

# CUMBRIA LSCB

CUMBRIA LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

## Annual Report 2013 - 14



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## Foreword from the Chair

As the recently appointed Independent Chair of Cumbria Safeguarding Children Board, I am delighted to introduce the annual report of the Board to inform you of what the Board has done from April 2013 to March 2014. I took up the role of the Independent Chair in April 2014, so did not have first-hand experience of the work of the past year, but look forward to working with you in the future. I am very privileged to be your Chair.

You will know that it has been a challenging year for all of the agencies who make up the LSCB partnership. There have been many organisational and leadership changes, and it is a challenging environment in which to work to continue the essential task of protecting Cumbria's children and young people. The Council remains subject to an Improvement Notice in relation to its safeguarding role, and there is much to do to improve services across Cumbria. I am pleased to be part of the significant efforts that have been made, and continue to be made, to improve safeguarding activity. I have already seen significant progress.

As ever in safeguarding activities, it has been a busy and challenging year. April 2013 saw the introduction of Working Together 2013, and we particularly welcomed the freedom to move away from a prescribed way of undertaking Serious Case Reviews to a more learning culture. We also saw the piloting, and then the introduction of the new Ofsted framework of inspections, and the new approach of Ofsted reviewing the work of the Boards.

The work of the Board and the sub groups continues to drive the safeguarding agenda forward. Having worked in Cumbria for just a short few months, I am heartened by the commitment and dedication from staff in all agencies to drive the improvements we need for safeguarding. I am struck by how welcoming you have all been and am immensely grateful to you all who work so hard to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria.



**Gill Rigg**  
Cumbria LSCB Independent Chair

## A brief word from John Greenwood one of our two Lay members

Summer 2014 has been a summer of sporting greats - The Tour de France - in Yorkshire, the Commonwealth Games and the football World Cup. Team sports have always fascinated me. They unite people from a variety of backgrounds to form a team with a clear goal in mind and a determination to work together to achieve success.

Our Children's Safeguarding Board shares these characteristics. The board is made up of members from a number of diverse agencies and organisations who work together with one clear objective, to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria. A great strength of the board is that there are members from the police; NHS, social services, education and the voluntary sector all sitting around the same table sharing their expertise to guide and lead the care of our young people. Just as in a sporting team, individuals, from a variety of backgrounds have their own responsibilities, but it is their ability to communicate with each other, to share their skills and the desire they have to work together which leads to success. All members of the LSCB are determined to ensure that children in Cumbria receive the best possible provision from our front line services.

Goals, medals and jerseys are what make these exciting spectacles. But, the goal of achieving happiness and a safe environment for a child far outweighs any sporting success. The LSCB continues to work towards achieving that goal so that our children can grow up feeling secure and confident.



# Introduction

Welcome to the Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2013-2014. This Annual Report is a retrospective look at the work of the LSCB in the year 2013-14.

During 2013-14 has been a period of intense change such as the changes to NHS including national focus and regulatory inspections of local NHS providers, the results of the Francis enquiry, Public Health moving to the LA. Additionally, we have made further changes in response to a Joint Inspection from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted in April 2012 and subsequent separate reviews by Ofsted (May 2013) and CQC (Dec 2013). The outcome of the reviews demonstrated that whilst progress was being made the pace of change needed to be improved. During 2013/14 Cumbria put in place what is called a Safeguarding Improvement Board. The Improvement Board which has a role in scrutinising the work of the LSCB remains in place and continues to develop and oversee the implementation of the Safeguarding Improvement Plan. This Board will continue until both the DfE and Ofsted can be fully assured that all its objectives have been met

The Improvement Board is now independently chaired by Ann Baxter. The Improvement Board scrutinises the work of the LSCB, the Council and agencies, the LSCB at that time, being seen as to be unable to take forward the improvements required. The Improvement Board currently meets every six weeks and will continue until Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted agree that Cumbria Children's Services is no longer operating an "inadequate" service. This Improvement Board has developed and oversees the implementation of an Improvement Plan which sets out the actions required to comply with the Improvement Notice and requirements of the inspection reports.

This report describes/outlines details of the work undertaken within and across the LSCB partnership to towards achieving the aim of working together to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria. To support and enable its improvements Cumbria LSCB also invited an independent expert to lead an external peer review which described our key challenges and that resulted in the delivery of a focused action plan which brought about new structures and processes, the move to a 3 year plan, a new website and improved engagement across the partnership.

A new Independent Chair was appointed at the end of March 2014, following a 6 month period of interim arrangements.

## Cumbria's Children and Young People

There are over 100,723 children and young people aged 0 to 18 years living in Cumbria. The number of young people aged 0-15 in mid-2011 was 83,000; the number is forecast to fall by 6.4% by 2035. Of all County Councils, Cumbria is projected to have the largest decline in population in people aged 0-15 by 2035.

## Key LSCB Performance Indicators

The LSCB scrutinises a number of performance indicators - with responsibility for this function delegated to the Performance Management and Quality Assurance Group (PMQAG). A number of key areas remain a priority to ensure the children we must safeguard are appropriately protected in Cumbria. The indicators below are a selection of the indicators that the PMQAG oversees:

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) figures are clearly increasing, helped by the establishment of an Early Help Team which has made significant differences to the process; ensuring that agencies are supported in all aspects of Early Help. This includes supporting professionals to complete Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and providing training. Early Help continues to be a focus of the LSCB through the Early Help Subgroup.

<b>Common Assessment Framework (CAF) initiated</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
Rate per 10,000	17.3	46.9
<b>Number</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>443</b>

Good performance for this measure is low. The number of actual referrals continues to increase which in itself is an issue for the LSCB, but this should improve as the county moves to a Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and support through Early Help progresses. The PMQAG identified the number of re-referrals as an area of concern and commissioned an audit of re-referrals to ensure full understanding of the issues and if any areas of improvement could be identified. The audit will report in the new financial year, but early results show that overwhelmingly the case was closed appropriately and not too soon but in some instances where closing was appropriate, at that point a multi-agency Early Help Assessment (CAF) should have been initiated. Work is continuing, and this remains a priority for the coming year.

<b>Re-referrals/Referrals</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
<b>Number of referrals received</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>633</b>
Referrals where the same child had been recorded within the previous 12 months	114	163
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>25.8</b>

These are new measures that the LSCB are monitoring enable the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Subgroup to monitor prevalence and risks to young people. The implementation of the CSE Strategy in the next few months should see further indicators developed.

The LSCB held a conference in March 2014 to raise awareness amongst frontline practitioners and 180+ attended the event which saw eminent speakers from all fields including a victim of CSE - the conference was highly commended and very successful.

