

Cumbria Safeguarding
Children Partnership



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Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements 2024/25



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Introduction

Welcome to Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) Local Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

At the heart of our arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to ‘Work together to keep Cumbria’s children safe’ and to continuously improve and learn how to best do this.

These arrangements fulfil our responsibilities as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, including the arrangements for:

- The safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
- Commissioning and publishing Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the CSCP Local Arrangements

The Local Safeguarding Partners (LSP’s) who are responsible for the arrangements in Cumbria are:

- Cumberland Council - Andrew Seekings, Chief Executive Officer
- Westmorland and Furness Council - Sam Plum, Chief Executive Officer
- Cumbria Constabulary - Robert Carden
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care - Board Kevin Lavery
- North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Sam Allen

The Designated Lead Partners Group is chaired by Martin Birch, Cumberland-Director Childrens Services

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP’s) are as follows:

- Cumberland Council - Martin Birch
- Westmorland and Furness Council - Milorad Vasic
- Cumbria Constabulary - David Stalker
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care - Sarah O’Brien
- North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Richard Scott

The current local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Cumbria are known as Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) and provides a statutory function for keeping children safe and ensuring their wellbeing in Cumbria.

The CSCP was initially established in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance and has been reviewed in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

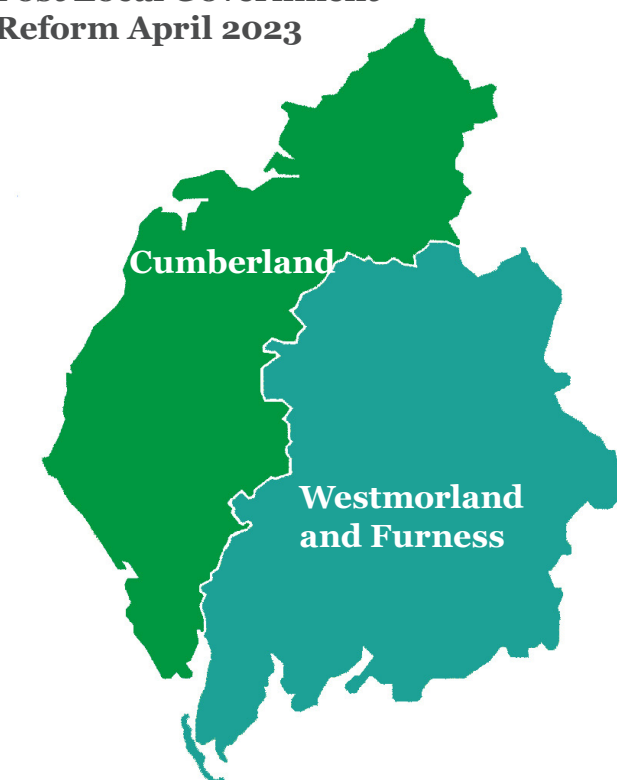
Within Cumbria there has been recent considerable change with the implementation of Local Government Reform (LGR) on April 1st, 2023, which saw Cumbria County Council and the six sovereign Borough Councils be replaced by two unitary councils of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. The CSCP lead partners agreed at this time to keep the Pan Cumbria arrangements with the agreement to review the partnership in 2024.

Geographical Boundaries

Cumbria pre-Local Government Reform



Post Local Government Reform April 2023



The partnership covers the whole Cumbria geographical area. This includes the local authority areas of Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. This footprint corresponds with that of Cumbria Police. North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board each cover part of Cumbria although their boundaries are not co-terminous with the local authority boundaries. This footprint corresponds with that of Cumbria Police, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board each cover part of Cumbria.

The safeguarding partners and other agencies included in these CSCP Local Arrangements will fulfil their statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children from Cumbria who live or are placed outside of our local authority area. Likewise, the safeguarding partners and other agencies included in these Cumbria Local Arrangements will fulfil their statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children who live within the Cumbria area, including looked after children placed in Cumbria by other local authorities or those who move into our local area. The relevant agencies the safeguarding partners will work with are listed in Appendix 1.

