

Cumbria LSCB Newsletter

Foreword from Chair – Gill Rigg

I am very pleased to introduce the summer newsletter for the LSCB, and hope that as ever, you find it useful and relevant, we are always happy to have your feedback.

I have now formally been your Chair for three months, and have very much enjoyed the chance to meet with some of you. I have also had the opportunity to attend some of the sub groups, all of which has shown me the hard work and commitment from colleagues in all agencies.

We have quickly embarked on a review of the Board. Almost universally the large number of partners attending the Board was an issue, and having chaired one Board, it is a significant feature. We have consulted on making the changes to ensure that we are able to focus on driving the agenda forward, and the changes have been welcomed on the whole.

We are also proposing to rename the Chair's Sub Group as the Business Group, and this group will ensure the Business Plan is implemented. The plan describes the actions we'll take over the next months and years to improve safeguarding. While a lot of progress has been made there remains much to do and we want to significantly increase the pace of change within the Board.

We have now established links with the pan Lancashire LSCB's, namely Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn, which will be very helpful, and may well allow us to make economies of scale. We have also explored the links with the Adults Safeguarding Board. We have appointed a new lay member, Jon Rush, and we are delighted to have him join us shortly.

Finally, we are in the unusual position of undertaking four Serious Case Reviews, and are taking advantage of the new freedoms to undertake these in a proportionate way. I look forward to sharing the learning with you in due course.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months working in Cumbria, and have been welcomed and supported wherever I go. I thank you all for the welcome, and look forward to the progress of the Board over the coming months.

Gill Rigg, LSCB Chair
LSCB@cumbria.gov.uk

Child sexual exploitation webchat

Cumbria Police are hosting a further webchat on child sexual exploitation. The chat is taking place on Wednesday 16 July between 6.30pm and 8pm when representatives from Children's Services, Cumbria Police, Health and Inspira will try to answer any questions posed.

Please circulate these details within your organisation or to any groups who may be interested in asking a question. To take part please visit the CSE Webchat page – www.cumbria.police.uk/csechat

LSCB review update

We have commissioned a review of the LSCB, and Glenys Johnston OBE was in Cumbria at the end of June to conduct this.

We are awaiting her final report but she has said "It was very obvious in all my meetings or interviews that Board members are deeply committed to supporting the work of the Board and a great deal of work has been undertaken".

The final version of her report will be used to refine the Business Plan and as evidence of improvement.

Publication of Child J Serious Case Review report

Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board has published the report of the Serious Case Review into the death of Child J who tragically died in January 2013. At an inquest which concluded in Kendal on 30 June 2014, the coroner found that death was a consequence of her own actions, though her intention was not beyond reasonable doubt.

The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to learn lessons to improve how agencies work individually, and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Serious Case Review report includes nine main findings along with a series of associated questions for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. It does not include specific recommendations.

The LSCB has been working together with partners to address the issues identified in the report. The Board will be overseeing progress on these plans, and holding agencies to account for implementing them.

The full Serious Case Review Report and Learning Development Plan can be found at www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/scr.asp

Forthcoming Serious Case Reviews

Serious Case Reviews (SCR) are thankfully fairly infrequent - however The Case Review Sub Group has considered a number of cases that may have met the criteria but were not believed to fulfil the conditions at the time.

As a result, a further two cases have been confirmed to meet the criteria, so a total of four SCR's are now being undertaken in Cumbria.

Independent Reviewers have been identified for each case, and they are all now in progress.

If you or your agency were involved with any of these children or their families, you may be interviewed (usually over the telephone) by the reviewer, to help us build up a full picture of what has happened. Or you may be asked to participate either in groups or forums such as a Learning Event for practitioners or in a Panel to consider the findings and recommendations.

Learning from the SCR will be made available and each review is likely to result in some sort of action/learning plan. We will keep you informed of progress in the next newsletter.

Further information about Serious Case Reviews nationally is available from the NSPCC

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/serious_case_reviews_homepage_wda82779.html

Cumbria's previous SCR are available on the LSCB website <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/scr.asp>

Child sexual exploitation and missing from home policy update

Chapter 12 - Sexual Exploitation of Children has been updated with new ways of working and is available on the website. Anyone who has regular contact with children is in a good position to notice changes in behaviour and physical signs that may indicate involvement in sexual exploitation. Professionals should take the time to familiarise themselves with the updated procedure.

Any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background or other circumstances. Professionals who have a concern that a child or young person is experiencing or is at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation must make a referral to Triage.