<b>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing from Home (MFH)</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
CSE reports to police*	77
<b>Children MFH and absent**</b>	<b>55</b>

\*All Sexual offences and obscene publications offences with a victim under the age of 18

\*\* The number of children (under 16) where missing from home reports have been recorded

These are our most vulnerable children and figures for 2013/14 showed a significant increase. There were a number of reasons for this including the impact of national high profile cases raising public awareness and the work to embed the new revised Thresholds for Cumbria – these Thresholds are a valuable tool in supporting practitioners from all agencies to enable them to ensure access to those services which can best support outcomes for children. The PMQAG has recognised this issue and commissioned an audit of re-referrals. In addition to this the local authority has begun an audit of all child protection plans following the challenges from the LSCB.

<b>Number of Children on a Child Protection Plan</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
Rate per 10,000	36.1	62.5
<b>Number</b>	345	<b>591</b>

The number of looked after children remains high and significantly above target, with a slight decrease this year. Initiatives such as the “Could you be our someone?” has increased the number of people coming forward to be adopters, but this takes time to translate into a significant improvement in the performance measures and ultimately in the outcomes for our children. The Legal Placement Panel ensures that only children, who need to be looked after, are looked after. There is work ongoing with newly established district panels to track plans for children to ensure they are only looked after for as long as they need to be. The Better Placements Programme is working to ensure the Right Care for the Right Children at the Right Time

<b>Children Looked After</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
Rate per 10,000	70.2	67
<b>Number</b>	663	<b>640</b>

## LSCB Budget

Partner agencies contribute to the work of the LSCB in many different ways through:

- involvement or leading activity and specific pieces of work
- chairing or participation in the LSCB and its subgroups
- some agencies also make a financial contribution. In 2013-14 partners made the following monetary contributions to the LSCB:

Agency	
Children's Services (staffing/board support)	£93,790
Health	£61,079
Probation	£10,180
Police	£10,180
CAFCASS	£500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£175,729</b>



# The Shape of Safeguarding in Cumbria

## View from Primary Care

In the past 12 months we have seen further development of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) safeguarding team. We now have named GPs in all 6 localities of the county and the team continues to grow in knowledge and confidence, supported by the designated leads. They are supporting practices across the county with advice, guidance and training.

We have seen very good attendance, especially at multi-agency events and the feedback from these sessions has been good. Our aim is to ensure that all practice staff acquire the relevant level of competency in safeguarding children and that all practices have protocols that are effective at keeping all children and young people safe in Cumbria.

We are also working closely with our partners in health and social care to ensure that GPs become much more involved with Early Help and intervention.

*Dr Amanda Boardman - LSCB Member*

## View from Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as the major commissioners of local health services have over the last 12 months kept their responsibility for safeguarding quality assurance through contractual arrangements with all provider organisations central to their work.

The CCG have used the expertise of its designated professionals in particular to improve learning and development standards and safeguarding supervision arrangements across all health providers. NHS Cumbria CCG has coordinated the health systems response to the CQC Review of Services in December 2013 with monitoring arrangements in place to ensure improved outcomes.

NHS Cumbria CCG has made a significant contribution to the work of Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children's Board in strengthening their role as the overall partnership body. As one mark of this partnership commitment the CCG has invested heavily in the new multi-agency triage which acts as the single point of contact where there are concerns about a child.

*Louise Mason-Lodge - Designated Nurse for Safeguarding. LSCB Member and Chair of the Learning and Improvement Subgroup.*

## View from Cumbria Constabulary

Cumbria Police are committed to safeguarding children living in our communities. Dedicated resources are trained to deal with the most serious cases of child abuse including Child Sexual Exploitation. All staff are trained to identify and take the appropriate action when children are seen to be at risk whether as a result of abuse directly against them or as a result of being in a family where domestic abuse is prevalent.

Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014 Cumbria Police referred to Children's Services 6,598 children. Of those 1,183 were for neglect, 1,054 for physical abuse and 792 for sexual abuse. Cumbria Police attended 500 strategy meetings and 187 case conferences over this period in an effort to safeguard children across our county.

*Detective Superintendent Cath Thundercloud. LSCB Member and Chair of Case Review Subgroup*

## View from Cumbria Children's Services

Children's Services in Cumbria is a committed, dedicated and supportive partner. This is evidenced through engagement of Senior Leaders in the LSCB and its subgroups. Resources from the Children's Services Improvement Programme are supporting the LSCB with dedicated resources in leadership, improvement, programme and performance management and business support.

Children's Services host the Multi-agency Triage Service which has benefitted from a secondment of a Child and Family Worker to Triage to act as a central contact point for Early Help support and development of Assessments. Early Help remains a priority and this year has seen investment in a dedicated Early Help Team, hosted by the Council but drawn from internal and external secondees. Additionally changes to Senior Leadership in the County Council's Children's Services, further demonstrates a commitment by explicitly providing a focus on Early Help.

The two consecutive Ofsted inspection inadequate judgements in a relatively short period of time had an adverse impact on the morale of staff. Therefore in late 2013 the newly appointed Chief Executive of the County Council, with the support of key politicians, appointed the current Acting Corporate Director of Children's Services with a clear remit to improve morale amongst staff, enhance partnership working, and with staff and partners accelerate the pace of improvement activity.

The Lead Member for Children's Services is regularly acknowledged for her passion and drive in championing improvements for vulnerable children. The council has, within a difficult financial environment, protected Children's Services budgets.

There is cross political support for improving outcomes for children in Cumbria and the newly formed Labour / Liberal Democrats administration confirmed "safeguarding children and ensure Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up" was a council priority.

*John Macilwraith - Acting Corporate Director - Children's Services and LSCB Member.*

## View from Cumbria Probation Trust

Safeguarding Children remains a core task for all staff in the Probation Trust and all frontline staff are trained to level 1 as a minimum, which is refreshed on a 3 yearly basis.

Our staff regularly refer into the Triage Team and attend Strategy, Case Conferences and Core Group meetings in order to manage the risks our offenders may pose to children. We also ensure Children's Services are represented at Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings so that we can work together to safeguard children.

We are represented on the LSCB and contribute to the various subgroups as and when required.

Despite the significant changes in the way Probation Services will be delivered over the coming year, all staff remain committed to continuing to discharge our duties to safeguard children and engage with other partner agencies to achieve this.

*Sarah Ward – Director of Operations, Cumbria Probation Trust*

## Links between the LSCB, Children's Trust Board (CTB) and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)

The **Children's Trust Board** co-ordinates the planning and development of services for children and young people. It is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services. Both the Director of Children's Services and the Chair of the LSCB are members of the Children's Trust Board.