The geography and demographics of each of the two new unitary authorities is as follows:

Cumberland

Cumberland Council includes the districts of Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland and has a population of 273,200, 56,500 of which are children aged 0-19 years. Cumberland is much more sparsely populated than the national average but has both rural and urban centres.

7.9% (14 out of 177) of Cumberland's Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) sit within the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in England. These communities are located across the whole of Cumberland, with 7 being in Allerdale, 4 in Carlisle and 3 in Copeland. (Source: IMD 2019 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019.)

Westmorland and Furness

Westmorland and Furness includes the districts of Eden, South Lakeland and Barrow in Furness and has a population of 226,600, 43,300 of which are children aged 0-19 years. Westmorland and Furness are the third largest local authority area in England and Wales by land area but is much more sparsely populated.

8.3% (12 out of 144) of Westmorland and Furness's LSOAs sit within the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in England. These communities are all located within Barrow. (Source: IMD 2019 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019.)

The Partnership Vision and Values

The CSCP's vision is that we will be "Working together to keep Cumbria's children safe".

As a partnership we commit to the following shared values which underpin everything we do:

- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice.
- Practitioners from all agencies working with adults and children work together and share information effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.
- The lived experience and the voice of children and young people is listened and acted upon at all times.
- A 'Whole-Family' approach is understood and implemented by all practitioners across the partnership.

Partnership Priorities

The CSCP will seek to gain assurance and robust evidence that safeguarding arrangements across the partnership are effective in helping to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect and achieving positive outcomes.

Priority 1 - Improving Responses to Neglect

The Partnership's priority is to ensure that Practitioners across the partnership can collectively identify, assess and intervene early to prevent the harmful impact of neglect on children and young people. This work is part of a whole system approach and is based on a clear understanding of local need.

Priority 2 - Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harms outside the family home

The Partnership will work with all agencies to ensure that there is a highly coordinated multi-agency approach to a range of adolescent risks that occur in contexts beyond the family home (e.g. neighbourhood, schools, local shopping centres, youth venues etc.). These risks include child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, serious youth violence, peer on peer abuse, harmful sexual behaviour and other overlapping forms of harm.

Priority 3 - Embedding Learning from Practice

The partnership will ensure effective systems are in place which means learning and practice improvements highlighted by the CSCP's work is effectively disseminated and embedded in CSCP agencies and is having a demonstrable impact for children and their families.

The Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework will assess the impact of the work against the three priorities and will ultimately assess the impact of and success of the partnership as a whole, in meeting its key purpose and vision.