In urgent cases immediate safeguarding action should be taken by calling the police and/or Triage as appropriate.

To read the procedure please visit [CumbriaLSCB.com](http://cumbriaLSCB.com) at the following link: <http://cumbrialscb.com/professionals/policies.asp>

Any queries/comments need to be sent to:

Jenny Beattie (Police Lead) Jennifer.Beattie@cumbria.police.uk

or Catherine Witt (Children's Services) Catherine.Witt@cumbria.gov.uk

"It's a lonely journey" report published

A report into child sexual abuse in the family environment published on 3 July 2014 revealed alarming gaps in knowledge about its prevalence, effects, and how best to prevent it. Concern about the findings has led the Deputy Children's Commissioner for England to use the Children's Commissioner's legislative powers to today launch a national inquiry into this troubling form of child sexual abuse.

It found glaring omissions in what is known about child sexual abuse in family environments. This includes an almost complete lack of research directly looking into children and young people's experiences of what would help to prevent it or to support those who have been abused.

The report, "It's a lonely journey" A Rapid Evidence Assessment on Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse can be downloaded from: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications>

Paediatric first aid course dates

Countywide dates including twilight sessions:

14 July, 24 July, 1 September, 15 September, 29 September.

For further information please see:

<http://www.cumbrialscb.com/training/default.asp>



New initiative to help sex crime victims launched

A multi-agency response and vision for services to support victims of sexual assault in Cumbria was launched in June 2014.

The initiative has been led by Police and Crime Commissioner, Richard Rhodes in conjunction with NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Clinical Director Children and Families Dr Neela Shabde, NHS England, Cumbria Constabulary and Cumbria County Council.

Richard Rhodes said: *“The vision for the Initiative is clear. We want the people of Cumbria to have the confidence to come forward and report sexual violence and it is only by us all working together will we tackle this type of crime and behaviour. This includes people that need support but may not want to report the crime to the police.”*

“We are going to deliver the vision by establishing dedicated multi-agency support to victims of sexual violence from children, young people to adults. It is clear that, wherever possible, more services need to be provided in the county and need to be consistent across the county. Victims of serious sexual violence will have access to the support that they need, when they need it and this will include health care, emotional support and support through the criminal justice process if appropriate.”

“The aim is to establish a Sexual Assault Referral Centre during 2015 that will co-ordinate the health and emotional support for victims of serious sexual assault in the county.”

If you would like further information on the initiative or can contribute your experience of delivering services to children and young people to help deliver the referral pathways, services and training, please contact Nicola Broomfield, Project Manager for the initiative on nicola.broomfield@cumbria.police.uk or call 01768 217737.

Escalation and conflict resolution process agreed

Case review evidence both nationally and locally has evidenced a need for a process to be agreed by the LSCB to manage disputes between agencies.

The LSCBs Conflict Resolution Policy provides the process for the resolution of disputes between agencies. The document sets out the parameters for both informal and formal conflict resolution.

See <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=55969> or see the Policies and procedures area of [CumbriaLSCB.com](http://www.cumbrialscb.com).

Core group guidance available

Core Group guidance is now available on CumbriaLSCB.com. There are leaflets aimed at professionals, children and young people and parents for you to download and use.

The purpose of this guidance is to support professionals in their role as Core Group members in order to promote effective working within the group and to encourage best practice in promoting children's welfare and protecting them. Research tells us that when Core Groups work well, the outcomes for children are more positive; effective Core Groups can help safeguard vulnerable children.

Please see the publications area of CumbriaLSCB.com: <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/publications.asp>

Peer review to take place

Services for Children in Cumbria must keep seeking external review of its progress to make sure we are delivering the required improvements.

The LSCB has agreed to jointly sponsor a Peer Review that would focus on the Triage and the effectiveness of Early Help.

This would be a full review by the Local Government Association which will include a multi-agency team of around 8-10 being present in Cumbria for five days, their work will involve the full partnership.

As part of our preparations for the review, we will be carrying out a survey of all staff to help us understand the view from the frontline. Please look out for this towards the middle of September. The full review will take place in the week beginning 20 October 2014.



Get wise to private fostering

Professionals working with children across Cumbria are being encouraged to develop their understanding of private fostering.

A Private Fostering Arrangement is when a young person aged under-16 (or under 18 if they are disabled) is placed, by their parent, in the care of another adult who is not a close relative, for 28 days or more. A close relative is an aunt, uncle, step-parent, grandparent or sibling, but not a cousin, great aunt or uncle, or a family friend.

