



Cumberland  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

# Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements - 1 August 2026



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# Foreword

We are pleased to share the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2026.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 place a shared statutory duty on safeguarding partners to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within the local area. These arrangements set out how partners will work collaboratively to fulfil their responsibilities, strengthen multi-agency safeguarding practice, and improve outcomes for children, young people, and their families across Cumberland.

Within Cumberland, nothing is more important than the welfare and safety of children. Following the first year of the Partnership, we will continue to maintain a strong focus on the needs of children and families in our communities. Children and young people will remain at the centre of all that we do, guiding our priorities, decision-making, and collective efforts to safeguard, support, and improve outcomes for every child.

Throughout the first year of the Partnership, we have built strong, trusting relationships across our safeguarding system. As statutory safeguarding partners, we remain fully committed to working collaboratively to strengthen and continuously improve our safeguarding arrangements and practice. By working together, sharing learning, and challenging ourselves to do better, we will make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people across Cumberland.

This document sets out how we, alongside our relevant agencies and partners, will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and their families. It provides a clear framework for joint working, accountability, learning, and continuous improvement, ensuring that children remain at the heart of our collective efforts to keep them safe and help them thrive.

Through these arrangements, we will seize the opportunity to reduce duplication, strengthen collaboration, and work more effectively together to improve safeguarding practice and outcomes. The structure has been developed in partnership with agencies across Cumberland, building on the strengths and achievements of the Partnership's first year while responding to learning and identifying opportunities for further improvement. It is designed to provide clear governance, effective oversight, and a shared commitment to delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

We are excited to take forward our shared priorities over the coming months and years. Together, we remain committed to ensuring that every child is safe and supported.



**Andrew Seekings**  
Chief Executive  
Cumberland Council



**Samantha Allen**  
Chief Executive  
North East & North  
Integrated Care Board



**Darren Martland**  
Chief Constable  
Cumbria Constabulary

# Introduction

Welcome to Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership's (referred to as "the partnership" within this document) Multi-Agency Safeguarding 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 Cumberland'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 2026, 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
- The Independent Scrutiny of the effectiveness of the Cumberland Local Arrangements

## **These arrangements replace the arrangements published in April 2025**

As with any partnership, there is a need to continually review what is working well and identify opportunities for improvement. Both the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs), Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) and Partnership Subgroups (DSPs) have undertaken a review of their meeting structures and business priorities as part of an ongoing cycle of continuous improvement. This will help ensure that our arrangements remain effective, reduce duplication, and focus collective effort on achieving the best outcomes for children and young people across Cumberland.

During the first year of both the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Children Partnership LSPs have continued to meet together across the region. This approach has provided valuable opportunities for collaboration, shared learning, and the development of consistent safeguarding arrangements across Cumbria.

However, following a review of governance arrangements and partnership priorities, it has been agreed that from 1 September 2026, the LSPs for each Partnership will meet separately within their respective Local Authority footprints. This change will enable each Partnership to strengthen its focus on local needs, priorities, and challenges, while maintaining opportunities for joint working and learning where there is shared benefit across the wider safeguarding system.

## **The Local Safeguarding Partners (LSPs), who are responsible for the arrangements in Cumbria, are:**

- Cumberland Council - Andrew Seekings, Chief Executive Officer
- Cumbria Constabulary – Darren Martland, Chief Constable
- North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Sam Allen, Chief Executive Officer

## **The Delegated Safeguarding Lead Partners (DSPs) within Cumberland are:**

- Cumberland Council - Martin Birch, Director of Children and Family Wellbeing
- Cumbria Constabulary – David Stalker, Assistant Chief Constable
- North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Richard Scott, Director of Nursing Neighbourhood health and Safeguarding



