Welcome from new LSCB Chair Gill Rigg

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write this foreword as your new Independent Chair and feel very privileged to have been offered the role. I join the Board at a time of considerable activity for all the partners and there is an enthusiasm and willingness to make significant improvements to safeguarding in Cumbria.

I have a very close association with Cumbria, living here for the first eighteen years of my life and most of my family are still based here.

I have worked in safeguarding since my first permanent social work role in 1977 and for those of you who remember them, I chaired an Area Child Protection Committee from 1997 and have chaired several LSCB’s since they began in 2006.

I would like to thank Richard Simpson, your previous Interim Chair, who has helped the LSCB to make significant progress and has made me so welcome. He will continue to have a leadership role in the Board, being the active Vice-Chair.

I know that safeguarding in Cumbria has been judged to be inadequate, and I appreciate that this can be dispiriting for you all, especially when we all want Cumbria’s children and young people to be safe. I am pleased to see the recent review by the Care Quality Commission of looked after and safeguarding services within health identified that progress has been made, and there is a detailed action plan in place to continue the improvements.

My role as the Board Chair, along with all of your senior managers who attend the Board, is to create the right conditions to help you do your vital role of protecting our children.

We are currently finalising the business plan for the LSCB which will identify our priorities for the next three years, and will be available shortly.

Thank you for all you do, and I do hope that the energy that all of the partners have around the Board will help to make your jobs easier.

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

Our Vision

Earlier this year the LSCB’s communications and engagement sub-group was asked to help develop a vision statement for the LSCB. The group carried out a piece of work with frontline staff from across the partnership to get their views. Pulling together the feedback received the sub-group proposed:

‘We are working together to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria’

The new vision was recently agreed by the Board.

Tom Gannon, from the communications and engagement sub-group, said: “It’s a simple statement but it really reflects what staff across the partnership told us and it’s important that everyone can see how what they do fits in.”

Independent reviewer returns

An independent consultant will be back in the county to assess progress made by Cumbria LSCB since her last review in July 2013.

The highly experienced Glenys Johnston OBE is going to be conducting a visit this month and an update on her findings will be shared in the summer LSCB newsletter. If you would like further information about the review then please contact fiona.musgrave@cumbria.gov.uk

New principal social worker

The Munro Review of Child Protection called on local authorities to designate a principal child and family social worker. Cumbria County Council has now appointed Lesley Sanzczuk, service manager for looked after children and leaving care, to the post of principal social worker. Lesley said: “I’m really looking forward to getting started and working with the LSCB. The PSW role creates a clear line of communication between frontline staff and senior management, championing best practice and encouraging a “reflective approach” to social work. For me it’s all about raising standards in child protection and enabling social workers to have their voices heard at the highest levels of management.”

@CumbriaLSCB

www.cumbrialscb.com
Focus Family - strengthening the way we work with families

Cumbria County Council Children’s Services and its partners are improving the way we work with families who need extra help. We’re doing this by jointly tackling all the different needs that are faced by the family as a whole. We’re calling this way of working the “Focus Family” approach. For the initial phase of this work families have to meet a set of criteria (below). This is so we can direct our resources to the families with the most difficulties.

- A “family” is defined as a household and must meet at least two out of three of the criteria;
- Crime/ anti-social behaviour- an under 18-year-old with a proven offence and/or an adult with anti-social behaviour order/ injunction/ contract, including for housing related anti-social behaviour;
- Education- over the last three terms: unauthorised absence above 15%, attendance at the Pupil Referral Unit or alternative provision due to previous exclusion, more than 3 fixed term exclusions (or equivalent) or a permanent exclusion;
- Worklessness- out of work benefits in the household

For families who only meet two of these criteria there is a fourth category - “Local Discretionary”. This is for households that are high cost to the public purse and those with health problems. The fact that a family has an issue which has raised a professional’s concern may be enough to secure support from the Focus Family work.

If you are working with a family you think would benefit from a keyworker approach and you would like to know more about this work or you would like to contact us please go to our webpage.

www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/strategyandcommissioning/focusfamily.asp

Do you have concerns about a child or young person?

If you have a concern about the safety or well-being of a child or young person, you should contact the County Triage Team. They are a team of social workers, police and health workers who will give you advice or take action if required.