The priorities of the Children's Trust Board are:

- No avoidable child deaths
- No children living in poverty
- All children are ready for school by the age of 5
- Young people are pro-active and productive citizens by age 16
- Children and young people respect and value themselves and each other.

The LSCB has agreed with the Children's Trust Board that performance in implementing these strategic priorities will be a joint responsibility of both Boards.

The **Health and Wellbeing Board** is responsible for developing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cumbria (JSNA). The JSNA is the description of the health and wellbeing of the people of Cumbria, and the strategic plans to meet these needs.

To ensure that Children's Safeguarding is high on the agenda of the HWBB the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services are members of the HWBB.

Working Together 2013 requires that the LSCB should link effectively with the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Director of Public Health. Specifically, it should both inform, and draw on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and should present its annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Trust Board, and the LSCB have clear remits for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, which each relate to the levels of preventing harm to children.

## LSCB Subgroups

The LSCB has a 3 year Business Plan aimed at delivering both the statutory requirements of the legislation governing the work of LSCBs, and the needs of local children and young people. In order to manage this, set direction and monitor progress, the LSCB has established a number of subgroups that are accountable through the LSCB.

### Business Group

This group has membership from across the partnership, every subgroup chair is a member, as well as the LSCB Vice-Chair and Chair, the group is chaired by the Chair of the LSCB. It links the work of all the subgroups to ensure momentum and delivery of the work programmes – providing mutual support covering the operational processes and coordinates the work of sub-groups to deliver the Business Plan. The group also oversees the development of the Self-Assessment, Annual Report and the delivery of the actions associated with any Serious Case Reviews.

### Policy and Procedures

1. Revision of Policies in Line with Working Together 2013 reporting of major revisions and points of “tension” or disagreement to the Board
2. Commission and analyse Section 11 Audits to ensure that agencies and organisations are operating in safe arrangements
3. Identify creative ways to bring the Voice of the Child into the work of the sub-group and the wider Board

### Communication and Engagement

1. Oversight of the work of the Practitioner Forums to ensure two-way communication between the Board and the front-line
2. Recruit and maintain a list of “Touchstones”<sup>1</sup> to allow us to assess the impact of policy, communications, etc.
3. Maintain and continually improve the LSCB website
4. Devise creative ways to bring the function and work of the Board to the public’s attention
5. Identify creative ways to bring the Voice of the Child into the work of the sub-group and the wider Board

<sup>1</sup> Touchstones - a group of practioners/teachers/health workers and some managers from across the partnership, who are used as a sounding board for new initiatives, are surveyed for their opinion and are used to test out new procedures. There are currently 40+ across Cumbria

### Learning and Improvement

1. Develop and implement a Safeguarding Learning and Improvement Strategy
2. Recruit and maintain a “training pool” to ensure delivery of a range of Safeguarding Development opportunities and training
3. Work to incorporate learning from Case Reviews and work from the Particular Interest Groups into training courses offered
4. Identify creative ways to bring the Voice of the Child into the work of the sub-group and the wider Board

### **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and Case Review Group**

1. Critically examine all child deaths and ensure that significant cases are identified and the LSCB is able to take forward learning
2. Ensure full analysis of all Child Deaths to ensure learning from these cases is captured and absorbed
3. Examine individual cases referred to the LSCB and decide if they meet the criteria for Serious Case Review (SCR) and make recommendations to the Chair of the LSCB
4. Commission and contribute to such SCR
5. Identify creative ways to bring the Voice of the Child into the work of the sub-group and the wider Board

### **Performance Management/Quality Assurance**

1. Collect, collate and analyse multi-agency performance data and report exceptions and areas of concern to the Board
2. Alongside the Board commission multi-agency Quality Assurance audits around areas of particular interest or concern
3. Identify creative ways to bring the Voice of the Child into the work of the sub-group and the wider Board



## Particular Interest Groups

In addition to the subgroups, during the end of 2013-14, the LSCB identified areas where there is a need to have a further or emerging focus; these are referred to as Particular Interests:

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### **Suicide and Self-Harm**

In addition to this being an area that demands our attention, two of our last three Serious Case Reviews featured the suicide of a young person.

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### **Neglect**

We are aware that Neglect can be a significantly damaging issue for children and young people. It is also an area that can leave practitioners working with neglect feeling hopeless and helpless, and it is important that the Board can help to avoid this.

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### **Early Help**

It is vital that we have a clear articulation of our Early Help arrangements and that we focus significant effort on prevention as opposed to the incidence of abuse.

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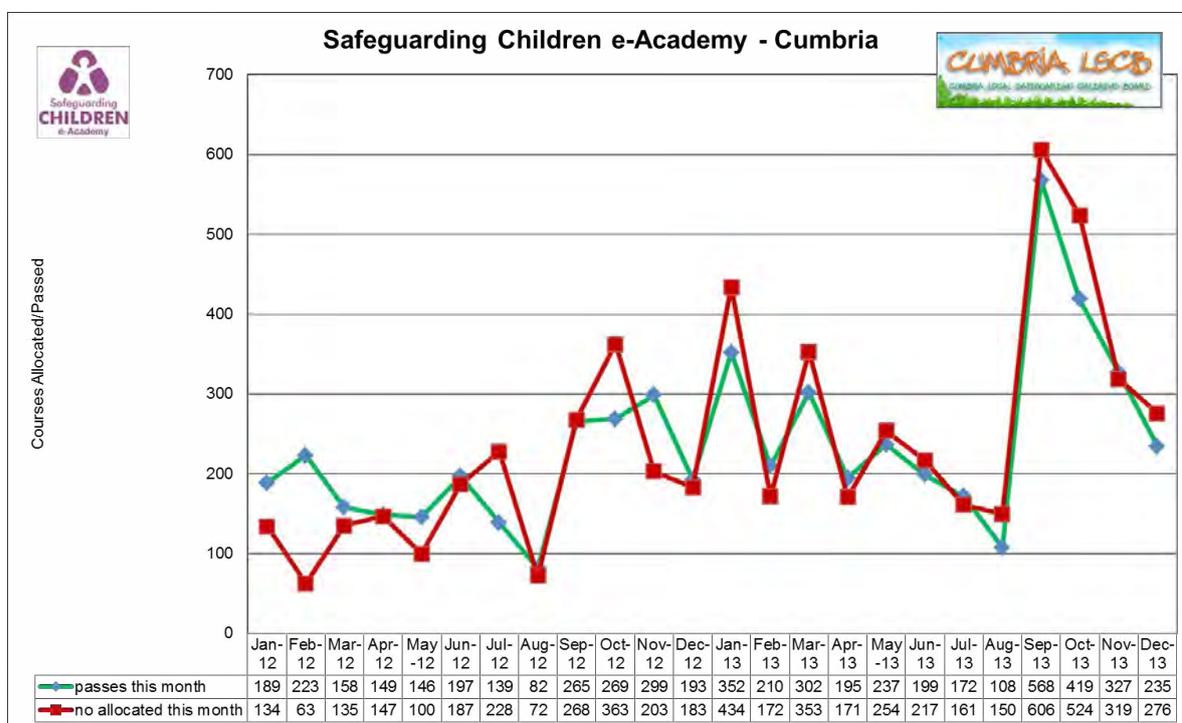
### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/Missing From Home**

By its very nature CSE can be a little known and “underground” activity; it can also take many forms from trafficking to use of social media. There is a clear link to the risk of CSE and children who go “Missing from Home”.