**Martin Birch**

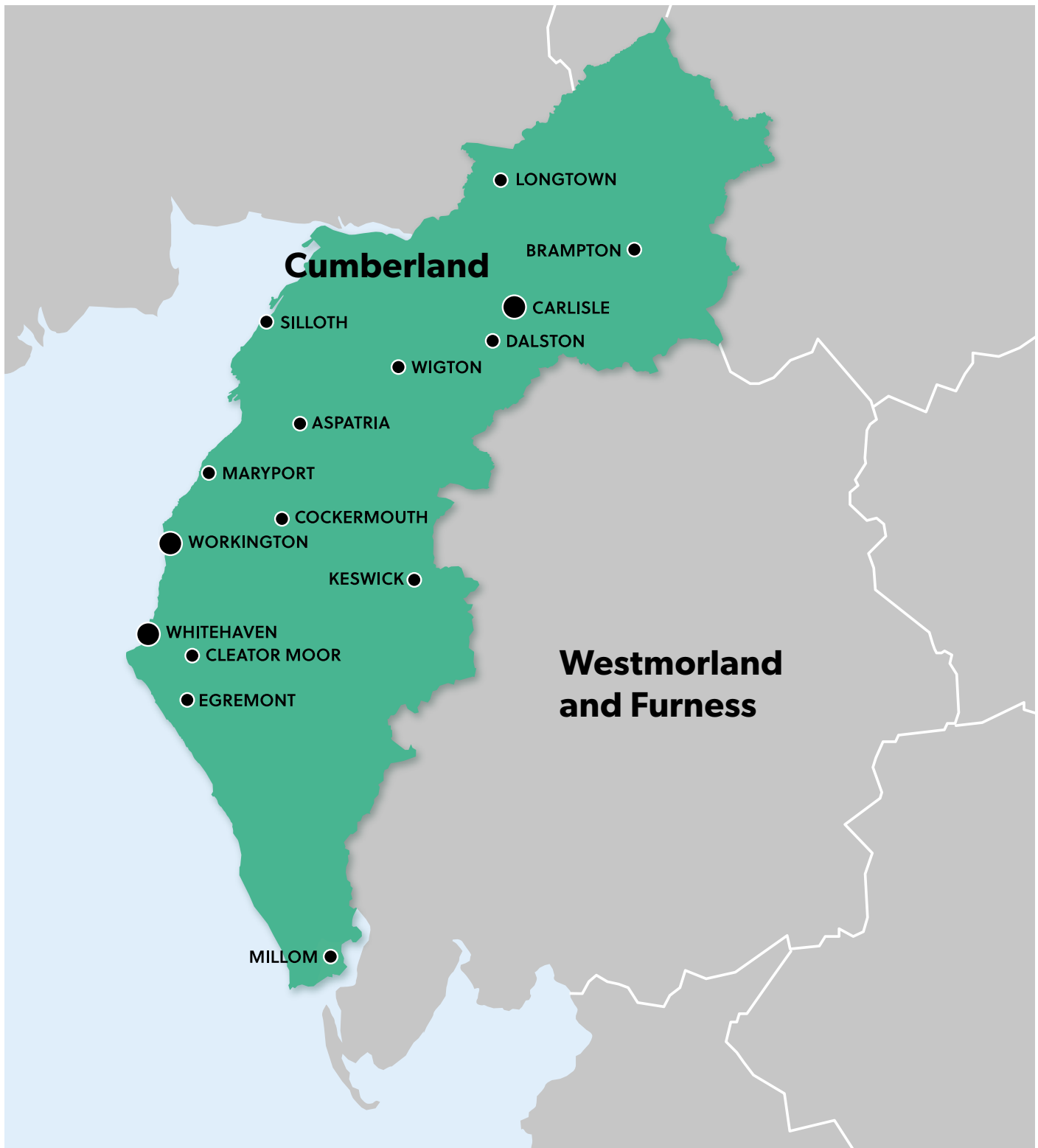


**David Stalker**



**Richard Scott**

# Geographical Boundary



# Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Partnership covers the whole of the Cumberland Council footprint. However, to note, our partners of Cumbria Constabulary cover the whole of the Cumbria footprint and North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board cover the majority of Cumberland and the North of Westmorland and Furness Local Authority Area (former Eden District Council area). Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB cover a small geographical area of the south of Cumberland, but this is addressed by agreement with both ICBs.

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

The geography and demographics of Cumberland is as follows:



**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.



**18.1%**

of children in Cumberland live in relative low-income families. While this is lower than the national average of 19.9% there are some wards that are higher than the national average.