You don’t need to give your details. All calls are taken seriously.

Call 0333 240 1727

Out of office hours an emergency only service is provided by the Emergency Duty Team.

cumbrialscb.com

New poster to put professionals in the picture

The LSCB has produced a new poster for professionals working with children in Cumbria, great for your staff rooms/offices. It can also be displayed as a screensaver or desktop background.

The purpose of this poster is to ensure you and your colleagues know who to contact should you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person. If you do you must contact the County Triage Team on 0333 240 1727.

Contact information is clearly displayed on the poster. You can download the poster from www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=56732

We encourage you to display the poster where appropriate.

Please contact the LSCB office at LSCB@Cumbria.gov.uk for further information.

Do you have concerns about a child or young person?
Safeguarding guidance for schools

New statutory guidance for schools on safeguarding has been published by the Department for Education. Keeping Children Safe in Education (April 2014) replaces with immediate effect Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (December 2006). The main document is approx. 50 pages, but there is a useful 8 page summary.

The work of the schools’ Safeguarding Task Group will be amended to take into account the new guidance and, hopefully, will be issued to schools in May. This is will include

- Model procedure for child protection;
- Safeguarding audit declaration;
- Model procedure for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff.

“"The summary safeguarding guidance that was issued to schools last year will also be updated. In the meantime, schools should continue to implement existing procedures to ensure their children are safe.""

The guidance and summary can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education

Safeguarding training for Foundation Stage workers

The Safeguarding Level 2 Early Years Specific training is designed for all those who work in the Foundation Stage (birth to the end of reception year) including nursery and pre-school workers and childminders. It contains the entire generic Level 2 LSCB course, but has additional material useful for those working in Early Years. It is delivered by experienced Early Years Practitioners and is regularly updated to reflect both national and local changes in practice and procedures.

A number of courses will take place during the year 2014 – 2015. The dates can be found on the LSCB website. The courses will be held at various times and locations across Cumbria. To attend the Level 2 course, participants must have completed a suitable Level 1 Safeguarding course (such as the eLearning course offered by Cumbria).

The Level 2 training course is appropriate for all staff (not just the designated person for Safeguarding within an organisation.) People who intend to take on the role or responsibility for Safeguarding within their EY organisation should attend a Level 2 course (generic or EY Specific) before attending a Level 3 Multi-Agency course.

www.cumbrialscb.com/training/

New project for sharing child protection information

The Child Protection - Information Sharing project will improve the way that health and social care services work together across England to protect vulnerable children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings. Unscheduled health care is for those patients who need treatment not planned in advance such as accident and emergency wards and walk-in clinics.

It proposes to do so by connecting local authorities’ child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in NHS unscheduled care settings.

Care settings to use CP-IS

- Accident and emergency departments
- Out of hours GP services
- Walk-in centres
- Paediatric wards
- Maternity wards
- Minor injury units
- Ambulance services

The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child only:

- Those with a child protection plan.
- Those with looked after child status (children with full and interim care orders and voluntary care agreements).
- Pregnant women whose unborn child has a prebirth child protection plan.

Cumbria has signed up as a “Wave 2” authority which means it will be rolled out towards the end of 2014.

How CP-IS will make a difference (YouTube links):

**Tracey** - This film shows an example of child abuse involving a mother and her unborn child and the health and social care staff involved in the child’s care before and after the CP-IS is implemented.

**Jenny** - This film shows an example of child abuse where the child is ‘looked after’ and the health and social care staff involved in the child’s care before and after the CP-IS is implemented.

**George** - This film features an example of child neglect and the health and social care staff involved in the child’s care before and after the CP-IS is implemented.

For more information about the project please see the CP-IS website: http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/cpis
Workshop to tackle neglect

A multi-agency workshop for practitioners working with families where neglect is an issue took place in March. Agencies were asked to nominate a practitioner and a first-line manager to attend with the intention that they would feedback to their staff and team members.

The day was led by Jo Fox from Child Centred Practice and had good representation from all LSCB member agencies. The aim of the day was to gather practitioner’s input and views to inform the writing of LSCB practice guidance on neglect. The morning session looked at the national picture where neglect is an issue, the local picture; what is the experience of neglect like for children in Cumbria; understanding the impact of neglect on children and the impact of parent’s behaviour on children. The focus of the afternoon’s session was for attendees to work together to develop guidance to help practitioners to recognise and respond to cases of neglect.