# Single and Multi-Agency training provision

The LSCB Website has information relating to multi-agency safeguarding training provision. The Learning and Improvement subgroup is tasked with ensuring that training is appropriate, based on local evidence and national intelligence and that staff in agencies are suitably participating in the right levels of training.

Level 1 safeguarding training is an e-learning solution and is offered through the Virtual College - Safeguarding Children. The table below shows the number of people doing the training each month, and the pass rates for each occurrence.



**As of 31st December 2013: 15,561 staff had registered for *Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect* with 12,696 passes/completions.**

Self-registration (which requires staff to input their details and create a login and password) was introduced in 2013-14 and this has resulted in an improvement in pass/completion rates from 60% in the earlier part of the year to near 100% in September 2013 (September also saw an increase in the number of people registering for the course, which coincides with the new school year and is reflective of previous years' data.) The pass/completion rate has now settled at around 90%.<sup>2</sup>

**185 people have taken and passed the *Risk Taking Behaviour in Cumbria* course.**

In response to the needs of the Partnership, training is offered through a range of face-to-face settings where people from a range of agencies get together and are trained in a more formal setting. For instance:

- Multi-agency level 2 Safeguarding courses (19 delivered)
- Multi-agency level 3 Safeguarding courses (19 delivered)
- Introduction of specific courses for Early Years
- Two Achieving Best Evidence Courses (each 5 day)
- Three SCR for Managers workshops
- Suicide and Self harm awareness (10 sessions)
- Young Minds training (12 x 6 day courses) using health gain funding
- Introduction of Practitioner Forums to link practitioners together and increase link with LSCB (6 established, 1 in each District)

During 2013-14 the LSCB developed the core Training Pool (who deliver the level 2 and 3 training), including initial train the trainer courses and update sessions.

- Two 'Train the Trainer' courses have taken place with a pool of 45 trainers

The LSCB will commission an audit/survey of trainers in the pool in 2014, to ensure appropriate levels of knowledge are maintained, trainers remain confident and materials are sufficient and suitable.

<sup>2</sup> Passes/completions refer to the number of people who have registered for a course, and completed the whole course, which include answering a series of questions to test understanding of the issues. Once registered, there is a 3 month time limit applied to complete the course. There are a number of reasons why people fail to complete the course, for instance, it has been found that people forget they have registered, used an incorrect email address, or leave the organisation altogether and only a small proportion fail to pass the test if taken.



## Case Reviews

The LSCB have combined the case review and child death overview functions in order to develop a culture of continuous learning from these processes. There are four types of review agreed and implemented by this group:

- Serious Case Review
- Practice review
- Internal management review
- Child death overview review.

The LSCB have commissioned one SCR in 2013-14, and adopted the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) review process in order to review the death of a young person known as Child J. The findings from this review were reported to the Board in January 2014, and a Learning and Development Plan has been developed. The report and Learning Plan are available on the LSCB website at: <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/scr.asp>

In the year, the LSCB also commissioned 3 practice reviews, and some good learning was taken from these reviews and shared with staff such as:

- When sharing information between agencies it is important that the principle of “Follow Through” is undertaken and that those sharing information take responsibility to check out others have received it. It is insufficient to just pass it on; you must always ensure others have received it.
- All agencies to reinforce the use of the LSCB Escalation Policy. If an agency is aware that statutory procedures are not being followed then this must be addressed and escalated.
- Children can be at their most vulnerable at weekends and bank holidays. The practice review group felt that a condition of bail, where child neglect is concerned, is that the subject should not have contact with the child concerned.

The learning from these practice reviews was published in a special newsletter to all staff in April 2014, and is available to download from the LSCB website at: <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/Content/Internet/537/6683/6684/4174415819.pdf>

Good progress has been made in the delivery of the actions from previous reviews and this has been managed through the Business Group.

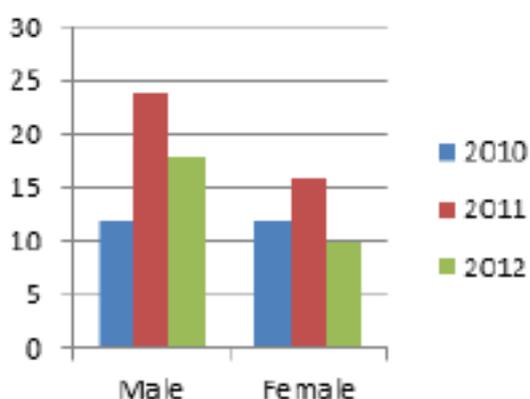
## Learning from Child Deaths (latest information 2012-2013)

There was an increase in the number of deaths in children and young people from 23 in 2010-11 to 52 in 2011-12. This increase was reported in the 2011-12 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) report as specifically involved deaths in the neonatal period as well as deaths from congenital, genetic and chromosomal conditions. A review suggested that rather than the 2011-12 data representing an increase in these specific categories there was an underrepresentation in 2010-11.

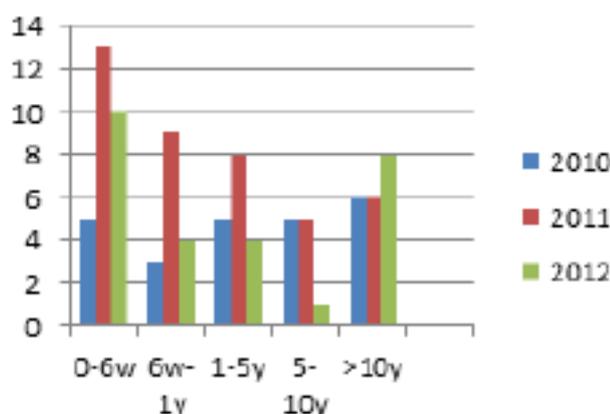
That said it is interesting to note, that fewer children died in Cumbria in 2012-13 with a total of 29 in comparison to 52 in 2011-12. Proportions across age groups and gender remain relatively in line with national trends. There is a slight increase in the numbers of young people dying over the age of 10 in 2012-13. The causes of death in this group are varied and include two suicides from hanging, a death from overdose of illicit substances, and two deaths in children with life-limiting conditions.