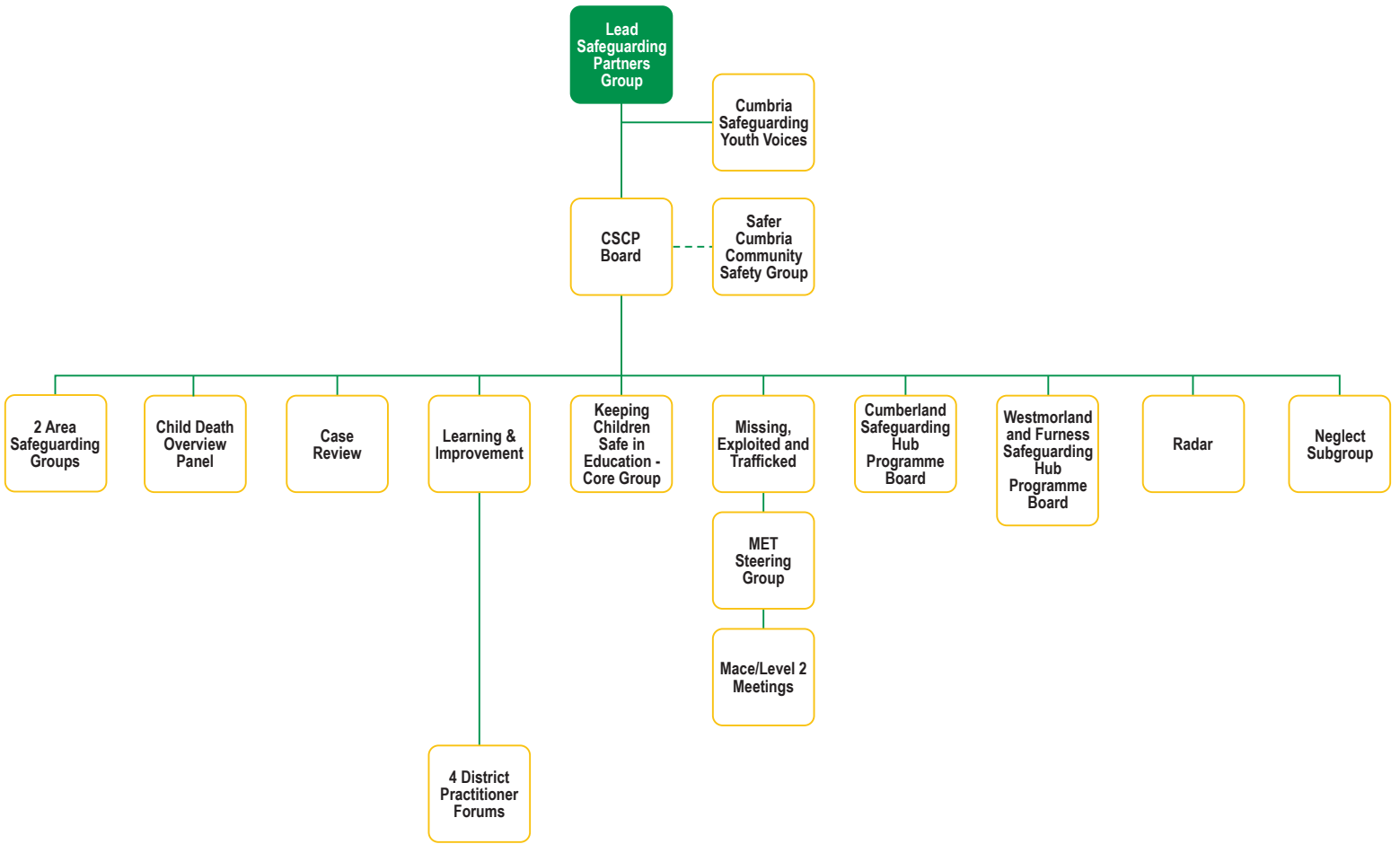
How we will achieve these

The strength of partnership working is dependent on partners working collaboratively together with the relevant agencies. Safeguarding partners in Cumbria work together in order to identify and respond to the needs of children through the Partnership.

The Partnership is structured to provide strong leadership, collaboration, scrutiny and assurance. This requires robust and effective arrangements at both a strategic and a local level, and it is our arrangements in localities that we are taking the opportunity to strengthen.

The CSCP will provide strategic leadership across the County. The arrangements will be delivered through a Designated Lead Safeguarding Partners Group. A number of subgroups will continue to deliver core functions. These include two local area safeguarding Groups. The structure up until 31st March is as follows.

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



CSCP Board

The CSCP Board membership includes the Delegated Safeguarding Partners representatives as well as the other 'relevant agencies' (as detailed in Working Together 2023). In Cumbria this includes representatives from education, health, district councils, criminal justice and the voluntary sector. The CSCP Board has developed, implemented and is monitoring an annual plan, agreed priority actions against core business; and directing the subgroups in delivery of the plan. The CSCP Board meets quarterly, with meetings themed around agreed local and national safeguarding priorities and areas identified through data and performance. The group reports to the Lead Safeguarding Partners Group.

Organisation	Lead Member
Cumberland Council	Assistant Director – Children and Families
Cumberland Council	Assistant Director – SEND, Education and Inclusion
Cumberland Council – Public Health	Director – Public Health
Westmorland & Furness Council	Assistant Director – Children and Families m
Westmorland & Furness Council	Assistant Director – SEND, Education and Inclusion
Westmorland & Furness Council – Public Health	Director – Public Health
North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Safeguarding Designated Nurse
Children, Adults & Children Looked After	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	Associate Chief Nurse, Head of Safeguarding, & Designated Professional for Child Death
North Cumbria Integrated Care	Executive Chief Nurse Safeguarding
Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust	Deputy Head of Safeguarding
CNTW Foundation Trust	Associate Nurse Director
Cumbria Constabulary	Detective Superintendent
Schools Representative	KCSIE- Core Group Rep (rotation)
Cumbria National Probation Service	Head of Cluster Cumbria
National Probation Service North West	Service Manager
Voluntary Sector Representative	Joint Chair Voluntary Sector Reference Group/ Chief Officer Cumbria Family Support
CAFCASS, Cumbria	Service Manager