(Source: IMD 2019 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019).



The population in Cumberland is

**280,495**

**57,850** of which are children aged 0-19 years.



Cumberland Council includes the districts of Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland and is much more sparsely populated than the national average but has both rural and urban centres.

Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership's vision is that we are "Working together to keep Cumberland's children safe".

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

- The lived experience and the voice of children and young people is listened to and acted upon at all times.
- A 'Whole-Family' approach is understood and implemented by all practitioners across the partnership.
- 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.

## Families First Partnership Programme

The Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) is committed to supporting and overseeing the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP), recognising its role in strengthening family help, safeguarding, and multi-agency working across Cumberland.

The Partnership will provide strategic leadership, scrutiny and assurance in relation to the implementation of relevant programme developments, ensuring that local safeguarding arrangements align with the principles and expectations of the Families First Partnership Programme. This includes supporting the development of integrated Family Help services, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs); promoting effective partnership working and information sharing; and ensuring that children, young people and families receive the right support at the right time.

The Partnership will monitor progress and impact through performance reporting, quality assurance activity and feedback from children, young people, families and practitioners. It will use learning, evidence and intelligence to support continuous improvement, strengthen safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for children and families across Cumberland.



# Partnership Priorities

The Partnership will seek assurance, supported by robust evidence, that safeguarding arrangements across Cumberland are effective in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect and in securing positive outcomes for them. Through a culture of continuous learning, challenge, and improvement, the Partnership will monitor the impact of its work and ensure that safeguarding practice remains effective, responsive, and child centred.

The Partnership has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of its safeguarding arrangements, including its strategic priorities, governance structures, and subgroup arrangements. This review has been designed to ensure that the Partnership is well positioned to deliver its priorities effectively, strengthen accountability, and maximise the impact of multi-agency working.

## Priority 1 – Improving the response 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 – Domestic Abuse

The Partnership's priority is to ensure that families live free from domestic abuse, and victims get the help and support they want, when they need it. Children will be safe and happy and grow up understanding kindness and seeing loving healthy relationships.

## Priority 3 – Safeguarding Adolescents from risks and harm 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 4 - Working Effectively Together to Implement Improvements, Reforms and Multi-Agency Initiatives



## How will we achieve these priorities?

The strength of partnership working is dependent on partners working collaboratively together with the relevant agencies.

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.

## The Voice of Children and Young People

The Partnership 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 critical to effective safeguarding in Cumberland, both in contributing to delivering the Partnership's vision and in helping to scrutinise and review the Partnership Arrangements themselves.

We will 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 Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs)

As mentioned, following a review of the governance arrangements, it has been agreed that, from September 2026, the Cumberland Lead Safeguarding Partners will meet as a Cumberland-only forum to strengthen local accountability and focus on the specific needs and priorities of children, young people, and families across Cumberland. The LSPs will meet four times per year and will be responsible for providing strategic leadership, setting safeguarding priorities, reviewing partnership performance, and ensuring that the safeguarding arrangements remain effective in improving outcomes for children and young people.

The LSPs will also receive assurance regarding the delivery of the Partnership's priorities, including the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme and the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding practice.

## The Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs)

The DSPs will support the functions of the Partnership and meet as a Strategic Group 4 times per year. The chair of this group will be the Partnership Chair.

As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the LSPs should appoint a Partnership Chair to act as a conduit between the DSPs and LSPs, providing feedback and escalating collective risks and issues to LSPs, as necessary, and be the single point of contact for the partnership.

The Designated Safeguarding Partners are jointly accountable for providing governance and strategic oversight of the Families First Partnership Programme and ensuring that local safeguarding arrangements support its successful implementation. This includes overseeing the development of Family Help, Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams, and Family Group Decision Making; ensuring effective multi-agency collaboration; monitoring performance and outcomes; and providing assurance that children, young people, and families receive the right help, support, and protection at the right time.

## Partnership Chair

As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the lead safeguarding partners must work as a team and identify together one delegated safeguarding partner to act as partnership chair.