Parents should be notifying Cumbria Children's Services when a child(ren) has/have gone to live with someone else, and who that person is.

Privately Fostered children can be vulnerable as they may not see their families very often. It is therefore important that their needs are assessed and their situation monitored to safeguard their well-being. If you are aware of a child that you think meets these criteria check whether the parent or carer has informed the County Council. If they haven't, please let us know by contacting the County Triage Team on **0333 240 1727**. Once notified, the county council will send a social worker to visit the child to check that the arrangements are suitable and that the child's needs are being met. For more information visit: www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/childrenandfamilies/privatefostering/whatisfostering.asp



New Lay Member of LSCB

The LSCB have recently appointed a new Lay Member. Jon Rush becomes the Board's second Lay Member and joins John Greenwood in undertaking this voluntary and valuable role.

When asked about his appointment Jon commented that his 30 years police service in both Cumbria and Greater Manchester would assist him greatly in contributing to the work of the LSCB. He added: *"During my time in the police service I have constantly supported the partnership approach in dealing with children and vulnerable adults. Every time I have investigated serious crimes against children or developed policies to prevent abuse or exploitation of vulnerable members of our community, I have always ensured that the view of the child or vulnerable adult is taken into account. I quickly learned that the only long term and sustainable approach to reducing harm was to be involved at a partnership level and respond together rather than acting alone as a single agency."*

"I left the police service last year but I have been undertaking Lay roles with Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group and as a Governor at a College in Bury, for the past 2-3 years. These roles have enabled me to have an insight into how other organisations work and how I can influence change. I am committed to ensuring that the work of the Board is developed and implemented to support the young people in our community."

Neglect identified as Business Plan priority

The LSCB has identified neglect as a priority interest in the Business Plan for 2014-17.

Following the Neglect Workshop back in March 2014 practice guidance has been developed for professionals working with families in which neglect is a factor.

The guidance has been developed by a group of practitioners and frontline managers from all the agencies involved in Cumbria LSCB to provide evidence based information and tools to facilitate their working with children and their families in order to identify and address issues of neglect. The LSCB will be looking at providing multi-agency workshops on using the tools in the guidance to help develop a shared understanding and use of terminology in respect of neglect.

We would welcome your thoughts on the guidance which is now available on CumbriaLSCB.com at <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/neglect>

Early help update

The team have now been in post for six months and have been creating links with key frontline staff across the county. The team have been overwhelmed by the positivity and willingness of frontline staff to work with us to keep developing Cumbria's Early Help Offer. One (amongst many) example of this has been the significant increase in registered Early Help Assessment/CAFs, for example 182 were registered in the last 3 months alone. That means at least 182 children, young people and their families are working with organisations to identify their needs, and develop a team around the family to help with those needs and reduce the risks of them escalating to statutory services.

The paperwork is in place to support the Early Help process and this is available on the LSCB website. We are pleased to say that frontline practitioners are already using the new format and have been giving valuable feedback, some of which has already been implemented. As mentioned we are keen for feedback on all aspects of Early Help and to enable us act on your comments there is now a standing agenda item on the LSCB's Early Help group for feedback from practitioners. Where changes are implemented we will ensure that a message is given through the LSCB newsletter and website. Please contact your local Early Help Officer via the link who will ensure that your comments are included. <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/earlyhelp/contacts.asp>

The Multi-Agency Training on Early Assessment/CAF is well underway and the uptake has been excellent. The training has been a good opportunity to meet practitioners in their locality to build working relationships to further develop Early Help. There are further training dates in July and September and these are on the LSCB website. All information, guidance and support is available at: <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/earlyhelp/default.asp>

Developing the workforce

Do you find it difficult to release staff from the work place to attend training?

Many services prefer the face to face approach to training but it is costly. Cumbria LSCB online training is available and can be used as a whole school or Service approach. Your administrator can register all staff using the organisation email and their name, job title and work address. This has enabled some organisations to undertake the training in a whole workforce approach and have the face to face discussion after completion. The eLearning is a suitable refresher recognised by Ofsted.

<http://cumbrialscb.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

If you can make it to a face to face training session, facilitated in a multi-agency setting by your own colleagues from across the partnership, details are on the website. <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/training/default.asp>

Following every training event we ask a number of questions and some of the responses taken from the most recent training are below:

- "Clear information given"
- "Very different and good refresher"
- "Useful website to get information"
- "Well presented"
- "It was good to read the information before the course"
- "Very factual and informative"

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup of the LSCB is leading a review of Safeguarding Training and how we deliver the key information to you and your colleagues. We will include a special item in the next newsletter to keep you updated with progress and how you can get involved.

