

CUMBRIA LSCB

CUMBRIA LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

OfSTED Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

(Inspection date 3 March – 25 March 2015)

Briefing Note to those working with children, young people and their families

Briefing Note: 13 May 2015

Report reveals significant improvements to county's Local Safeguarding Children Board

Link to report - [Single inspection of LA children's services and review of the LSCB \(PDF\)](#) - See page 43 for LSCB findings

The Chair of Cumbria's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has welcomed a report, published today by OfSTED, which recognises significant improvements in the board's work. The report follows a review of the LSCB which took place during March 2015 as part of the inspection of Local Authority Services .

Inspectors concluded that good progress had been made and that the board should be rated as **'requiring improvement'**.

The LSCB brings together all organisations that work with children and young people in Cumbria to ensure services are co-ordinated and that there is scrutiny and challenge to the work of the member organisations.

In their report inspectors noted:

- The positive impact of the new independent Chair, appointed by Cumbria County Council in April last year.
- The greatly strengthened governance arrangements which are ensuring the LSCB is functioning properly;

- The improved understanding across partners of their roles and responsibilities;
- The strong relationship with other multi-agency boards which oversee related service areas, such as the Health and Well-Being Board;
- The increasing effectiveness of its challenge to the performance of member organisations; and
- The key role the LSCB has played in the development of the county's Safeguarding Hub, the first point of contact for anyone with concerns about a child.

As reflects the 'requires improvement' judgement, inspectors also identified areas where further work was needed, noting particularly the need to strengthen the way partners respond to children at risk of sexual exploitation and those living in households where domestic abuse occurs. These areas had already been recognised in the LSCB Self-Assessment and plans were in place to address.

Gill Rigg, Independent Chair of Cumbria LSCB, said:

"When I was appointed last April my initial view was it would take at least 18 months to get the LSCB to this point. That we have managed this in less than a year is testament to the commitment partner organisations, particularly the county council, have shown to strengthening the LSCB and also the work done by my predecessor Richard Simpson from Barnardo's.

"I always felt that my first task was to ensure that LSCB functioned properly as an organisation. That meant being clear about roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved, about how they work together and there being commitment to a shared vision. I'd like to recognise all partners' contribution to helping us achieve this.

"The inspectors are right that there is much work still to do. Unsurprisingly given recent experiences in other parts of the country, they have said we need to do more to make sure we can deal with the risk of child sexual exploitation. This is absolutely a priority for the board and we want to build on the important work we have already done. Similarly, improvements to the response to domestic abuse and child and adolescent mental health are planned.

"Today's report is an important milestone and shows clearly that we have the capacity to improve further. I know that partners share my determination that we do so. We all know that only good is good enough for children in Cumbria."

John Macilwraith, Cumbria County Council's Corporate Director for Children's Services, said:

"This is a positive report and I'm pleased inspectors have recognised the progress that's been made. The county council is absolutely committed to supporting Gill to ensure the LSCB does its job well. Keeping children safe and well is a shared responsibility across a wide range of organisations, it's vital that they work effectively together because no one organisation can do it on their own."

Further Information

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Next Steps

The LSCB, alongside the LA, will produce an Improvement Plan within with 70 working days (by 19th August 2015). Actions from this plan will also be incorporated into the LSCB Business Plan. Other key messages and learning will be used to further develop services in Cumbria.