**Lyn Burns**, Assistant Director in Cumbria County Council Children’s Services who is leading on neglect for the LSCB, said: “This was a fantastic day and I was really impressed by the enthusiasm of everyone present to share their experiences and ask questions of each other. The Practice Guidance will genuinely be a team effort as a result.”

The event was blogged on the LSCB Twitter feed using the hashtag #NeglectCumbria. The event received extremely positive feedback from those who attended. Following the workshop, work is now underway to develop the practice guidance for practitioners working with families in which neglect is a factor. The guidance will be made available soon on the LSCB website.

Early Help Team and CAF update

The Early Help Team has been in place since January 2014 and has concentrated on creating links with frontline staff – at this stage supporting the development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process. There is evidence of an increased use of CAF as month on month there are more CAF’s registered with Triage. In response to feedback changes have been agreed to the system to both streamline and create a common language:

- From May 2014 CAF will be renamed Early Help Assessment/CAF.
- Other assessments that reflect the CAF process i.e. assessment, plan review and Team Around Child (TAC) – with parental permission can also be registered with Triage. At present this includes Early Support, ASSET (End Stage) and the form that is currently CAF. This can happen with immediate effect.
- The form on the LSCB website will be expanded to create a Family CAF – allowing for assessments of all family members.
- The term ‘Lead Professional’ will be replaced with the term ‘Coordinator’ – to emphasise the role as one that coordinates the process rather than takes overall responsibility.
- At the March 2014 LSCB it was agreed that all Early Help paperwork will carry the LSCB logo.

These changes are hoped to ensure that the assessment is more of a shared process – with key partner agencies involved in a family’s Team Around Family (TAF) contributing their own knowledge and experience to the assessment.

To further strengthen the process of change the Early Help Strategy has been completed and agreed by the LSCB.

For more information and the Early Help Team contact details, please see: [www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/default.asp](http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/default.asp)
LSCB website feedback

Thank you to the LSCB Touchstones for your recent feedback regarding the LSCB website.

Feedback was used to make improvements and amendments to the site. These included incorporating more local and national sources of help and advice for both parents and children and young people.

For those who are not aware, the LSCB regularly consults with a team of “Touchstones” – practitioners who are able to give their views about some of the initiatives and programs of work of the LSCB.

The purpose of putting together this group is so that we can make a quick check with frontline workers and managers on issues that are relevant to their role and/or to seek views.

If you would like to get involved with our Touchstones please email LSCB@Cumbria.gov.uk.

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 notify 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/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/privatefostering/whatispfostering.asp

Safeguarding support from Active Cumbria for sports clubs and organisations

Active Cumbria, the county sport and physical activity partnership for Cumbria, is committed to safeguarding young people who are participating in sport. They achieved the Preliminary Level of the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport in 2005, the Intermediate Level in 2007 and the Advanced Level in 2009.

The Partnership is committed to promoting the safety and welfare of children and young people engaged in sporting activities locally, and to support this have developed a dedicated safeguarding section on their website to provide advice, support and guidance to organisations involved in the delivery of sport across Cumbria.

To find out more please go to www.activecumbria.org/safeinsport
Findings of new report into domestic/sexual violence revealed

The Chair of the Safer Cumbria Partnership and Cumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner Richard Rhodes recently commissioned a review of domestic and sexual violence services across Cumbria. Feedback has shown that we have made significant progress in providing domestic abuse services for adult victims. It found that while progress had been made there was still a lack of acceptance, or a fear, by some of the role of frontline workers to pass on concerns about potential domestic or sexual abuse.

The report, 'Taking the Next Steps', identified the lack of programmes for young people and perpetrators too and that preventative education programmes should be provided in school, as well as work being done through large employers to raise the profile of and increase identification of domestic abuse.

In relation to sexual violence, the picture is rather different, with understanding and prioritisation of the issue being low.

The report provides a number of recommendations in order to address the gaps and areas for potential development are being identified.