The LSPs have agreed that the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Chair will be Martin Birch, Director of Children and Family Wellbeing

## Dispute Resolution

Professional disagreement should not detract from ensuring that a child is safeguarded. The child's welfare and safety must remain the priority. The Partnership will expect all practitioners to hold each other to account and challenge appropriately when concerns or disputes relating to the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements arise. Partners are committed to resolving disputes by open and transparent conversations, where they challenge each other respectfully. The Partnership has a multi-agency 'Escalation' Policy and have developed an easy to use **Stages to Escalation Procedure** which provides guidance to follow in the event of professional differences.

In the event of a disagreement between the three DSPs, the Independent Scrutineer may be asked for advice to help the DSPs quickly and transparently reach a resolution. The DSPs/or the Scrutineer can escalate concerns to all LSPs or relevant LSPs. Such an action would only be used in exceptional circumstances and only after matters have been discussed with all relevant DSPs and where a resolution cannot be reached. The LSPs and/or DSPs may also seek independent advice, for example legal advice when appropriate. However, throughout any dispute the focus must remain on the safeguarding and welfare of the child.



# Independent Scrutiny

Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership have agreed a quality assurance framework.

## **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 the Partnership scrutiny and challenge take place.

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, there has been a discussion locally around how best to implement independent scrutiny. The Independent Scrutineer will continue to provide constructive challenge, objective oversight, and independent assurance regarding the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. This continuity will support the Partnership in maintaining momentum, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that safeguarding partners remain focused on improving outcomes for children and young people across Cumberland.

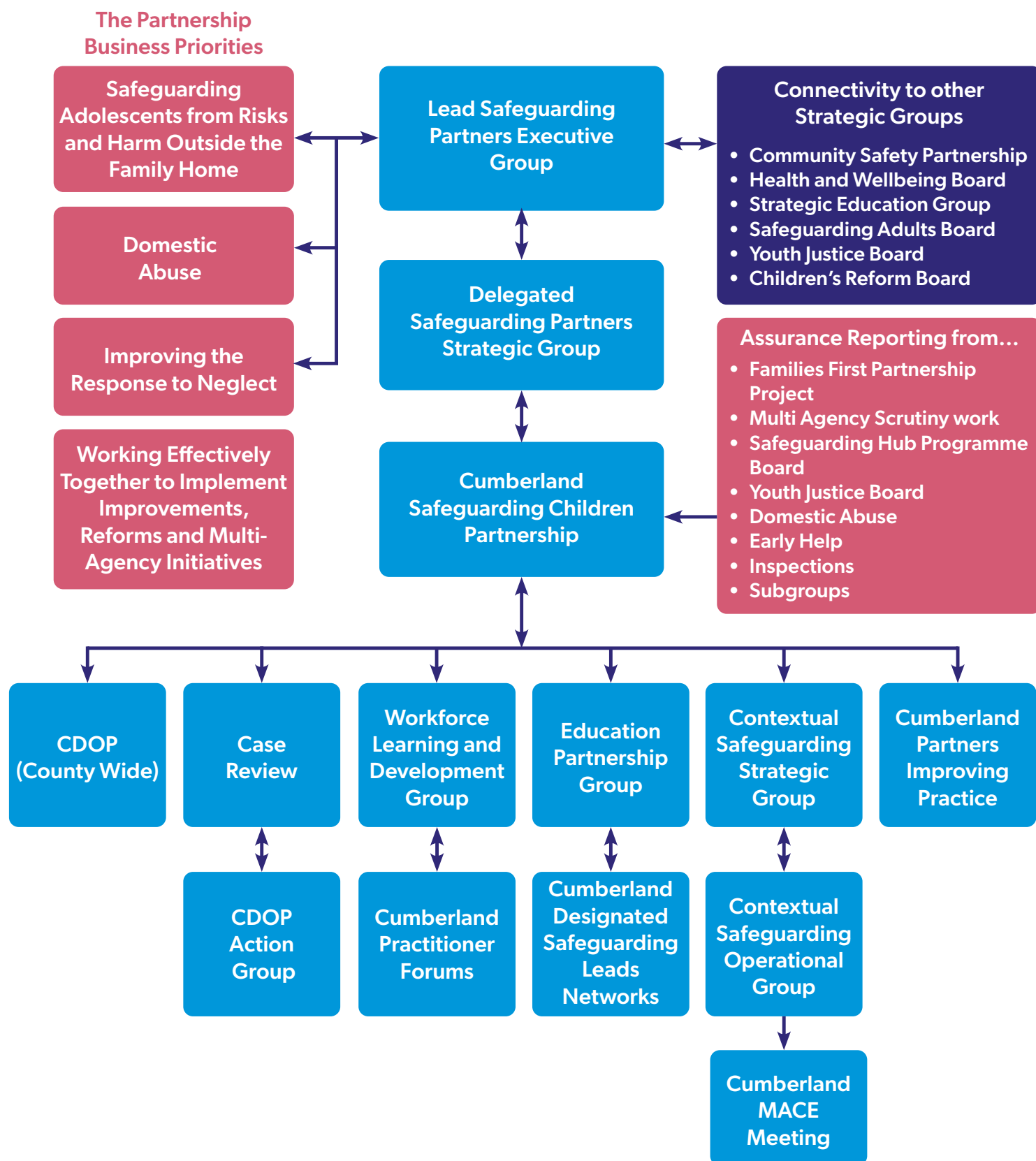
The Cumberland partners acknowledge that the Independent Scrutineer can never be the sole provider of feedback or reflection, but they play a critical role, alongside a comprehensive Cumberland Safeguarding Children Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework in evaluating effectiveness and impact.

