



# CUMBRIA LSCB

CUMBRIA LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



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Issue 1

June 2007

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**WELCOME** to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Cumbria Local Children Safeguarding Board Newsletter. This newsletter will be produced quarterly following the meeting of the full LSCB and will assist in communicating both Safeguarding issues in Cumbria and nationally.

Cumbria LSCB was set up in July 2006 as "the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote

the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do." Working Together 2006

The full LSCB meets quarterly and the Executive Board meet on a monthly basis in order to drive forward the business plan. Moira Swann has been the chair of the Board and executive Board however, plans to hand over the chairing to Anne Ridgeway as from September 2007



### THE SUB-GROUPS OF THE BOARD ARE:

#### Policy and procedures

Joan Hetherington - Connexions

#### Practice and outcomes

Helen Smith – Children's Services

#### Training

Lorraine Davison -Health

#### Performance

Charles Proctor – Children's Services

#### Communications

Annette Hennessy – National Probation Service

#### Serious Case review

Ian Gopsill – CAFCASS (until September 2007)

#### Child Death Overview panel

Ann Riddewav - Health

## Launch of the Website and Safeguarding Procedures

1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 saw the launch of the website for Cumbria LSCB [www.cumbrialscb.com](http://www.cumbrialscb.com) and the launch of the Safeguarding procedures.

The launch of the procedures followed an extensive period of consultation.

All members of the LSCB have taken responsibility for communication within their agencies. The procedures are now web based in line with other authorities in recognition of the need to keep the procedure up-to-date.

All agencies have been asked to destroy the copies of the existing procedures or to recycle by removal of the contents.

Liz Cook, Multi Agency trainer, and Nigel Smith from Workforce Development have provided a series of management and training manager workshops, these were held in June at three venues around the county.

If you would like to find out more about these and other training events contact Liz Cook on 01768 242214



## Managing Allegations against Adults who work with Children and Young People

Cumbria LSCB received a presentation from Linda Richardson who is the Allegations Management Advisor for the Government Office North West. Linda highlighted the responsibilities of LSCB's in this area. Cumbria has put in place interim management arrangements to fulfill the duties of the Local Authority designated Officer who has responsibility to provide clear

advice, guidance and support. The LADO would also track progress, monitor outcomes and provide feedback to the LSCB. Robert Parks and Gill McCrae will share the responsibility on an interim basis. Gill McCrae will focus on the Schools area. All agencies have been asked to identify both the named senior officer and the senior manager in their organisation. The LADO post will be recruited to at a later date.

## Multi Agency Assessment Conferencing

Detective Superintendent Bob Pallas gave a presentation on the MARAC process. This is a Home Office initiative aimed at early sharing of information by partner agencies to prevent incidents of domestic homicide/violence and implement safety plans to develop better protection for families. Currently Police, Children's services, National Probation Service, Health and Housing were involved in the MARAC in Cumbria. This will be extended to voluntary agencies and whoever else may make a difference in planning to prevent domestic violence occurring in the family. Where there are sufficient and multiple risk factors in a situation then the MARAC will provide the vehicle for discussion and sharing of information. There is a single point of contact for each agency.

The Board agreed that domestic violence would be an area to focus on at the next quarterly meeting.

## NSPCC 'Thinkuknow' Programme

Newman School in Carlisle will be the first school in Cumbria to receive a presentation from the NSPCC Catalyst team of the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre), 'Thinkuknow' programme.

**Thinkuknow** is the name of CEOP's resource for young people and it has been created as part of its harm reduction strategy. The programme helps young people learn about the risks they may encounter whilst using the internet using three themes to focus on key messages;

- **how to have fun online**
- **how to stay in control online**
- **how to report online**

NSPCC Catalyst look to roll this programme out in other schools to empower children and young people with knowledge and skills to manage the risks, and to know where to go for help.

## Child Death Overview Panel

The above panel started in Cumbria on 1 June chaired by Anne Ridgeway, interim Head of Clinical Governance. The panel will:

- (a) Collect and analyse information about each death with a view to identifying:
  - Any case giving rise to the need for a review mentioned in Regulation 5 (1) (e)
  - Any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
  - Any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a wider pattern of deaths in that area
- (b) Put in place procedures for ensuring that there is a coordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

## Listening to Service Users to Improve Services

Barbara Cruden submitted the findings of a project she had undertaken on behalf of the Board to find out the views and experiences of children and their parents/cares who had been involved in the Cumbria Child Protection process. A majority of the parents/cares in the sample felt that their lives had improved as a result of the involvement of agencies. A large number of children/young people, however, felt that they had not been able to articulate

their views at the conference. The Board agreed that it is a priority to look at the engagement of children/young people in the case conference process. It was clear from the project that children needed to have the process explained to them more simply. This project will be the focus of a group that is to be set up to look at case conference processes in Cumbria.