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) risk factors

LSCBs have a statutory responsibility to use the aggregated findings from all child deaths to inform local strategic planning on how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. Nicola Cleghorn, the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding, has been studying and analysing child death data for Cumbria as part of her role. She has noted that Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy figures in 2011 show that the following have been identified as potential risk factors:

- Co-sleeping (sleeping either in bed or sofa)
- Parental smoking (even outside)
- Prop feeding (leaving infant with bottle, usually propped on a cushion)

Nicola said: "It's not to say any of the risk factors were a direct cause of the SUDI, but that one or more of these risk factors were present in every case. All practitioners working with families with infants should note these and recognise the risks to promote better public health."

Case study: A child centred way of working

In each edition of the LSCB newsletter we're featuring case studies to highlight how individuals and agencies help the children and young people we work with. If you'd like to be featured in future editions contact Tom Gannon (tom.gannon@cumbria.gov.uk).

This month we take a look at the experiences of an East Cumbria Family Support worker working with a six-year-old child...

Work was undertaken with a six year old child who lives with his mum, step father and his younger sister. The child has just had an Early Help Assessment/CAF completed on him due to concerns about his behaviour and the difficulties his parents are having managing it. The child is very controlling and tries to exert his dominance over the rest of the family. When he is challenged or does not get his own way he becomes physically aggressive. There are also concerns as he has been hurting his four year old sister. Mum asserts that she has used a variety of behaviour management strategies however claims they are not working.

A CAF had already been completed by the school. Mum's views about how things were at home were ascertained and time was spent interacting with the child to gain some insight into how he interacts socially. I also spent the first session I had with him in school exploring what life was like from his perspective in terms of different aspects of his life such as home, school, friendships.

In terms of working with the child the assessment was ongoing throughout our work with him. As the sessions went on we developed a greater understanding of the child's life, including a clearer picture of his behaviours and family dynamics.

Aims of the work

- To explore what it is like to be the child in terms of how he sees himself, his identity, his worries and fears, his likes and dislikes and his perspectives on things important to him.
- To jointly work with the worker supporting mum so my work with the child complements their work with mum.
- To help the child deal with strong emotions in less destructive ways.
- To help the child build a closer and more positive relationship with his mum and sister.
- To help the child settle into more structured routines.
- For mum to put in place boundaries and routines for the child.
- For mum to feel more confident in her parenting.
- For the family to be less stressed.

During the course of the work it became evident that there were some significant underlying emotional and relationship issues impacting on the child and the rest of the family and that they required more specialist intervention and support. This issue was discussed at length with the Team around Child (TAC) and the decision was made to refer the child to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Although the intervention with this service user has not resulted in a transformation in terms of the behaviour at home it has been successful in other respects. The work with the child has drawn out important themes in terms of issues which may be underlying her extreme behaviours. There were also some shifts in terms of the child acknowledging that some of her behaviours were not acceptable, this was important progress if the cycle of change is considered.

This way of working with a family is important to get the voice of the child and feed that into how we work with the parent. The child felt listened to and felt part of the plan.

Practitioner Forums

The LSCB supports the face to face meeting together of all who work with children and young people in order to learn from each other and understand each other's roles and responsibilities and what local provision is available in each part of the county. The Forums are multi-agency and have representation from each of the local services that are working with children and families.

There are now 5 practitioner forums being developed or are up and running. Audit and Practice Development Officers from Children's Services connect with the forums to offer support but also to be the link between the forums and the LSCB, enabling the 2 way communication for practitioners and the LSCB. The Practitioner Forums aims to provide a regular feedback loop and reality check from practitioners to the LSCB and strategic leads about how well – or not SCR lessons and action plans are being implemented. The forums also allow practitioners to identify ideas for improvement so that changes can be made systemically.

Future meeting dates are available from <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/forums/default.asp>



New Business Plan published

The new LSCB Business Plan has been published and is available on the LSCB Website.