The Independent Scrutineer will lead the Partnership's planned scrutiny learning events and provide 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 Cumberland.

As a result of the recent partnership review and independent scrutiny of the subgroup arrangements, it has been agreed to implement a minor revision to the current structure. This will involve the establishment of an Operational Group reporting to and supporting the CSCP Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Strategic Group, with a focus on driving operational delivery and strengthening multi-agency coordination.

The structure of the groups can be seen below:

## Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



# Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting

In addition to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners Strategic Group, the DSPs will meet with wider strategic leads from relevant agencies at the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting.

It has been agreed that the Independent Scrutineer will continue in the role of Executive Chair for the bi-monthly meetings of the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP). This arrangement will support robust independent challenge and assurance, while enabling the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) to fully participate in discussions, decision-making, and strategic leadership of the partnership.

The role of Executive Chair will facilitate effective engagement from all DSPs, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of operational partnership activity, current safeguarding practice, and areas where further improvement may be required. This will strengthen collective accountability and ensure that strategic decisions are informed by a comprehensive understanding of partnership performance and emerging issues.

The Partnership meeting will operate to a regular assurance schedule, providing systematic oversight of key safeguarding priorities. The Executive Chair function will be supported through ongoing liaison and regular communication with the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager, ensuring that key issues are identified, progressed, and reported appropriately.

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The governance of the CDOP currently sits under the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements and is a county wide panel.

The CDOP 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 will make recommendations to the appropriate Safeguarding Partnership, share and disseminate learning to ensure it is acted upon locally.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is currently subject to review due to its unique position within the safeguarding partnership structure. Consideration is being given to whether the current arrangements remain the most effective model for delivering the statutory child death review functions and supporting multi-agency learning.

The review has also been prompted by the size of the current footprint, which is smaller than the footprint recommended within national guidance for facilitating effective identification of themes, trends, and learning arising from child deaths. The intention is to ensure that future arrangements provide the greatest opportunity to strengthen learning, improve outcomes for children and families, and maintain robust oversight of the child death review process.

## Case Review

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 circumstances, which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

The group will contribute to Rapid Reviews convened by the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) Business Unit for circumstances notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NCSPRP). The group will consider the findings of these reviews and make recommendations regarding next steps, including whether a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) should be undertaken and whether the case may have national significance.

For each review, the group will ensure that a clear plan is developed to disseminate and share learning across all relevant agencies. An ongoing programme of learning and development activity will be delivered to practitioners, focusing on emerging themes, findings, and lessons identified through reviews to support continuous improvement in safeguarding practice.

Following the completion of every review, the Partnership will produce a Lessons Learned Briefing. This briefing will provide a concise summary of the case background, identify key learning points, and highlight areas for practice improvement to support the wider safeguarding workforce.

