

Cumbria LSCB Newsletter

Interview with LSCB Chair, Gill Rigg

As part of the LSCB's continuing priority to involve children and young people in the work we do, we asked Harvey McCaffrey - a former Children's Rights Apprentice who now works for the Council as a Helpdesk Assistant - to interview our Chair, Gill Rigg. Here's what Gill had to say in response to Harvey's questions...



What is the LSCB?

An LSCB is a Multi-Agency Partnership, which has 27 partner agencies on the Board, and including, Police, Education, Social Care, Health, Probation as well as the Voluntary Sector and many others.

The role of the LSCB is to safeguard and protect all children who are vulnerable, or at risk of neglect and or abuse.

What is your role as chair of the LSCB?

I am an independent chair, which means I do not belong to any of the partner agencies who make up the Board.

I see my role as a critical friend to make sure children are safe and that all our work is done to a high standard, to work closely and communicate with subgroups and partners to make sure we are all working together to make a difference to children and young people in Cumbria.

When things sadly do go wrong it is my job to look at all the facts and identify areas for improvement.

Why might a young person need to know what an LSCB is?

There is an area of the LSCB website which is specifically aimed at young people which explains:

Who young people can contact in case of neglect or harm and what to do if someone is concerned about a child or young person.

The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) would also be able to support young people to share their concerns.

Our starting point in every scenario is we believe what children and young people tell us, and then assess their situation, but to also treat each child and young person as an individual.

We want to hear young people's voices, and we are here to listen to their views.

What does your role bring to help Children Looked After?

The role of the Chair identifies areas that may be of concern, and this enables agencies who work alongside, to know the information necessary whilst keeping confidentiality.

Some Children Looked After may have been through the Child Protection System.

The LSCB has to make sure safeguarding is working effectively and that young people know who and how to contact the correct person. This could come in as a feedback task.

How do you deal with the emotional aspects of your role?

I go on long walks, and swim, which gives me time to think, reflect and clear my mind. I talk to other colleagues who do the same sort of job.

I try to deal with things professionally and effectively, and so yes, it's a risky area, and the outcome isn't always the best, but we try and learn to improve, and make things better for children and young people. We always want to help children and young people be safe, which is our key aim to moving in the right direction.



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www.cumbrialscb.com

Survey of Practitioners

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in our Survey of Practitioners. We received over 400 responses. Your responses contributed to the findings of a peer review, which the Local Government Association conducted for the LSCB during week commencing 20 October 2014.

Some highlights from the report included:

- **90%** of staff are clear about the circumstances in which they can share information about children with other agencies/professionals as regards safeguarding.
- **75%** of staff receive regular supervision /clinical oversight and reflect on practice.
- **70%** agreed multi-agency training was helping to improve services
- **77%** keep up to date with learning from Serious Case Reviews

The results will also be used by the LSCB, its subgroups and individual agencies to learn and develop targeted communications, training and learning opportunities and review and refresh policies and procedures.

Section 11 Audits

The LSCB's Policy and Procedures subgroup has recently undertaken a Section 11 audit of partner agencies.

For those who aren't aware Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory requirement on organisations and individuals to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The policy group met on Tuesday 14 October 2014 to review all Section 11 returns. The group identified some excellent practice which will be used to produce and share an exemplar toolkit.

Development of the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub and focus on Early Help

The County Triage service is changing and since 3 November 2014 has been known as the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub.

The LSCB vision is to ensure that "**We are working together to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria**". We deliver this by ensuring that vulnerable children and their families live safe lives, free from abuse and neglect or the risk of abuse and neglect through an integrated approach to sharing of information and collaborative decision making. Interventions are put in place at the earliest opportunity across the multi-agency partnership.

The long term intention is to support the shift of resources, through effective information sharing, commissioning and partnership working, from high cost specialist services to universal provision, early help and early intervention.

What do you need to do differently as a result of the Safeguarding Hub?

Before you contact the hub, please consider:

- Do you have significant concerns for a child or young person? Does the child need an immediate child protection response?

If so continue to report your concern to the hub on
0333 2401727

If not, ask yourself:

- Could this child be helped by an Early Help Assessment?
- Can I identify other professionals to contribute to an Early Help Assessment?

For further support, ask your agency service advisors or contact the Early Help Team.