The pattern of deaths according to gender of the child follows the national trend. In addition the causes of deaths within each gender follow national trends with the majority of deaths from prematurity, deliberate self-harm and trauma occurring in males. There are no differences in the cumulative data for deaths from congenital, chromosomal or genetic causes between males and females and a slight increase in deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in males.

**Gender Comparison 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13**



**Age Comparison 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13**

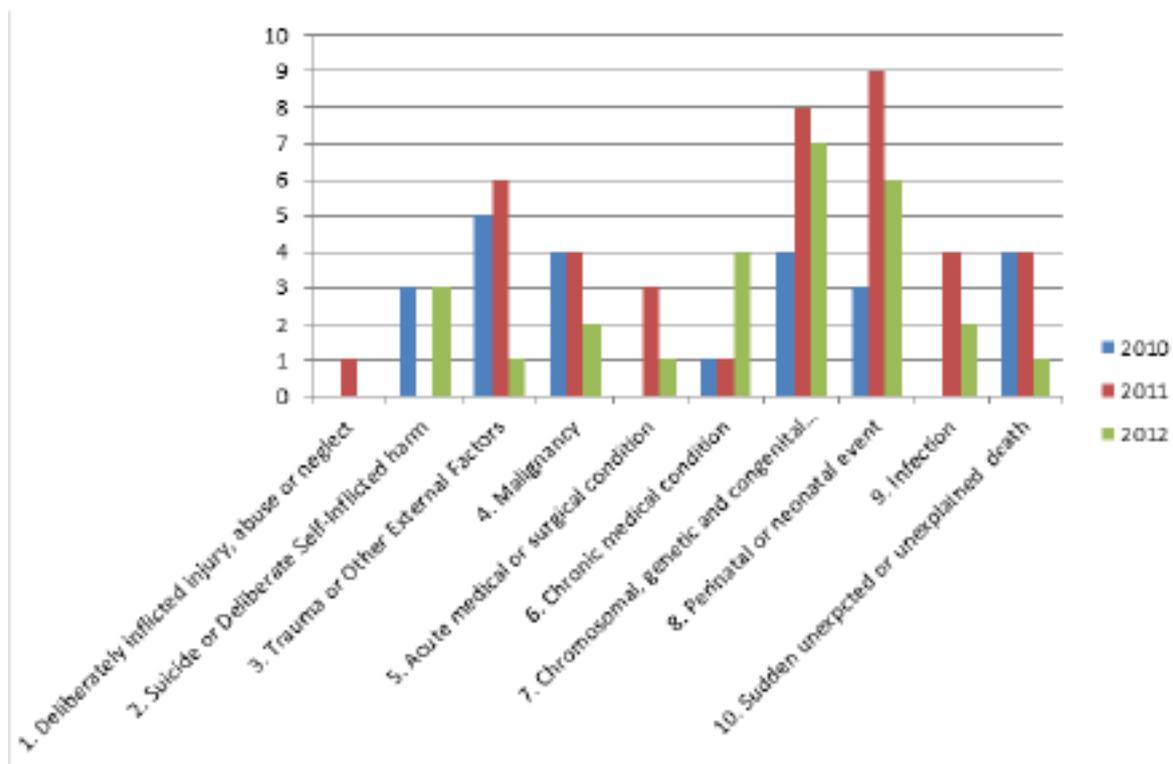


## Category of death

Within the 2012/13 period there were a number of deaths in children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. The trend was for these children to die from respiratory illnesses.

Advanced care planning was not always in place from a formal perspective, however there were a number of cases where it is clear that there was planning taking place nearer the time of death. A comparison of 2010, 2011 and 2012 reinforces the proposed explanation provided in the report of the 2011 cases. This suggested that rather than an increase in deaths from neonatal and congenital causes in 2011, there had been an unusual reduction in these deaths in 2010. In addition, in 2012 there was a dramatic difference in deaths in category 10 (sudden unexpected death in infancy) from the previous years.

Future analyses will need to identify whether this is a verifiable trend.



## Trends for 2012-13

The report for 2012-13 has not yet reviewed detailed information which will provide the basis for trend analysis. However, it is expected that the following will be considered:

1. The previously noted trend for the adverse life experience of children in the county which was unrelated to their cause of death.
2. The modifiable factors identified in Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI), particularly including smoking.
3. The prevalence of parental smoking in child deaths as a result of respiratory illnesses.
4. The value of advanced care planning for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions
5. The early recognition of serious illness in children.

The CDOP will continue to consider trends and make recommendations to the LSCB. Lessons are shared through a variety of means including newsletters, the website, multi-agency and single agency training, and other learning events.



# Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

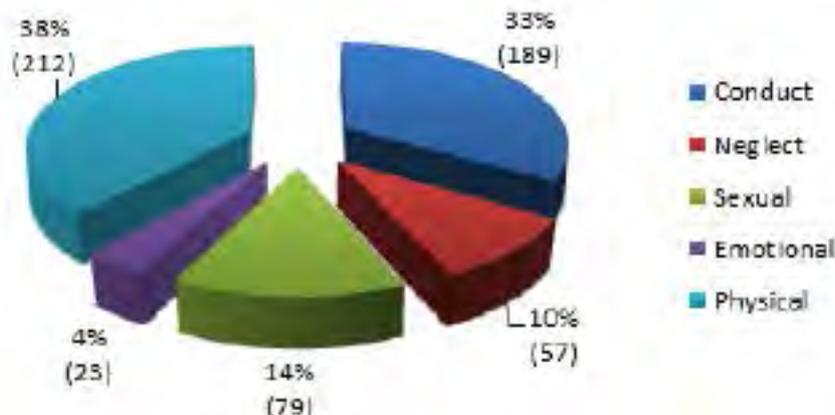
The LADO is responsible for the oversight and scrutiny of individual cases, also the provision of advice and guidance to employers and liaison with other involved agencies to ensure that the allegation is dealt with in an effective manner through a fair and due process.