Education

The importance of education continues to be emphasised within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 recognising their critical role identifying and supporting vulnerable children and young people. The role of schools and other education settings are prioritised and supported to promote the best possible engagement across the sector. The Keeping Children Safe in Education – Core Group builds on established relationships with schools and education providers to ensure they remain a key partner agency. There are established Designated Safeguarding Lead Networks across the county where the voice of education is sought and feeds into the Keeping Children Safe in Education – Core Group and into the CSCP Board.

Through the delivery of CSCP Practitioner Forums, the voice of education is regularly sought and feeds into both the Keeping Children Safe in Education – Core Group and CSCP Scrutiny work. There is regular liaison with the Primary Heads Association and the Cumbria Association Secondary Headteachers.

Partnership Subgroups

The CSCP will deliver the priorities through a number of county-wide partnership subgroups:

- Locality Area Safeguarding Groups
- Learning and Improvement
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Case Review
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Partnership – Core group
- Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harms outside the home
- Safeguarding Hub Programme Boards (one for each geographical area)
- Radar

Locality Area Safeguarding Groups

The partnership have sought to strengthen multi-agency practice and embed learning and improvements through the involvement of professionals locally. Prior to LGR there were three Locality Area Safeguarding Groups. Following LGR this was reduced to two Local Area Safeguarding Groups in line with the geographical boundaries of the new unitary councils (Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness). These two groups are working to ensure that the benefits will include:

- Ensuring the strategic direction of the Lead Safeguarding Partners Group is informed by local issues.
- Facilitating greater ownership and accountability of children's safeguarding at a locality level.
- Greater opportunities for engagement and co-production of locally owned and developed solutions and ideas, with local stakeholders.
- The locality area safeguarding groups are chaired by a safeguarding partner and are formed of key senior officers and practitioners from that local area with decision making responsibility, driving practice locally through the partnership.

Learning and Improvement Subgroup

The role of this group is to plan develop and evaluate multi-agency learning and develop programmes within the context of local and national policies, research and practice developments. The group ensures key learning from practice including lessons from local and national practice reviews are effectively cascaded and that assurance is sought regarding how agencies are embedding this learning in practice. The group also identifies the most effective methods to deliver learning to inform practice through face-to-face training, webinars, e-learning, videos and other forms of communication.



Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harms outside the home

This work is undertaken through the CSCP Missing Exploited and Trafficked Subgroups. The role of these groups is to monitor the impact and effectiveness of multi-agency working, including monitoring practices of agencies to ensure procedures are followed. They develop and review the Child Exploitation Strategy, this includes the monitoring of performance data in relevant areas and making best use on intelligence gathered. The group develop, deliver and monitor the Child Exploitation Action Plan and provide progress on the action plan to the CSCP.

Safeguarding Hub Programme Boards

There are Safeguarding Hub Programme Boards for each of the local authority areas and they are multi agency groups with the responsibility to take a leading role in the continuing development and performance of the each of the Safeguarding Hubs.

RADAR

This group is to improve standards of safeguarding and care of children in non-local authority (independent) residential care provisions and leaving care provisions in Cumbria, sharing intelligence when there are concerns about quality of leaving care provision and mobilise pro-active multi-agency support at the earliest opportunity to improve safeguarding care in a care provision. The group will appropriately escalate concerns to regulatory bodies.

Child Death Overview Panel and Case Review

The **Child Death Overview Panel** function is to review all deaths up to the age of 18, excluding both those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy due to medical reasons, even if that child is born alive. The group collates and collects information on each child and determines whether there could have been modifiable factors in the death to inform future practice to prevent further deaths. The group make recommendations to the CSCP, share and disseminate learning to ensure it is acted upon locally.

In accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the **Case Review Group** is the arrangement by which Local Safeguarding partners will identify serious safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area. The group contribute to Rapid Reviews convened by the CSCP Business Unit for cases that have been notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NCSPRP) and decide on the next steps. This will include whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review and whether the review may have national importance. A clear plan for disseminating and sharing the learning from reviews with all 'relevant agencies' is developed for each case. An ongoing programme of training targeted at practitioners focus on emerging key themes and learning from reviews to improve practice. For every review the CSCP produce a 'Lessons Learned Briefing': this provides a short summary of the background to the case, identify key learning and highlight areas for practice improvement.

The governance of Child Death Overview also currently sits under the Safeguarding Partnership arrangements, this is subject to review.

Scrutiny and Assurance

In Cumbria we have developed a robust Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework to deliver continuous improvement in the quality of services delivered by partners for children and young people, by knowing ourselves better and having evidence of the impact of what we do and to make our current arrangements around performance management, quality assurance and scrutiny more effective. The framework is based on key principles:

- Child Centred Practice
- High support high challenge
- Promoting Practice leadership
- Restorative approach.
- Promoting a culture of continuous learning

There are four elements to the framework which are:

- Feedback from Professionals
- Feedback from Children and Young People and Families
- Quantitative Information
- Qualitative Information

Evidence gathered from the four elements of this framework provides the structure by which CSCP scrutiny and challenge takes place. Quality Assurance activity is well-embedded within the CSCP through the subgroups.

There is an Independent Scrutineer of Cumbria's arrangements, the CSCP partners acknowledge that the Independent Scrutineer can never be the sole provider of feedback or reflection, but they play a critical role alongside a comprehensive CSCP Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework in evaluating effectiveness and impact.

The Independent Scrutineer leads the Partnership's planned scrutiny learning events and provides reports reflecting on the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding practice and make clear recommendations; to assist the partnership to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and families in Cumbria.

Current arrangements include; regular multi-agency audits following the CSCP Quality Assurance Framework, Practitioner Surveys, and Learning Reviews.

The Voice of Children and Young people

The CSCP believes that it is important for children and young people to take an active role in the design and development of services that are provided for them.

The voice of the child is at the heart of the partnership. Involving children and families is important to safeguarding in Cumbria both in contributing to delivering the partnership's vision and in helping to scrutinise and review the partnership arrangements themselves. As part of the CSCP Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework, our Young Scrutineers, who are users by experience have been central to our scrutiny work.

Voice, engagement activity, co-production and working collaboratively with children and young people's perceptions, aspirations and skills is an area of strength in Cumbria. We continue to ask our relevant agencies and other partners how they ensure they have captured and listened to the voices of children, young people and families in their work as well as identifying other innovative ways to gather this feedback through the partnership.

The Use of Data and intelligence

There is a robust system of performance scrutiny, analysis and challenge with a multi-agency data set for each themed subgroup. The multiagency datasets include data on all aspects from early help through to statutory intervention. The partnership priorities are underpinned by outcome measures. Each sub-group reports to the CSCP Board via a Highlight Report on activity, actions and performance. Progress is scrutinised by the Independent Scrutineer. Actions and outcomes from all case audits and reviews are analysed and re-visited to ensure that they are embedded in practice. The CSCP Business Plan records and reviews actions and outcomes for each partnership priority.

The CSCP will publish a report annually giving details of activity and the impact of that activity across the Safeguarding Partnership. The most recent report being published in September 2024.

Embedding the Learning and Multi-Agency Training

Locally, there is an ongoing commitment to developing a consistent approach to multi-agency training, which is underpinned by an evaluation process to ensure that the training programme is clearly focussed on embedding good practice. We want to learn from what works, as well as look as look openly when the system doesn't work as well as it needs to. Following feedback since COVID there is a drive to go back to deliver more face-to-face training.

In addition to training activities, there will also be development opportunities such as information sessions and briefings, practice forums and conferences. These activities will promote putting theory and research into practice, developing evidence-based practice and expertise, sharing perspectives and learning and enhancing confidence in helping and protecting children and young people.

The Partnership acknowledge that good quality supervision is fundamental to support safe and effective practice; the Partnership will continue to promote a culture that values and engages in regular safeguarding supervision.



