

Children's Services • Lonsdale Building • The Courts • Carlisle  
Cumbria • CA3 8NA

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Director of Children's Services

**RE: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACED IN  
CUMBRIA BY OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

There are a number of looked after children placed in Cumbria by other local authorities. Cumbria County Council would like to notify you about the resources and facilities available to Looked after Children and young people who may be placed in our County by your local authority.

Within this letter we set out the process to notify us when a looked after child or young person is placed in Cumbria or when their placement arrangements change. We also include information about our Virtual School for Looked after Children, information about accessing universal services and contact details for our Children in Care Council.

Please disseminate this information to relevant professionals within your Children's Social Care Service. We hope that this information will help your professional staff to understand and access the diverse universal services that are available to children and young people residing in Cumbria. It would be helpful if you also passed this letter onto any of your foster carers based in Cumbria so they are aware of the services available to children and young people in our County.

We expect to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to any of our looked after children we may have placed in your local authority area.

## **Considering placing a child in Cumbria**

Please can we ask to ensure that you follow the relevant regulations when considering placing a child within Cumbria.

## **Notifications**

All notifications for children and young people who are placed within Cumbria should be sent to – [Callum.Lofthouse@cumbriacs.cjsm.net](mailto:Callum.Lofthouse@cumbriacs.cjsm.net)

We would be grateful if you could inform us of any changes of addresses whilst in Cumbria and to keep our records updated could you inform us when a child then leaves Cumbria.

If you need to contact Cumbria Children's Services or in the event of an outside office hours emergency please call us on 0333 240 1727.

## **Education**

Our schools, academies and colleges work in partnership and have a collective responsibility to ensure that all of the County's young people have access to the best possible learning opportunities so that they can achieve their full potential, with no child left behind.

For looked after children moving into Cumbria, please contact our Admissions and Transfers Team as soon as possible to discuss the application process. They can be contacted on 01228 221582 between 9.00 – 5:00 Monday to Thursday and 9.00 – 4:30 Friday.

Each school in Cumbria has a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children to promote the educational achievement of children looked after who are on the school roll. Cumbria also has a Virtual School Head who leads a Virtual School Team for Looked after Children and ensures that all children and young people looked after in Cumbria are supported, encouraged and challenged to aim high, to enjoy and to achieve.

The Virtual School maintains a register of all looked after children and young people aged 3 – 19 years placed within Cumbria including those who are placed in Cumbria by other local authorities. The Virtual School Head works collaboratively with respective colleagues in other local authorities and the Head teacher will support any school in Cumbria with queries relating to children on their roll who may be placed in Cumbria by another local authority. For more information, please contact the Virtual School Head on 07771982032.

## **Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision**

The Children and Families Information Service provides information, advice, support and guidance about a wide range of services, activities and entitlements for families in Cumbria with children and young people aged between 0 – 19 years old.

We provide free information, advice and guidance which is up to date and impartial, and also abide by the Data Protection Act where enquiries are dealt with confidentially.

Looked After Children aged 2, 3, and 4 are entitled to 15 hours of FREE childcare at childcare providers who are eligible to claim the free entitlement.

For further information on Early Years, Childcare and nursery provision, please telephone 08457 125737 or email [childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk)

## **Children's Centres**

There are 28 Sure Start Children's Centres in Cumbria. They provide information and access to services and activities for children aged up to 19 and their families.

For information on the location of Children's Centres in Cumbria and details of the services provided please look on the website:

<http://www.cumbriasurestartchildrenscentres.co.uk/>

Cumbria's Sure Start Children's Centres provide support and information for parents and prospective parents on local services for themselves and their children. They aim to help ensure that these services are made available in an integrated manner, that every child in Cumbria has the best start in life and that parents have better opportunities. They aim to help make communities safer and stronger.

Services are tailored to meet local needs and may vary between different centres. All centres are expected to provide access to, or information about how to access, the following services:

- Good quality, integrated early learning and childcare
- Child and family services
- Family support services, including support for parents and children with additional needs
- Links with Jobcentre Plus to support parents and carers who are considering employment or training leading to employment
- Drop in sessions and other activities for children and carers
- Effective links with the Children and Families Information Service and local childcare providers

## **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Where a Looked After Child has a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health Care Plan, the SEND team will co-ordinate the formal assessment process and maintain the plan or statement on behalf of the placing authority. The team is based in three areas of the County, in the South they can be contacted on 01229 407403, in the West on 01946 506211 and in the North on 01228 226843.

We also have a wide range of services available to provide help and support to children, their families and carers, schools and other professionals to ensure that all children and young people can access an education that meets their needs:

- An Early Years and Childcare Team
- A team of Specialist Advisory Teachers and Higher Level Teaching Assistants to advise on a range of specific needs
- A team of Educational Psychologists to provide a specialist service

## **Health Services**

All children and young people placed into Cumbria, have access to universal health services, and should be registered with a GP and dentist in order to ensure full access to these services.

The provision of targeted and specialist services remains the responsibility of the CCG in the child or young person's home area. However NHS Cumbria CCG will ensure Cumbrian services are able to provide the health services needed by children and young people placed in the county. To achieve this it needs to know the responsible CCG, therefore please provide Cumbria CCG with the name of the responsible CCG (determined through GP registration).

Please use the NHS.net account [cuccg.ccg-cla@nhs.net](mailto:cuccg.ccg-cla@nhs.net) for communication on this subject.

Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust employ a Children Looked After specialist nurse for Incoming CLA , who is able to liaise with the placement provider to ensure children and young people placed in Cumbria have access to the health services they need. Contact details: 01228 608114

Any costs associated with the provision of targeted and specialist health services (including the specialist CLA nurse for Incoming CLA) will be charged to the responsible CCG.

Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provides specialist tier 3 CAMHS in Cumbria, with additional support for substance misuse services.

Sexual Health services are available throughout Cumbria, with drop- in clinics, or by appointment.

There are a number of residential schools (EBD) in Cumbria, based in the south of the county and each have a nurse who links with the Specialist Nurse in Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust has Mental Health nurses who work within the Youth Offending Service.

### **Youth Services**

We have a Residential and Independent Schools Children in Care Council representing the views of looked after children and young people and care leavers from other authorities. They meet once a term and are involved in a range of social and leisure activities. Contact [graham.bassett@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:graham.bassett@cumbria.gov.uk)

We offer a wide range of targeted and universal provision for young people. Our services also provide support with drugs, alcohol and substance misuse; sexual health services; and careers information, advice and guidance. For information on what is available in localities check out our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CelebratingYouthCumbria](https://www.facebook.com/CelebratingYouthCumbria) or contact [beverly.morgan@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:beverly.morgan@cumbria.gov.uk)

Cumbria is home to the Lake District National Park and has a wealth and breadth of sports, physical and outdoor activities. Search for activities here [www.activecumbria.org/developing-sport/physical-activity-search/](http://www.activecumbria.org/developing-sport/physical-activity-search/)

### **Youth Offending**

Cumbria Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a partnership, created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and made up of a range of partners who work directly with young people aged 10 to 17 years old involved in the Criminal Justice System. Additionally, Cumbria YOS provide targeted input alongside other partners to prevent young people entering the Criminal Justice System. Cumbria YOS are responsible for the supervision and management of all young people resident in Cumbria irrespective of their personal circumstances, care history or placing authority. There are clear guidelines to support this arrangement nationally between Youth Offending Teams should young people move between geographical areas.

All young people supervised by YOS are assessed and a comprehensive intervention plan accounting for risks and needs is formulated using, where appropriate, the input of specialist staff and co-ordination alongside existing provision. All supervision is tailored to address the level of risk posed and the individual's needs. The frequency and content of supervision will reflect this. Cumbria YOS can be contacted on 01768 812067 or via our regional Offices:

- South Team (covering Barrow and south Lakes): 01229 407560

- North Team (covering Carlisle & Eden): 01228 227090
- West Team (covering Allerdale & Copeland): 01900 706040

### **Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing children**

Cumbria LSCB has a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy, a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Policy and a Missing from Home Policy. The aim is for all agencies to work together provide a prompt multi-agency response to prevent sexual exploitation in order to prevent CSE or respond to those at risk or experiencing CSE in Cumbria and the prosecution of perpetrators

Key objectives of the LSCB sub group include the identification and protection of those children and young people who are at most risk from being vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked and the sharing information and intelligence in respect of adults who may pose a risk to children.

Cumbria County Council does not have a dedicated sexual exploitation operational group who oversee activity relating to specific individual circumstances, so any placing Authority would be required to manage the care planning to safeguard their young person and in accordance with statutory guidance act according when any child placed in Cumbria goes missing.

Recent high profile cases have highlighted the risk posed to young people placed away from their home and local services. However, if your Local Authority is considering placing or has placed a child or young person in Cumbria and there are concerns that they are at risk from being vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked, then the following action is important:

- You have a detailed care plan that addresses the specific CSE risk issues
- You notify the CSE police officer based in the Cumbria safeguarding hub of your proposed action should the young person require immediate intervention. Emails should be addressed to CSE/Missing From Home police coordinator' and sent to [safeguardinghub.fax@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardinghub.fax@cumbria.gov.uk)
- In the event that the allocated social worker is notified by the placement provider or police of further risks needing multi agency management then your local authority will be asked to provide an up to date Care Plan indicating how the young person will be protected, and expectations from local services should that young person be reported missing from placement.

### **Advocacy**

Any request for Advocacy for children and young people placed in Cumbria can be directed to a single point, NYAS on 0808 808 1001, or via [help@nyas.net](mailto:help@nyas.net) who will either provide a service or identify and signpost to the relevant provider for each Authority.

### **Barnardo's Missing from Home Service**

This Service completes the return interviews for all Cumbria children and young people under 13 years and for all children and young people looked after or known to Children's Services in Cumbria who go missing from home or care.

This service can also be accessed by other local authorities who have placed children within Cumbria at a cost of £95.00 per return interview for each missing episode.

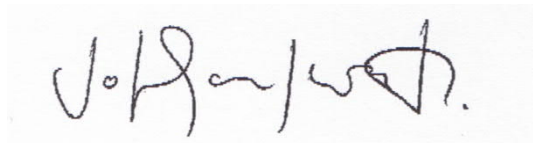
Barnardo's Missing from Home Service can be contacted to request either a return interview or for further information about the Service: Barnardo's Cumbria, Catbells Suite, Dovenby Hall, Dovenby, Cockermouth CA13 0PN. Tel: 01900898040

We hope this information proves to be a helpful resource for professional colleagues from outside the County who are working with looked after children placed in Cumbria. The Cumbria County Council website is also a useful resource for more information about general services and events in Cumbria.

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/>

We welcome any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Macilwraith', is centered on a light grey rectangular background.

John Macilwraith  
Corporate Director - Children's Services