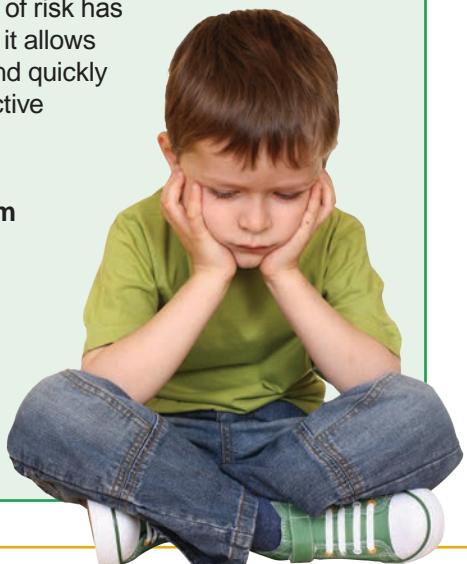
Contacts to the Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours) will remain an emergency only service (the Emergency Duty Team is one social worker covering the whole county).

REMEMBER:

Early Help can be put in place without contact with the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub

- Early identification of children's needs provides the best outcomes for children.
- Early identification of risk has the best impact as it allows agencies to respond quickly with the most effective interventions.

See cumbrialscb.com for further information



Multi-agency thresholds refresh

The LSCB has agreed new wording for the Multi-agency Thresholds Guidance.

This makes it clearer that “**Early Help**” is a responsibility of all agencies where the identified needs of a child/young person require input from more than one service. An increased understanding across the partnership of the Thresholds Guidance will ensure the right services at the right level for children are delivered at the right time. It should also mean that referrals through the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub do meet that threshold.

Please check the LSCB website for further information.

Children's Services Corporate Director appointed

John Macilwraith has been appointed as the new Corporate Director of Children's Services at Cumbria County Council.

Acting Corporate Director since January 2014, the council's Chief Officers' Panel appointed him on a permanent basis on 24 September 2014.

John began his career as a youth worker in Leicester in the late 1980s and over the past 25 years has been employed in a range of progressively more senior Children's Services roles.

He joined Cumbria County Council in June 2008 as Head of Local Services in Furness and became a Children's Services Assistant Director in early 2011.



Early Help Update from Joyce Hawthorn (Children's Services Early Help Strategic Manager)



The last few months have seen a continued increase in the numbers of Early Help Assessments being registered. A measure of the level of increase is reflected in August 2014 (usually the quietest month due to leave and school holidays) where we had 51 Assessments registered as compared to 14 in the same month last year.

In other months we have reached our target of 70 Early Help Assessments being registered with Kirsty Fordyne in the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub. However we want to make sure that this is not just about numbers and that the quality of the assessments more accurately identifies the level of need – leading to better outcomes for children and young people in the county.

As a result we are completing monthly audits and some people will have been asked to send examples of assessments they have completed. This has shown an increase in the amount and quality of useful information being gathered with the cooperation of parents and children and as a result more SMART effective Action Plans that we hope will lead to improved outcomes over time.

We are encouraging anybody completing an Early Help Assessment to download the form from the LSCB website as we are frequently updating the advice and information available.

More recently we have added the new SEND Early Help Assessment which should be used by anybody considering an Education Health Care Plan. Other additions include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), collected by Early Help Officers, largely coming from training sessions and through general discussions with frontline staff. A Resource Directory is also available listing useful contact information.

For any further advice or information regarding Early Help Assessments contact your local Early Help Officer.

www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/earlyhelp/default.asp



Safeguarding Learning and Improvement

Cumbria LSCB expects that as a professional and/or practitioner working with children and young people that you have undertaken the necessary mandatory safeguarding training. This is:

- eLearning Safeguarding Core or Foundation - Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Level 1)
- Safeguarding - Safeguarding Responsibilities, Threshold Guidance and Referral Process (Level 2)
- Safeguarding - Safeguarding and Protecting Children (Multi Agency) - Contacts/Referrals, Conferences, Planning and Collaboration (Level 3)

Are you or your workforce up to date with your mandatory safeguarding training?

For training dates see www.cumbrialscb.com/training

eLearning Basic Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect

Our eLearning courses cover the basic awareness and recognition of child abuse and neglect. Cumbria LSCB expect all professionals and/or practitioners working with children and young people to have completed this.

The courses take approximately 1-3 hours with a short test of knowledge at the end for which successful participants will be able to print a certificate of completion. You do not have to complete the training all at once, you can dip in and out of the module and the system will monitor your progress.