The LADO service is currently provided by two full time LADO staff. The LADO service maintains a detailed data base which provides statistics on:

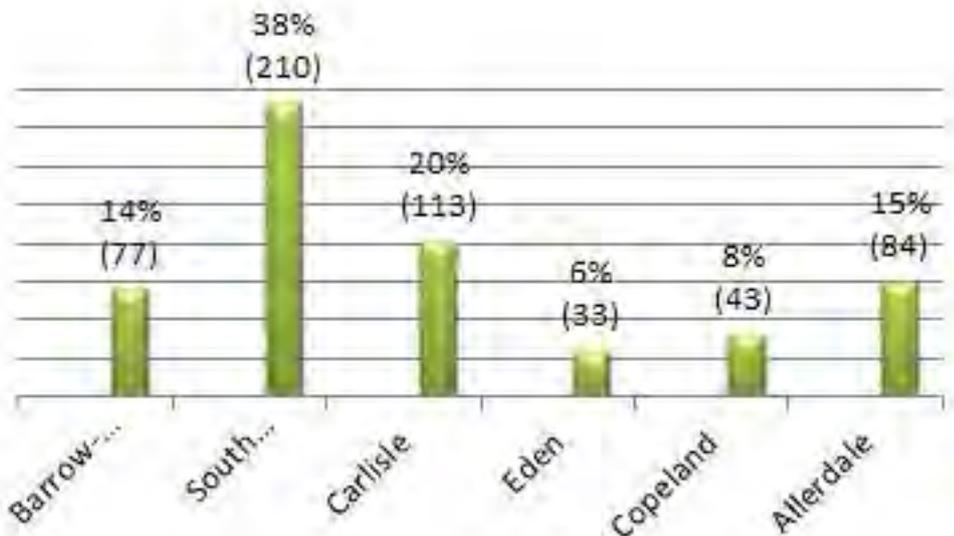
- categories of allegation
- employing organisation
- reporting organisation
- individuals involved in allegation - both adults and child
- resulting action/outcome

For the period April 2013 – March 2014 a total of 560 new allegations were recorded by LADO.

## Categories of alleged abuse 2013 - 14:



## Breakdown of allegations by District:



Of the 560 allegations, 76 related to allegations of physical abuse following a member of staff undertaking a physical intervention or restraint and 50 of these allegations originated from settings in South Lakeland district.

102 concluded in 'no further action'. These were appropriate contacts with the LADO which did not warrant further action by LADO but may have required action by the employer. The LADO maintains a record of these, to detect themes and patterns.

Inspectors from Ofsted in their inspection of Cumbria Children's Services (10 – 20 April 2012) commented favourably on the effectiveness of the LADO service in contributing to improved safeguarding outcomes for children in Cumbria. The inspectors stated that: *'the role of the LADO is suitably established with increasing referrals being made in cases where adults working with children may pose a risk. Referrals are responded to well with effective recording, tracking systems and auditing processes'* (Ofsted Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services – Cumbria County Council, 29 May 2012).

Over the past year LADO has developed services in a number of ways, some examples are:

- Devised a process for initial referral which includes a LADO notification for agencies to report details of concerns and actions taken
- Improved database in order to produce meaningful statistics
- Worked with Adult Services to help them develop an Adult LADO role.

LADO have also provided training and awareness-raising across agencies/organisations via a number of methods which include:

- Worked with Ofsted and independent providers on developing understanding of LADO referral
- Bespoke training sessions to colleagues in Education and Health
- Contributed to a number of Complex Abuse Panels (CAP) to ensure that LADO responsibilities, on behalf of Cumbria County Council, were adequately addressed
- Facilitating workshops at the first National LADO Conference which was co-ordinated by the North West Regional LADO group.

## Privately Fostered Children

The LSCB has a duty to ensure “the co-ordination and effective implementation of measures designed to strengthen private fostering notification arrangements including; raising awareness of private fostering across partner agencies, third sector organisations and commissioned services: ensuring that any relevant training practices are developed and followed up at multi-agency level: reviewing and responding to the findings of the annual private fostering report submitted by the local authority to the Chair of the LSCB; acting upon the findings of Ofsted inspections and research evidence on effective practice; providing effective leadership and challenge in this area; and reporting on fostering in their own annual report as appropriate.”

Following the 2012 Ofsted Inspection findings Children’s Services have ensured that arrangements for Privately Fostered children are robust and that scrutiny of these arrangements by the LSCB is in place and specific issues have been addressed via the Safeguarding Improvement Plan.

LSCB members have nominated a staff member in each of their organisations who will be responsible for publicising Private Fostering and liaising with Children’s Services. An electronic Private Fostering Pack has been developed, which includes leaflets, posters and team briefing notes which has been sent to all LSCB members for them to disseminate through their agencies.

The Private Fostering information held on the LSCB webpage has been updated and placed on a dedicated Cumbria County Council webpage. Nine Private Fostering ‘master class’ sessions took place across the County with approximately 50 Children’s Services staff in September/October 2013. There has been a small increase in notifications from 2012-2013 (last year). It had been anticipated that the increased publicity may lead to an increase in the number of Private Fostering referrals from LSCB organisations. The 2014 audit of cases does not evidence that any of the notifications came from LSCB organisations. The figures are monitored monthly by the Lead Officer who reports progress internally and to the Safeguarding Improvement Board.

The measures of success for Private Fostering were reported to the LSCB:

- Increase the number of Private Fostering Notifications. **Target Met**
- The Timescales from the notification to starting the private fostering assessment in seven days are routinely met. Interim Target of 75% by April 2014 and 100% by April 2015. **Target Met**
- Timescales for Regulation 8 visits are routinely met. Target of 75% by April 2014 and 100% by April 2015 **Target Missed**

# 2013-2014 Business Plan Update

Update on delivery of Actions in the 2013-2014 Business Plan (anything not delivered is covered through the 2014-2017 Business Plan)

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 1 – Strategic Objective: Developing and maintaining an effective partnership				
1.1	The LSCB will have an effective strategic overview of arrangements across all agencies to safeguard children and promote their welfare. (Section 11)	Audit of front line practitioners within agencies to ensure that they are aware of how their organisations are fulfilling the requirements of Section 11.	Children will be more effectively safeguarded as practitioners will be safely recruited, supported and trained in child protection processes and procedures.	Section 11 audits complete for 13/14. New process agreed for 14/15 to cover more relevant areas that have been highlighted through SCR for Child J (especially for schools).
		The Board holds 6 monthly development sessions in order to ensure that members are working together to scrutinise and challenge local arrangements for safeguarding children.	LSCB members will be fully involved and working together to identify priorities relating to safeguarding children in the authority.	October Development day was held following a review of the LSCB in July
1.2	The LSCB will produce clear understanding amongst all member agencies of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the LSCB.	To ensure an effective induction programme is in place for all new LSCB members	Members of the LSCB will be in a position to speak for their organisations, commit their agencies on policy and practice and hold their organisations to account on behalf of children within the authority.	New induction programme established and used for new members since 1 March 2014.
		To develop job descriptions, contracts, and confidentiality agreements for all LSCB members and sub-committees so that expectations are transparent and understood.		Induction pack includes role descriptors - this will be used by new chair in 1:1 meetings with all members over coming months.
		To review the learning and development needs of existing LSCB members and systematically address these through an annual appraisal.		Learning needs form part of the LSCB chair reviews with each member of the LSCB