Recommendations of particular relevance to children and young people are:

• Partner organisations should give consideration to how support can be provided to children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse in a consistent way across the county.
• Develop better understanding by partner organisations' staff, particularly Health services, county council Adult's and Children's Services, of statutory responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and adults, including sharing information and monitoring on domestic and sexual abuse.
• Agencies should ensure their information sharing agreements are compliant with legislation and that they promote understanding and confidence amongst their employees about sharing information with other agencies to safeguard children and adults.
• Strategic partnerships, including Safer Cumbria, the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Children's Trust Board and the Adult Safeguarding Board, need to be clear on each other's roles and work to an agreed set of actions.

For more information please contact Louise Kelly, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Business Manager on louise.kelly@Cumbria.gov.uk

Child sexual exploitation conference and webchat success

A multi-agency conference aimed at professionals working with children and young people took place in March to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The conference took place at Newton Rigg College and was hosted by Cumbria Constabulary, Inspira and the LSCB.

The event was blogged on Twitter by all the agencies and speakers involved, using the hashtag #CSECumbria.

Here’s some feedback via Twitter, attendees posted:

• ‘@CumbriaLSCB @InspiraCumbria @Cumbriapolice great conference very thought provoking thank you so much for bringing this to the fore’
• ‘Truly informative day with some powerful speakers. A well needed reminder why I do my job. #csecumbria’
• ‘#CSECumbria conference today, excellent speakers notably CSE survivor, BLAST project co-ordinator, and Crown prosecutor.’

A CSE webchat, hosted by Cumbria Police, was held on Monday 17 March 2014, and offered members of the public including professionals, parents and carers and children themselves, to ask questions relating to CSE. Questions were answered by the Police, Children's Services, Inspira, Health and the NSPCC. The webchat was well attended and was viewed live by 117 people, then replayed 201 times. The average reader duration was 57 minutes.

The webchat can be viewed here: www.cumbria.police.uk/contact-us/web-chats/cse-webchat

Cumbria Police are hosting another webchat on Wednesday 16 July 2014 between 6:30pm and 8pm where members of the same organisations will be available to take questions relating to CSE.

You can follow us on Twitter @CumbriaLSCB @Cumbriapolice and @InspiraCumbria.
We are working together to keep children and young people safe in Cumbria

Update on ‘New Beginnings’ for Cumbria’s young people

We take a look at the difference New Beginnings is making to the county’s young people.

New Beginnings is a three-year service aimed at young people in Cumbria, aged 14-25 who are preparing to, or who have left care. The service is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and is a partnership between Brathay Trust, Cumbria County Council, Inspira, Lakes College (West Cumbria) and Geese Theatre Company. The service provides integrated and comprehensive support for these young people, which complements and adds value to existing statutory provision. The aim is to enable care leavers to make successful transition out of the care system and into independent life.

Over the three year period this service is providing young people with access to a range of opportunities and experiences, including: residential; support of a trained volunteer mentor from the community and the opportunity to become a ‘Peer Mentor’; six-week community projects and work experience placements. There is also the chance for young people to undertake training in research to help shape and evaluate the service, to be involved in planning and delivery of an annual celebration event and – arguably, most important of all – to make lasting connections with other people and plan for the future. Please see the video here www.brathay.org.uk/video/new-beginnings/

Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health news update

Anne Sheppard Strategic Manager Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services:

In 2013, representatives from Social Care, Health, Schools and Learning, the Voluntary Sector and Public Health came together to develop a ‘whole system model’ to move forward the shared vision that all children and young people can access the right help and support at the right time to ensure they sustain good emotional wellbeing, and get the right level of help when they need it.

The model describes the way in which services provided or commissioned by public sector organisations will work in partnership with children and young people, their families, carers and communities so that individuals emotional needs are understood at all stages. There are several relevant work streams and projects either happening or about to happen in Cumbria that are relevant to the implementation of the ‘whole system model’. They will be supported by the model as we explore new ways of working, developing knowledge, skills and clearer pathways and up to date information about the different support services available in local districts.

One of these is Headstart Cumbria; a Big Lottery Fund: Fulfilling Lives initiative, whereby Cumbria has been selected along with 11 other areas in England to apply for funding to run an initial project designed to improve the emotional resilience of children and young people aged 10 to 14 years. We will hear the outcome of our bid by the end of June. There will be a further chance to bid for a significant level of funding in the middle of 2015 to roll out that initial project across the whole county for a further five years.

