**L3 Early Years SENCO award (CACHE)**

The award was delivered through 12 training days which explored and developed:

* An understanding of the principles, statutory guidance and legislation underpinning practice for children with SEND in an early years setting
* An understanding of the role of the Early Years SENCo
* An understanding of partnership working with outside professionals, agencies and services
* An understanding of early identification and action for children with SEND

Throughout the course learning was delivered through a balance of theoretical and practical approaches and supported by a broad range of guest speakers who talked about their roles and responsibilities and how they can support children and families throughout Cumbria. This was an invaluable opportunity to meet professionals from these services and it really strengthened the learning experience of delegates. Guests included representatives from two local Specialist SEN schools, Health Visiting Team, Portage, SEND IASS, Occupational Therapy, Children’s Learning Disability and Behaviour Support Service, Early Years Specialist Advisory Service, Cumbria Local Offer and Educational Psychology.

Learners were able to establish a network of peer support throughout the cohort in which they shared experience and practice; this has strengthened and supported them in their roles and will continue to do so in the future.

The successful learners demonstrated a real commitment and determination to undertake and complete the award throughout the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic. The cohort achieved a very impressive 100% pass rate; their success was congratulated by senior leaders from the SEND and School Improvement Service and certificates were presented by Dan Barton – Assistant Director of Education and Skills Cumbria County Council and Councillor Sue Sanderson – Cabinet Member for Schools & Learning. Cumbria born TV presenter Helen Skelton also thanked delegates on behalf of children and families across Cumbria for ‘their hard work in developing their skills which would benefit so many children and families’ in their care. She expressed ‘massive respect’ to everyone and recognised the positive impact this award would have on SENCo’s, their settings and their teams across the county.

Some feedback from cohort 1 learners:

“I feel like I really know and understand SEND legislation now – the course has been invaluable”.

“The L3 SENCo Award has been a rewarding and engaging experience that I have gained such a great deal of knowledge, skills, understanding and confidence from”.

“Amazing course with amazing opportunities”.

“This has been the best course I have ever done – EVERY SENCo should do it”.