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 1 – Strategic Objective: Developing and maintaining an effective partnership				
1.3	The LSCB will agree with the local authority and partners the levels for different types of assessments and services to be commissioned and delivered and make sure that agencies comply with the threshold document.	The LSCB will receive the local protocol for assessment from the local authority that sets out clear arrangements of how cases will be managed.	Assessments will be coordinated, timely and proportionate to the needs of individual children and their families.	New protocol agreed and published. Review scheduled for autumn 2014 following a good period of use to ensure it is resulting in the desired impacts
		The LSCB will carry out auditing activity on the application of the threshold document to ensure that this is effectively safeguarding children.	The LSCB will be in a position to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the response of agencies to both early help and safeguarding interventions.	Multi-agency auditing activity continues for the CAF. Thresholds application formed part of the recent re-referrals audit completed by the QAG groups in April 2014. The results will be reported to the PMQAG and the learning taken forward by the relevant subgroups of the LSCB.
	The LSCB website will be an effective safeguarding hub for practitioners, children and young people, parents/carer(s) and the general public.	Policies and procedures will be updated in light of Working Together 2013	The LSCB website will be accessible to practitioners, children and their families and the community and will provide up to date policies, procedures and guidance in relation to safeguarding	Complete
		The website will be redesigned to be more accessible and interactive		Complete
		Children and young people will be identified to help to develop safeguarding information that is accessible and understandable to them.		Complete
	1.4	The LSCB will develop a relationship with the Local Family Justice Board and Health and Wellbeing board in order to scrutinise local arrangements to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children in the area and to identify where improvement is needed.	Governance arrangements to be agreed between the boards with clearly defined reporting structures.	The LSCB will be in a position to identify the effectiveness of partners working together to safeguard children and to identify where improvements are needed and then to hold partners to account for delivery.

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 2 – Strategic objective: To ensure that the child's voice, their experience and needs are clearly recorded and used to inform their individual plans and the work of the LSCB – this will be evidenced in all of the business of the LSCB				
2.1	The Safeguarding Board will develop a partnership participation strategy to ensure that young people are able to inform the work of the LSCB	The LSCB to continue to meet with the Children in Care Council on a six monthly basis.	Children will be in a position to inform and influence the ways in which agencies/organisations are coordinating their safeguarding activity	Outstanding
		The LSCB to hold a participation workshop which will include Quality Assurance Groups, participation leads from agencies and independent reviewing officers in order to produce a partnership participation strategy.		Outstanding
2.2	The LSCB will ensure that every assessment is child centred and informed by the views of the child as well as the family.	All auditing activity will include a section on the child's voice including feedback from the child/young person and a report back to the child/young person on their impact on the Board business.	Children will be at the centre of each assessment.	Complete
2.3	The LSCB will recruit two lay members one with a remit for Children and Young People	The lay members will operate as full members of the Board, participating as appropriate on the Board itself and on sub-committees with identified "buddies".	Lay members will be able to help the LSCB make the link with community groups, support stronger public engagement and improve public understanding of the LSCB's child protection work.	Been awaiting a permanent Chair - Interviews 8 May 2014 - Complete

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 3 – Strategic objective: To ensure that the arrangements for early help are effective in preventing children needing acute interventions.				
3.1	That the threshold guidance makes sure that children's needs are identified at early stage and that they receive an appropriate service	That all agencies comply with the thresholds agreed in the document.	Support for children will be identified at an early stage which will prevent them from needing acute services.	Complete
3.2	That CAF is embedded as a way of working across all relevant agencies	Lead Agencies are to provide evidence to the LSCB that there have arrangements in place to make sure that staff are equipped to take on the lead professional role in CAF. This will include arrangements for training and support.	Children will be safeguarded more effectively at an early stage. The lead professional will be clearly identified to them and all agencies will be working with the child to address their needs based on what children are saying.	CAF numbers continue to improve
		The LSCB will receive performance data that will indicate that numbers of CAFs are increasing. The Quality Assurance Panel will audit the quality of CAF within each thematic audit.		
Priority 4 – Strategic objective: To ensure that the arrangements for privately fostered children are robust and that effective scrutiny of these arrangements by the LSCB are in place				
4.1	The LSCB will be confident that partner agencies; third sector organisations and commissioned services are aware of private fostering and the notification system.	LSCB members will be asked via a questionnaire to describe how they have publicised private fostering in their organisations. CCC Communications team have developed a plan for publicising Private Fostering. This includes how Cumbria will be involved in the National Private Fostering week in June.	The numbers of children privately fostered will increase to be in line with statistical neighbours.	Covered through the report to LSCB in September 2013 - Complete
4.2	The LSCB will be confident that relevant training practices are developed and followed up at a multi-agency level	The Private Fostering E-Learning package will to be publicised within CCC and become part of staff induction.	Member agencies will be aware of the regulations and	Complete
4.3	The LSCB will receive an annual private fostering report submitted by the local authority and six monthly updates	The audit will to be completed and the annual report compiled.	The LSCB will be able to scrutinise private fostering arrangements on an ongoing basis and challenge where they feel children are not being safeguarded in their arrangements.	Complete

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 4 – Strategic objective: To ensure that the arrangements for privately fostered children are robust and that effective scrutiny of these arrangements by the LSCB are in place				
4.4	The voice of the child will be heard within Private Fostering arrangements.	The audit will be completed and the annual report compiled. The audit will check to see if the Voice of the Child has been recorded and will highlight this in the annual report.		Complete
Priority 5 – Strategic objective: To ensure that learning from serious case reviews is embedded in policies and practice.				
5.1	The LSCB will develop a framework in which reviews are conducted regularly not only on cases which meet statutory criteria but also on cases that provide the Board with valuable learning.	The framework will include the following types of reviews:	The LSCB will be in a position to identify improvement that is required and to consolidate good practice.	Complete
		Serious Case reviews: for every case where abuse is known or suspected and either a child dies; or is serious harmed and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together		
		Child death review (See priority 6)		
		Review of a child protection incident which falls below the threshold for an SCR		
5.2	The LSCB will use a learning model to carry out serious case reviews that is consistent with the principles in Working Together 2013.	Case Review/Serious Case review on Child G and H to be completed using a systems framework.	This will contribute to the culture of continuous learning and improvement and will identify opportunities to draw on what works and promote good practice.	Complete
		The model will include participation from front-line practitioners.	Practitioners and family members will be able to contribute to the review from their perspective.	Complete
		The review will include input from family members.		Complete
		Learning from serious case review will be made public.		Child J published in July 2014