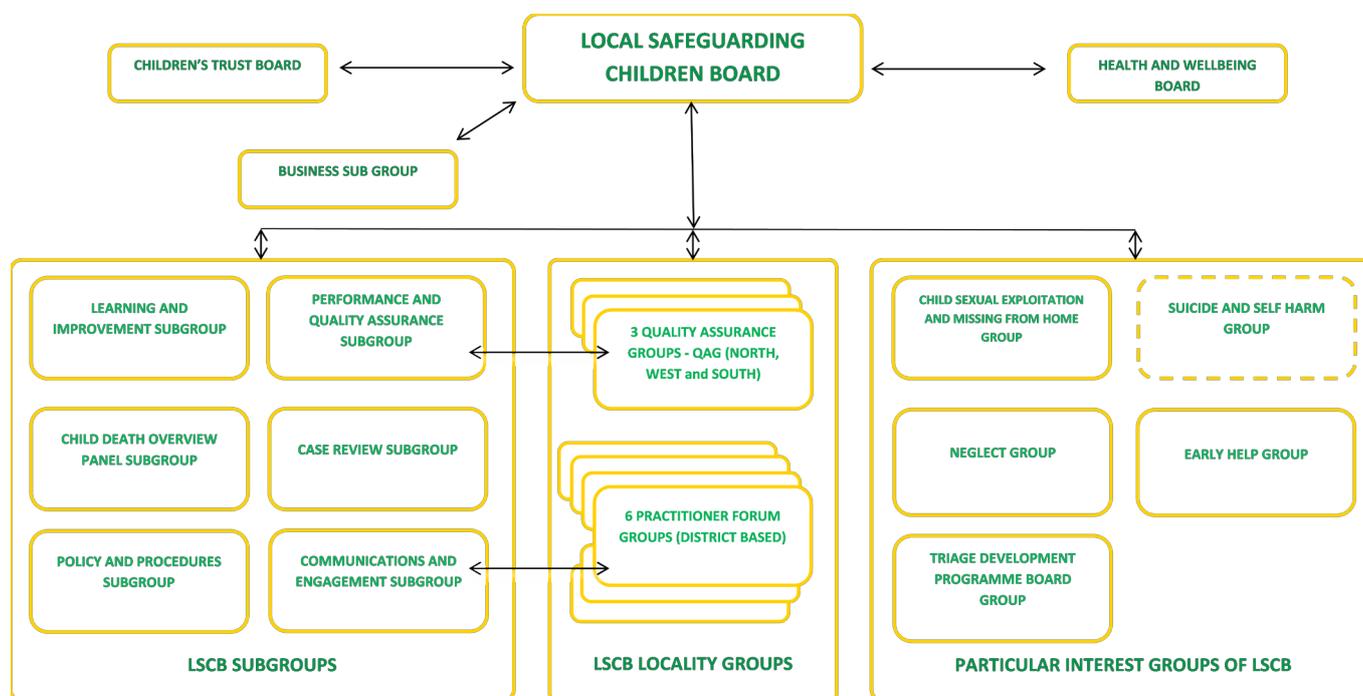
<http://www.cumbrialscb.com/about/default.asp>

In addition to the core business and functions of the LSCB, we have decided, as a Board, to focus on some areas that require further or emerging focus and we have called these Particular Interests.

These Particular Interest Areas are part of the overall themes for the Business Plan. The actions to deliver on these in the first 12-18 months are included in the Business Plan. The LSCB has 9 themes for 2014-2017, they are:

1. Leadership and Governance
2. Quality Assurance and Performance Management
3. Early Help
4. Developing the workforce
5. Learning from Case Reviews
6. Learning from Child Deaths
7. Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing from Home
8. Neglect
9. Health and Wellbeing of Children

To deliver this stretching and challenging agenda we have the structure below in place. Over the next 12 months, the newsletter will focus on the different subgroups so that you can get a better feel for the business of the LSCB. If you have any requests about what you would like us to cover in the next newsletter, then please contact LSCB@cumbria.gov.uk



To download or read the LSCB Business Plan please see the about us area of the website.

<http://www.cumbrialscb.com/about/default.asp>

Information hub for offenders' families

Are you aware that 7% of children experience the imprisonment of a father during their time at school? And that these children are twice as likely to experience mental health problems?

i-HOP is a national one-stop information and advice service for all professionals working with children and families of offenders. The i-HOP knowledge hub www.i-hop.org.uk collates and promotes examples of services, interventions, resources, policy and research around this vulnerable group and is supported by a free telephone helpline **0808 802 2013**.

With only one male prison in Cumbria and no women's prison or Young Offender Institution's, maintaining contact with an imprisoned parent can be a challenge. Families are faced with travelling significant distances in order to visit. The rural nature of much of Cumbria creates further barriers, with limited public transport options and the associated financial implications of travel over long distances. Visit www.i-hop.org.uk to sign up for free membership and to receive updates.