See www.cumbrialscb.com/training/elearning.asp

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a crime that can ruin lives.

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. It is the intent of the LSCB to improve the lives of children in Cumbria by ensuring that all those who work with young people are aware of what child sexual exploitation is, will intervene as early as possible, will respond to the needs of victims to repair the damage and will work together to prevent children becoming victims in the first place.

Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Plan 2014 – 2015, information relating to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and the LSCB's procedure for Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation can be found at www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/cse/default.asp

Please share the briefing note and flow chart with your staff:
www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/briefings.asp

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.

Neil Spence, Audit and Practice Development Officer with the County Council's Children's Services, said: "*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 Cumbria Safeguarding Hub 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/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/privatefostering/whatispfostering.asp



Child Death Overview Panel

Colin Cox, Cumbria County Council's Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, is the chair of the Child Death Overview Panel – a sub-group of the LSCB. Colin explains what the panel's role involves...

"Our remit includes reviewing all deaths up to the age of 18, excluding both those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law.

"We collect and collate information on each child and seek relevant information from professionals and family members. Where a suspicion arises that neglect or abuse may have been a factor in the child's death, we refer a case back to the LSCB Chair for consideration of whether a Serious Case Review is required."

If you would like to refer a case to the Case Review Group please complete a referral form, see the Procedures area of the LSCB website (Referral for Case Review Group form).

www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/policies.asp

Please also see the reports which summarise analysis on historical deaths to establish the demographic issues and identify any key themes.

www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/cdop.asp

Child J Priorities for Learning and Changes

As identified in the Child J Serious Case Review, agencies were determined to learn the lessons from this review as there were many occasions when, with the benefit of hindsight, they identified that other actions could and should have been taken.

Acknowledged good practice:

- All practitioners involved in this case were concerned about Child J and sought help

Areas for development/key themes:

- Use Early Help Assessments to ensure children's needs are assessed as early as possible and lead to joined up multi-agency planning
- Practitioners from all agencies should always consider risk and with the child/family take account of risk in their assessments and planning processes
- Practitioners should keep their judgements under critical review
- Practitioners should have access to effective supervision and management oversight
- Practitioners should be aware of high risk indicators of suicide
- Practitioners should always consider historic sexual abuse as an important risk and vulnerability factor



Access to emergency mental health services for young people

All agencies are being reminded that emergency mental health services for young people can be accessed through the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub arrangements on **0333 240 1727**.

Since 2013, the service has dealt with over 50 out of hours referrals and the feedback from agencies is that it has been very valuable in providing more timely support to young people in an emergency.

Additional support for 16 and 17 year olds can be accessed by contacting the Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment team on **0300 123 9015**.

LSCB Young People's Advisory Forum

The LSCB believes it's important for children and young people to take an active role in the design and development of services provided for them. It is important that all young people have access to an effective mechanism through which they can influence policies, services and decisions that affect their lives.

Good practice identified by Ofsted shows that in some of the best examples, Local Safeguarding Children Boards have focused on a programme of initiatives involving children and young people.

The LSCB are working to establish, from December 2014, a specific LSCB Young People's Advisory Forum with the aim to provide mechanisms for the voice of children and young people to be heard and influence the decisions of the LSCB. The forum will provide a platform for conversations with children and young people about safeguarding issues that are important to them.

For more information please contact **LSCB@cumbria.gov.uk**

Working together to Support Young Carers

A young carer is someone aged between five and 18 who provides regular, ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses drugs / alcohol.

Kyla Hope (Strategic Lead and Equality Officer for Young Carers) reports that Children's Services are aware of 847 young carers who are caring for a family member.



Kyla said:

All of these young people are supported in their caring role by the five young carer charitable organisations (slcarers.org.uk | westcumbriacarers.co.uk | furnesscarers.co.uk | carlislecarers.com | edencarers.co.uk) and all have individual support plans tailored to meet their individual needs.

We're mindful that many young carers are unidentified as the 2011 Census revealed 3,378 young carers in Cumbria. Children's Services Virtual School have recently published a Memorandum of Understanding between Children and Health Care Services. This MoU provides a clear direction to services that they should adapt a "whole family" approach in order to support young carers and their families.

Young Carers tell us they value their caring role and are often proud of what they do. However we also know that caring for someone on a regular basis can put young people under a lot of stress and may result in them not having the same life chances that other young people have.

