelhow, the Lead Member for Children's Services, and Peter Stybelski, the Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council.



News in brief

New appointment for North Cumbria PCTs

Tina Long has been appointed as the Interim Director for Children and Young People's Services for the North Cumbria Primary Care Trusts. Tina is also Director for Healthcare Governance and Nursing for North Cumbria PCTs and she has taken the Children's role for an interim period. See also www.northcumbriahealth.nhs.uk.

More resources available online

The Every Child Matters national website has an excellent and growing Resources and Practice section at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice. This new database provides useful materials for practitioners, fact sheets and examples from around the country that will help to deliver the Every Child Matters agenda.

Topics include

- children's trusts
- joint planning and commissioning
- the Common Assessment Framework
- early years and childcare
- health
- education
- participation
- equality and diversity
- social care and
- youth justice.

The database is also searchable by keywords and by region and new materials and functionality are being added regularly.

"This website is a fantastic source of up-to-date and practical information and guidance. It is great to have everything together in one place and to have an easy way of spotting new developments."

Mike Blakey, Change for Children Partnership

In Cumbria Every Child Matters is published each month by the Cumbria Change for Children Partnership, a multi-agency group covering health, education, social care and all aspects of work with children and young people in Cumbria. The newsletter is also available online via the Cumbria County Council website at 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 via michael.blakey@cumbriacc.gov.uk.

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Youth Matters

In July the Government published its Green Paper on youth which outlined plans to hold local authorities responsible for ensuring young people have places to go and things to do.

"Life for teenagers is full of opportunities, and most take full advantage of them. We hope that young people and their parents will welcome our proposals as we plan to give them more say in the way local services are provided and to increase their choice." **Ruth Kelly MP**

Secretary of State for Education and Skills

News coverage at the time concentrated on the proposals for opportunity cards but the Green Paper also talks about:

- new national standards for sports activities, organised youth work and volunteering;
- an opportunity fund to be spent on local projects that young people want;
- developing new approaches to facilities for young people;
- extending opportunities for young people to make a contribution to their communities; and
- providing better information, advice and guidance to help young people make good choices.

Siân Rees, lead of Cumbria's Change for Children Partnership, has been involved with these national developments for some time through her role as Chief Executive of Connexions Cumbria:

"I'm pleased there is an emphasis on the involvement of young people in developing and delivering services and on commissioning high quality services which meet young people's needs. The proposals form part of a coherent policy drive - ECM: Change for Children - which I look forward to implementing in partnership." **Siân Rees**

Chris Reeve, Principal Education Officer, Youth Work, has been working on Cumbria's feedback to the consultation document over the summer:

"Youth Work in Cumbria Partnership welcomes the Green Paper and is working to ensure that young people receive the highest quality youth work by commissioning provisions that meet the modern needs of our young people." **Chris Reeve**

The consultation period for the Green Paper's proposals will run until 4 November and anyone with comments or suggestions should contact **Paul Davies**, Head of Lifelong Learning in the Cumbria Education Directorate, who is leading the consultation process for Cumbria (01228 606853 or via paul.davies@cumbriacc.gov.uk) or complete the consultation questionnaire at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

