



# Cumbria Local Area SEND **Easy Read** Written Statement of Action

# Cumbria Local Area

## Easy Read

### Written Statement of Action

07 October 2019

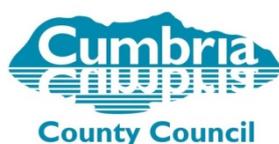


### Introduction

Some children need extra support, at nursery school and college or have health and care support needs, this is sometime called Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or SEND.



Cumbria County Council and the NHS in Cumbria are responsible for providing this extra support.



In March 2019 the Inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission visited Cumbria and said that SEND services were not good enough and must be improved.



Senior staff in the Council and NHS fully accepts the report and have agreed to work hard to make services better for children and families in Cumbria.



The inspectors had 9 areas of concern:

1. We do not have a good understanding of the needs of those with SEND.



2. Leaders don't understand the strengths and weaknesses of their services.



3. Health, Care and Education services are not working well together.



4. Too many parents lack trust and faith in those providing services.



5. Children, young people and their families are not involved enough in designing and shaping services.



6. We are not taking good enough care of the emotional well-being of children and young people with SEND, especially those with Autism.



7. The process of knowing when someone needs help, deciding what help they need and delivering the support for children and young people at an early stage doesn't work well.



8. We are not good enough at supporting children get ready for adulthood.



9. Access to services is not equal across Cumbria.



Working together professionals, parents and carers have put in place a plan to make things better. This plan was agreed by the inspectors. The plan is called a Written Statement Of Action. The plan has been broken down into six areas each area has a working group.



**The working groups will:**

## **Working Group 1 - Understanding of Local Need**

1.1 Develop a better understanding of the needs of the SEND population by reviewing all the information we have, working out what we know and what we don't know. This is called a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

1.2 Develop robust performance management and quality assurance of SEND in Cumbria Including EHCP audit

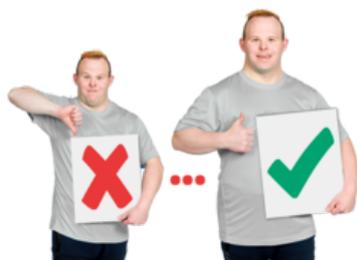


## **Working group 2 - Commissioning and Access to Provision.**

2.1 Develop and implement a Council and NHS joint commissioning approach (buying service).



2.2 Undertake a range of improvement actions for specific services as identified in our review and in the SEND Inspection.



### **Working group 3 - Engagement and Co-production.**

3.1 Involve parents and carers in the SEND Improvement Programme.



3.2 More effective communication in relation to SEND improvement, reaching a wider and more representative group of stakeholders,



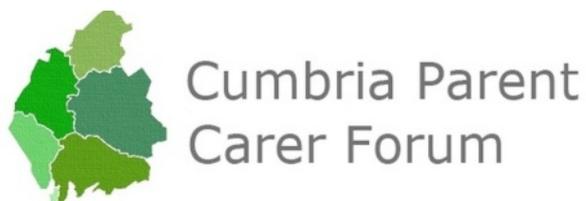
3.3 Establish a programme of effective engagement with parents, carers, children and young people including those who are 'hard to reach'. This will help us find out more about their experiences of SEND services.



3.4 Embed knowledge and tools to support good co-production across system.



3.5 Strengthen the Parent Carer Forum (PCF) in Cumbria.

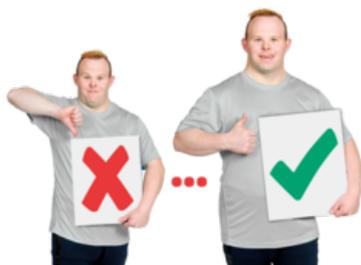


## **Working group 4 - Preparation for Adult Hood.**

4.1 Improve joint working, systems and practice across Children's Social Care, SEND team and Adult Social Care so that Care Act assessments take place in a timely manner.



4.2 Improve joint working, systems and practice across Children's and Adults health systems so that children and young people with complex or long term health needs are identified to Adult health services and transitions planned in a timely manner.



4.3 Embed Health Transitions Toolbox to inform clinical practice so that children and young people with complex or long-term health needs have cases managed and transition planned within ICC footprint leading to a smoother transition.



4.4 Make sure quality advice, information and support for young people, parents and carers in relation to preparing for adult hood is available.



4.5 Develop new services for young people so that they don't need to go out of Cumbria

4.6 Improving careers information advice, guidance and support.

4.7 Creating more access to work placement/apprenticeship and employment opportunities for young people with SEND.



### **Working Group 5 - Emotional Health and Well-being.**

5.1 Make sure Educational Health and Care plans take care of people's emotional well-being.

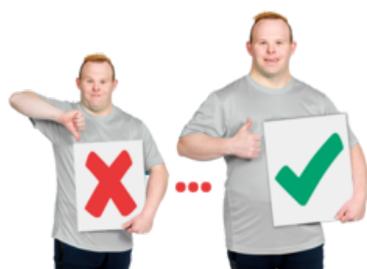
5.2 Make sure that support services for emotional and mental health and well-being are well designed especially for those with SEND and ASD.



5.3 Ensure that the new integrated Child and Family Support Service works well for SEND children and families.

5.4 Help schools and colleges provide or access emotional health and wellbeing support for those with SEND.

5.5 Ensure that CAMHS services in Cumbria meet the needs of those with SEND- improving waiting times and access.



**CAMHS**  
Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services

### **Working Group 6 - SEN Support.**

6.1 Improve the way that children and young people that need support are identified and supported. Give people the right level of support at the right time.



6.2 Strengthen the system to improve identification and the support of early years, primary and secondary age pupils with less obvious speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.



6.3 Establish consistent systems to record and monitor pupils who are on a part-time timetable or without a school placement to make sure that individual's needs are met.



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For more information please read see the full version of the  
Written Statement Of Action