Research shows that Young Carers often fare less well than their peers in education and it is recognised that schools can offer significant support to young carers. A model school policy is available for all schools across the county. Ideally we would like all schools to have a "Young Carers" Policy in place with a named designated person in school for young carers.

For further information please contact Kyla Hope (Strategic Lead and Equality Officer for Young Carers)

kyla.hope@cumbria.gov.uk

07884476347

www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/publications.asp



LSCB Policies and Procedures

The LSCB policy and Procedure sub group last met in August 2014 and agreed a number of policy updates:

- Chapter 7 – Allegations/Local Area Designated Officer
- Chapter 9 – Complex Needs
- Chapter 15 – Domestic Violence
- Chapter 17 – Parental Mental Health
- Working with Unco-operative Families

All policies and procedures can be found on the LSCB website:

www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/policies.asp

The LSCB has undergone a tendering process for a third party supplier of its policies and procedures. At the LSCB Business group meeting in August 2014 there was agreement to award the contract to Tri.x. The LSCB and Tri.x are now working together to develop a web based, multi-agency policy and procedures manual. Tri.x will redraft our existing procedures in their house style.

In February 2015 the LSCB will launch the new multi-agency Policy and Procedures manual. Policies and Procedures will still be accessed through cumbrialscb.com, visitors to the site will notice an improved layout and additional facilities.

Conflict Resolution Policy

Feedback from the recent survey of practitioners suggested that partners were not aware of an LSCB Conflict Resolution Policy.

At various times during the joint involvement or multi-agency working, professional differences of opinion/judgement may emerge. This policy is designed to assist agencies and staff in resolving such differences.

The policy outlines the process for the resolution of disputes between agencies that will be expected across all LSCB agencies and will set out the parameters for both informal and formal conflict resolution providing timescales, management level and contingencies where appropriate.

Please see:

www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=55969

Focus Family Awareness Raising Sessions

Children's Services are running workshops to engage with both frontline practitioners and managers to answer these questions and any others you may have.

- What is Focus Family?
- How is this different to my current role?
- How do I engage with this work
- How will this benefit me?
- Where can I get advice and help?
- What about consent?
- How will this benefit the family I am working with?
- Who works with the families?

Dates are:

12 November	1.00 - 4.00pm	Barrow Fire Station
27 January	1.00 - 4.00pm	Blencathra House, Whitehaven
28 January	1.00 - 4.00pm	Kendal Fire and Rescue
3 February	1.00 - 4.00pm	Carlisle Fire Station, Eastern Way, Carlisle

[www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/
strategyandcommissioning/focusfamily.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/strategyandcommissioning/focusfamily.asp)

LSCB Review July 2014 Report

Please see the link below based on the report from Glenys Johnston OBE, Independent Social Work Consultant, Director, Octavia Associates Ltd - following her review in July 2014. Cumbria LSCB welcomes this report as external validation of progress made so far with the development of the LSCB. The areas for development have been incorporated into the LSCB Business Plan 2014-17 and progress will be monitored through the LSCB Business Group.

www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=58593



Practitioner Forums

There are now 6 Practitioner Forums up and running in each district area giving you the opportunity to understand each other's' roles and what local provision is available in each part of the county.

The topics to be discussed at forums over the coming months are:

- Lessons learned from the Daniel Pelka Serious Case Review and professional dangerousness
- Signs of safety, managing and assessing risk.
- Cumbria Neglect Strategy
- The LSCB's role and how it operates
- Child J Serious Case Review
- Update from the School Nurses on the use of the Lancaster Model
- Application of Multi-agency Thresholds

For more information see link:

www.cumbrialscb.com/forums/default.asp

Multi-agency Workshops for Managers of Frontline Staff

The LSCB is running a series of half-day workshops in districts on working in partnership to manage risk. Initially these workshops are aimed at managers of frontline staff.

The aim of the workshop is to develop a common understanding of risk management and to provide support to all professionals working with children so that everyone is clear about:

- the thresholds for access to services which support the actions needed to improve the outcomes for children;
- understanding of roles and responsibilities;
- identifying exemplars of good practice;
- individual responsibility when working with children, young people and families;
- responsibility of different agencies; and
- the tools in place to support professionals in their role.

This is a workshop which is participatory, and your input is essential in making sure our services and interventions achieve the very best for our children and young people in Cumbria.

Click here for booking information

[Multi-agency Workshops for Managers of Frontline Staff Flyer \(PDF\)](#)