## Education Strategic Group

The importance of education continues to be emphasised within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and in The Families First Partnership Programme (FFP), recognising their critical role in 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 Education Strategic Group will build on established relationships with schools and education providers to ensure they remain a key partner agency.

Through the delivery of Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership Practitioner Forums, and the locally delivered Designated Safeguarding Leads Networks the voice of education will continue to be regularly sought and will feed into both the Education Strategic Group and Scrutiny work. There is regular liaison with the Primary Heads Association and the Cumbria Association of Secondary Headteachers.

## Workforce Learning and Development Group

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 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 (Contextual Safeguarding)**

Following a review of the Partnership's governance arrangements, it has been agreed to establish both a Strategic Group and an Operational Group to strengthen oversight and coordination of work relating to children at risk of exploitation and harm outside the home.

The groups will be responsible for monitoring the impact and effectiveness of multi-agency working, scrutinising agency practice to ensure that agreed procedures are being followed, reviewing relevant performance data, and making best use of intelligence to identify and respond to emerging risks. This will support the safeguarding and protection of children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, missing episodes, trafficking, and other forms of harm beyond the home environment.

The former Pan Cumbria Child Exploitation Strategy has been reviewed, and the Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) have agreed that the refreshed strategy should continue to operate on a Pan Cumbria basis to align with the Cumbria Constabulary footprint. The Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group will oversee the delivery of the strategy, while the Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group will support implementation through coordinated multi-agency activity.

The groups will continue to develop, implement, and monitor a Contextual Safeguarding Action Plan, ensuring that progress against priorities is regularly reviewed and reported to the Partnership. Through this work, the groups will seek to improve outcomes for children and young people by promoting effective collaboration, early identification of risk, and a coordinated multi-agency response.

## **Cumberland Partners Improving Practice**

The focus of this group is to support the continuous improvement of services and interventions provided to children and young people across Cumberland through an intelligence-led, multi-agency approach.

This will be achieved by ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of children and young people inform the group's work, alongside the effective sharing, analysis, and scrutiny of performance information and other sources of intelligence. The group will seek to identify and promote best practice, monitor trends and emerging issues, assess changes in performance, and highlight risks that may impact on outcomes for children and families.

The group will provide robust oversight and challenge through the review of performance data, quality assurance activity, multi-agency audits, practitioner feedback, and other relevant intelligence. These activities will be used to inform judgements about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, identify areas for improvement, and support the development of evidence-based actions that strengthen practice and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Working with partners, education and the voluntary sector, this group will drive the partnership priorities of Neglect and Domestic Abuse and will embed learning from scrutiny.

# The Use of Data and Intelligence

The Partnership will utilise both local and national data and intelligence to support the early identification of emerging trends, themes, risks, and areas of concern affecting children and young people. During its first year, the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) has developed a multi-agency partnership dataset, bringing together key performance and intelligence information from across partner agencies.

This dataset will be routinely reviewed, analysed, and scrutinised by the Cumberland Partners Improving Practice Group to identify strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities to enhance outcomes for children and families. Analysis of the data will support the identification of best practice, emerging safeguarding issues, performance trends, and areas requiring further investigation or partnership response.

Relevant elements of the dataset will also be utilised by the CSCP Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Strategic Group to develop a deeper understanding of children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, harm outside the home. The analysis of this information will support the Partnership in understanding patterns of vulnerability, targeting resources effectively, informing strategic priorities, and strengthening the multi-agency response to exploitation, missing episodes, trafficking, and other forms of extra-familial harm.

## Cumberland Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

The guidance sets out the overarching approach adopted across Cumberland to support children and young people, from pre-birth to 18 years, and their families. It explains how partner agencies will work together to identify, assess and respond to need at the earliest opportunity, while providing a clear overview of the different elements of the local support and safeguarding system. The guidance recognises the diverse needs of children and young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and the importance of coordinated planning and support to enable them to achieve positive outcomes.