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 5 – Strategic objective: To ensure that learning from serious case reviews is embedded in policies and practice.				
5.3	The LSCB will oversee the process and make sure that there are action plans that result in lasting improvements to services..	SMART action plans to be produced from practice, case and serious case reviews.	There will be sustainable improvements in safeguarding practice that will result in preventing serious injury or harm to children.	Complete
		Implementation of action plans to be monitored by Case Review group		Monitoring is through the Business Group (Business Planning Group)
		Learning to be shared with LSCB members who will develop communication strategies within their own organisations.		Learning shared through Communications and Engagement subgroup. Practice review Newsletter and posters. Website special section for Learning from reviews
Priority 6 – Strategic objective: To ensure that the impact of training is fully evaluated				
6.1	The LSCB will set the standard expected of multi-agency safeguarding training. This will include agreeing the levels of training expected from tiers of staff.	A learning and development strategy document will be developed and available as a reference point for all agencies.	The learning and development provided within agencies will equip professionals to safeguard children.	L&I Framework developed. And Training programme delivered.
6.2	The LSCB will be confident that the learning from practice/serious case reviews is communicated in single and multi-agency training.	The Workforce strategy group will ensure the learning from serious case reviews informs the training strategy.	There will be a continuous learning cycle informed by reviews.	Complete
6.3	The LSCB will be assured that the training provided is fully evaluated and has an impact on practice.	The impact of training will be evaluated and reported to the LSCB	The LSCB will be confident that the learning opportunities provided in agencies have an impact on direct practice with children.	Impact evaluation remains patchy.
Priority 7 – Strategic objective: To expand local arrangements for managing child deaths.				
7.1	The unexpected death protocol will be in line with government requirements and to provide appropriate guidance for all of the agencies	The protocol needs to be reviewed and to clearly state the responsibilities of each organisation.	That every agency is clear of their responsibilities in relation to managing child deaths.	Complete

	Sub-objectives	Action required	Impact for children	FINAL update for Annual Report
Priority 7 – Strategic objective: To expand local arrangements for managing child deaths.				
7.2	Ensure findings from child death overview are reported and disseminated through local, regional and national forums, and lessons learnt locally	Annual data and annual report to be provided to the LSCB including an analysis of themes.	That the learning from child death influences and informs practice.	Complete
		The Children's Workforce strategy sub-committee to use the information to inform the training plan		Complete
7.3	Continue to improve work with all relevant agencies and parents to inform and involve them with the work of the panel, and improve the learning from reviews	There needs to be a clear communication strategy around the revised protocol.	That the learning from child death influences and informs practice.	Complete
		Parents need to continue to be given the opportunity to advise the panel on their experiences.		Complete
Priority 8 – To ensure that services for children who self-harm and are at risk of suicide are effective				
8.1	The LSCB will actively engage with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Cumbria Suicide Prevention strategy in order to ensure that the responses to children at risk of suicide and self-harm are effectively safeguarding them.	The LSCB will require regular reports on the progress made by these groups in this area.	The children who are at risk of self-harm and suicide reduce.	This is a continuing issue for Cumbria LSCB - Child J contains many references and actions to this work.
8.2	Partners will ensure that their practitioners are aware of the vulnerabilities of these children and young people and understand the pathways of responses.	The LSCB will expect agencies to confirm that their staff recognise when children are vulnerable and are able to identify appropriate support.	Staff are able to identify and respond to children who are at risk and to make sure they get the right support.	Superseded by Child J SCR report
Priority 9 – the LSCB will be confident that agencies are working together in their responses to children who go missing; children who are sexually exploited and are trafficked and that this response is effectively safeguarding their welfare.				
9.1	The LSCB have a sub-committee with a focus on children who go missing, child sexual exploitation and trafficked children.	The LSCB will develop a data set reporting bi-monthly	The LSCB will be aware of the numbers of children vulnerable in these areas and will be confident that agencies are responding appropriately.	Complete
		Policies and procedures will be updated in these areas		Complete
		Children's Workforce will develop a training strategy		CSE conference delivered. Further work required.
		There will be a communications strategy in order to raise understanding and awareness.		Complete

# LSCB Priorities 2014-2017

The LSCB has 9 themes for 2014-2017. The actions to deliver on these in the first 12-18 months are included in the LSCB Business Plan 2014-2017.

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



## Conclusion

The report recognises the significant service restructuring that has, and is, taking place within different agencies. All partners are aware of the need to promote more effective ways of using finite resources to work with children, young people and their families. Particular changes include the introduction of Clinical Commissioning Groups, restructure of the councils Children's Services and the planned changes to the Probation Service.

Partners have worked hard to improve the Early Help offer in Cumbria, in response to Ofsted and CQC recommendations, and the number of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) improved from 178 in 2012-13 to 440+ in 2013-14. In the same period the number of referrals to social care have fluctuated every month from a low of 362 in April 2013 to a high of 717 in July 2013 stabilising at the end of the period to around 600 per month, this matches an increasing trend over the last 2 years. In fact Social Care data shows that there have been significant increases in the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan and children in care. This may be due to decreased confidence in Social Care following two inadequate inspections, which may have resulted in an increase in referrals. Work has been done in the year to improve partner confidence and further work is planned for 2014-15. Similar increases can be seen across the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services referrals and assessments which have in turn resulted in a decrease in performance. Again this could be due to decreased confidence. The LSCB regularly monitors CAMHS performance and this is included in the forward plan for reporting, and is scrutinised by the PMQAG quarterly.

There have been good arrangements put in place to lead, govern and support the work of the Board. The introduction of a more open culture that facilitates challenge is a powerful driver that is leading to increased confidence by Board members and acceleration in the delivery of improvements. Despite this, there remain significant improvements to be addressed to move the LSCB to be judged as the next category of improvement but there is confidence that these will be secured in the next 12 months, due to the clarity of understanding of senior executives and the CSCB Independent Chair, together with the support of Board Members.

Working Together (2013) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report will be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Cumbria LSCB Annual Report will also be shared with LSCB partner agency senior management teams.

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 01228 606 060.

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