Cumbria Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

The guidance describes the overarching approach taken in Cumbria to supporting young people and children (pre-birth up to 18 years) and their families and then explains the different elements of the approach in more detail.

The guidance supports practitioners and managers to identify when a child may need additional support. The needs of children, young people and families should be considered on a case-by-case basis and responses should be based on sound assessment, professional judgment and where appropriate, statutory guidance. Through strength-based conversations it introduces a continuum of need and support, provides information on the levels of need and gives examples of some of the factors that may indicate that a child or young person needs additional support.

Youth Justice Service and Residential Homes

The Youth Justice Service reports to the CSCP via each Local Authority Children's Services representative on the Lead Safeguarding Partners Group. The Youth Justice Service is represented on the CSCP sub-groups. There are no Youth Justice homes within the local authority but those which are in the region will be required to report on arrangements as and when necessary. There is representation from the Forum of Independent Schools and Children's Homes (FISCH), on the CSCP Missing Exploited Trafficked Sub-group.



Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents, lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at a local level with the safeguarding partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
- The child has died or been seriously harmed

The three safeguarding partners must make arrangements to:

- Identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area
- Commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

In order to determine whether to carry out a local child safeguarding practice review, the Case Review Group will be convened with the safeguarding partners' representatives as the core members. Should a local child safeguarding practice review be undertaken, the Case Review Group will continue to give oversight to the action plan until completion or with agreement from the safeguarding partners. The action plan will be monitored by the group with final sign off by the Designated Lead Safeguarding Partners. The CSCP policies and procedures outline the local process for identifying a serious child safeguarding case, notifying the safeguarding partners and the Panel, undertaking a rapid review and decision-making on whether to undertake a review. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (trixonline.co.uk) . They also inform on commissioning, overseeing and publication of a review and how the findings, learning and identified improvements are embedded in practice to make a real impact on improving outcomes for children.

Resources and Infrastructure

There is an ongoing commitment from statutory partners to resource the partnership and a recognition that locality working may have some resource implications but will lead to improved outcomes. The Partnership is committed to an agreed equitable split between the 5 partners of the costs associated with the current arrangements for 2024 - 2025.

In the event of a child safeguarding practice review, funding will be met by the safeguarding partners and where necessary, each partner will contribute equitable and proportionate funding over and above the normal allocation in order to fulfil the full costs of any review.

Partnership Arrangement 2025/2026

Following Local Government Reform and the implementation of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, the CSCP undertook a review of the current pan Cumbria partnership arrangements. Evaluations were undertaken by agencies, and it was agreed in principle to separate the pan-Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership creating separate partnerships based on Local Authority footprints, these partnership arrangements would replace pan-Cumbria arrangements from 1 April 2025.

The new partnership structures are currently being developed to ensure they meet all the requirements of Working Together 2023. With the development of the two new safeguarding partnerships, the resource implications and funding for the partnerships is being agreed for the new arrangements from April 1st 2025 - 31st March 2026.

The new partnership arrangements will be published on 1 April 2025, replacing the current Cumbria arrangements.

Relevant Agencies

The strength of local partnership working is centred on safeguarding partners working collaboratively with relevant agencies whose involvement, the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The safeguarding partners are obliged to set out within their arrangements which organisations and agencies are required to work as part of those arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. These organisations and agencies are referred to as relevant agencies and when nominated by the safeguarding partners as a relevant agency, organisations, should act in accordance with the arrangements.

The relevant agencies as named by the safeguarding partners are:

Education and Early Years

- All Education Setting (Maintained, Academies, Independent, Further Education and Higher Education)
- All Early Years Setting

Health

- North Cumbria Integrated Care
- University Hospital Morecambe Bay Trust
- Primary care (GP's)
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- North West Ambulance Service

Criminal Justice

- CAFCASS
- National Probation Service

Voluntary Sector

- Commissioned Services
- Voluntary Sector Reference Group
- Other voluntary sector groups by discussion and representation

Public Services

- Cumbria Constabulary
- Cumbria Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue
- Cumberland Council
- Westmorland and Furness Council
- Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Adult Social Care
- Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Public Health
- Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Service

Other

- Sporting Organisations – Active Cumbria
- Faith Groups