The guidance supports practitioners and managers to recognise when a child, young person or family may require additional support. It promotes a personalised, strengths-based and relationship-based approach, recognising the unique circumstances, strengths and needs of each child, young person and family. Decisions and support should be informed by effective assessment, professional judgement and, where applicable, statutory guidance. The guidance also reinforces the importance of listening to and working alongside children, young people and families, ensuring that their voices, experiences and aspirations inform assessment, planning and decision-making.

Through strengths-based conversations and practice, the guidance introduces the Cumberland Continuum of Need and Support, outlining the different levels of need and providing examples of indicators that may suggest a child or young person requires additional help. The Continuum is designed to promote a shared understanding of need across all agencies, support proportionate and consistent decision-making, and ensure that children and families receive the right support at the right time. It recognises that children and young people with SEND may require a coordinated multi-agency response and that needs should always be understood within the context of the child's individual strengths, circumstances and lived experience.

Following consultation with partner agencies and in line with the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP), the Threshold Guidance has recently been reviewed and refreshed.

This review has ensured that the guidance reflects the principles, terminology and expectations of the programme, supporting practitioners to understand and embed the evolving Family Help approach, early intervention practice and multi-agency collaboration. The updated guidance aims to promote greater consistency in decision-making, strengthen partnership working and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families, including those requiring SEND support and services.

The Threshold Guidance will be subject to a further review in Autumn 2026 to ensure it remains aligned with local and national developments, including the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme. This review will focus on ensuring that practitioners and managers have a clear understanding of the Continuum of Need and Support and are equipped to apply it consistently across all levels of need, support and intervention.

The updated guidance will also support the implementation of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs), providing clarity regarding pathways, thresholds, decision-making processes, and the respective roles and responsibilities of partner agencies. The review will seek to ensure that practitioners can confidently identify need, work collaboratively with children and families, provide the right support at the right time, and operate effectively within integrated multi-agency arrangements to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. This includes supporting effective partnership working for children and young people with SEND, particularly where coordinated support, transition planning and multi-agency involvement are required.

## Youth Justice Service and Residential Homes

The Youth Justice Service will report to the Partnership via attendance at the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Youth Justice Service will be represented within the appropriate sub-groups.

There is no Youth Justice secure provision within the local authority, but those which are in the region will be required to report on arrangements, as and when necessary.

## 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 DSPs. 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

The Partnership have developed the CSCP Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Guidance, and this will be followed to determine whether to carry out a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review. 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 Delegated Lead Safeguarding Partners.

The Cumberland policies and procedures, which can be accessed [here](#), 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. The procedures 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. LSPs will have shared oversight of the learning from reviews undertaken.

## Resources and Infrastructure

The statutory safeguarding partners remain committed to providing the resources necessary to support the effective operation of the Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP). Partners recognise that the development of locality-based and neighbourhood working arrangements may have resource implications; however, there is a shared understanding that these approaches will strengthen collaboration, improve service delivery, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

The Partnership is funded through contributions from the three safeguarding partners, with Cumberland Council contributing 45% of the Partnership's core funding, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) contributing 33%, and Cumbria Constabulary contributing 22%.

Safeguarding partners are committed to ensuring that sufficient resources are available to enable the Partnership to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, deliver its agreed priorities, and support effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Cumberland.

In the event that a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is commissioned, the costs associated with the review will be met by the safeguarding partners. Where required, partners will make additional contributions beyond their agreed annual allocation, on an equitable and proportionate basis, to ensure that the full costs of the review can be met. This commitment reflects the shared responsibility of safeguarding partners to identify learning, promote improvement, and strengthen local safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.

## The Partnership Business Team

The work of the Partnership is coordinated by the Partnership Business Team. The team is funded by the financial contributions as set out above. The team work closely with the partnership chair, delegated safeguarding partners, independent scrutineer, and partner agencies to ensure the partnership operates effectively and fulfils its statutory requirements. From September 2026 Cumberland Partnership will administer their own LSP governance meetings.

## Relevant Agencies

The strength of local partnership working is centred on safeguarding partners working collaboratively with relevant agencies whose involvement, as considered by the safeguarding partners, 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. A list of the Partnership's relevant agencies is provided at Appendix 1.

# Appendix 1

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 Settings

## Health

- North Cumbria Integrated Care
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
- Primary Care (GPs)
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care
- 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