During the coming months I will be coming along to network meetings and other gatherings to explain the whole system model in detail and test out whether it needs further clarity, simplicity and improvement. We will be involving young people in this process and it will coincide with a major campaign in Cumbria about supporting and improving the emotional and mental health of all our children and young people.

For more information about the ‘whole system model’ contact me at anne.sheppard@cumbria.gov.uk

For more information about Headstart and the Big Lottery Fund’s Fulfilling Lives Initiative www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/HeadStart

Ensuring motional wellbeing and resilience for children and young people in Cumbria - Presentation (PPT) www.cumbrialscb.com/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=57122
Jane Fraser talks through her role as Lead for Sexual Health Services in West Cumbria

Sexual health teams across the county all provide advice, confidential testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

There are different clinics including a mixture of drop-in and booked appointments and dedicated young people’s clinics; some of which are held in non-NHS premises e.g. schools and Inspira buildings.

Our aim is to provide sexual health education to prevent infection and unplanned pregnancy.

In relation to sexual exploitation we believe it is our responsibility to identify risk factors as early as possible and act quickly when concerns are raised. Sexual Exploitation can come in different guises, and the challenge is to identify those at risk when those at risk may not recognise it for themselves.

Health care workers are legally allowed to give sexual health advice to those under 16 in order to protect them from sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancy.

One of the challenges for us is that we may only see a young person for one brief 20 minute session. In that time it is difficult to build a relationship and to determine if there are any exploitation issues. Our records are not shared in general health records, and therefore we do not have access to medical histories or previous safeguarding concerns. We do perform risk assessments based on the information given by the young person, but we also have to rely on ‘gut feelings’ if we are uneasy about a particular situation.

However, if we do think that a child is being sexually exploited we follow clear guidelines and discuss our concerns with senior staff in the Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust safeguarding team.

The challenge we face is to recognise those in need, even when an individual cannot see the risk for themselves. To this end, I believe that we must strengthen links with other agencies, and seek to share our experiences without compromising patient confidentiality.

For more information about the sexual health teams across the county go to the website: www.cumbriapartnership.nhs.uk/sexual-health-services.htm

Forum dates for your diary

Practitioner Forums give those who work with children and young people the opportunity to meet and discuss local and national issues associated with their day to day work. The forums bring practitioners together from across the children’s workforce; colleagues from all levels in organisations are invited.

The LSCB supports the face to face meeting 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.

Carlisle Practitioner Forum
12 May 2014 12.15 -2.00pm (Carlisle West Children’s Centre Shady Grove Rd.) - There will be a presentation by Lorna Graham Audit and Practice Development Worker on Risk and Resilience.


Barrow Practitioner Forum
Taking place at Vickerstown School Walney on the first Tuesday of every month.

Eden Interagency Forum
Taking place at Penrith Children’s Centre.

Copeland Practitioner Forum
Taking place at the Howgill Family Centre.
30 April 2014 - This will be the first of the forums and so is in early stages. This will be part of the already established Children’s Centre advisory group.

The Allerdale and South Lakes forums are yet to be confirmed.

If you would like to lead on one of the forums or get involved in their development, please contact Pam Hutton at pam@eastcumbriafamilysupport.org.uk.
### LSCB membership

**Chairperson:** Gill Rigg  
**Members:**

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<td>Assistant Director (Children's Services)</td>
<td>Richard Simpson</td>
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<td>Churches Together in Cumbria</td>
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<td>East Cumbria Family Support – Chief Officer</td>
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<td>Youth Offending Service</td>
<td>Senior Manager Targeted Youth Services</td>
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<td>LSCB</td>
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<td>General Manager – Children’s Services</td>
<td>Russell Norman</td>
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**Observers:**

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<td>Elected Member - CCC</td>
<td>Portfolio holder for Children’s Social Care</td>
<td>Anne Burns</td>
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<td>Safeguarding County Manager</td>
<td>Linda Mason</td>
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<td>NHS Cumbria</td>
<td>Designated Nurse Child Protection</td>
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<td>Senior Manager – Improvement Programme</td>
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