



# **Agenda**

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Friday, 1 March 2024 at 10.30 am  
Allerdale House, Workington

The press and public are welcome to attend for the consideration of any items which are public.

**NB A PRIVATE PRE-MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 10.00 AM AND ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

Enquiries and requests for supporting papers to: Lorraine Davis  
Email: [lorraine.davis@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.davis@cumberland.gov.uk)

## **Membership**

Cllr C Wills  
Cllr J Whalen  
Cllr Dr H Davison  
Cllr M Eldon  
Cllr L Jones-Bulman  
Cllr S Pollen  
Cllr A Pratt  
Cllr H Tucker

## **Substitutes:**

Cllr T Allison  
Cllr R Dobson  
Cllr J Forster  
Cllr J Ghayouba  
Cllr A Glendinning  
Cllr J Grisdale  
Cllr A Harid  
Cllr M Harris  
Cllr M Hawkins  
Cllr M Johnson  
Cllr J Mallinson  
Cllr A Markley  
Cllr C McCarron-Holmes  
Cllr G Minshaw  
Cllr G Mitchell  
Cllr M Mitchelson  
Cllr D Moore  
Cllr L Patrick  
Cllr B Pegram  
Cllr J Perry  
Cllr T Pickstone  
Cllr A Semple  
Cllr G Troughton  
Cllr C Weber  
Cllr B Wernham

## **Access to Information**

### Agenda and Reports

Copies of the agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available at the meeting.

The agenda and Part A reports are also available on the [Cumberland Council website](#).

## **Public Participation**

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question at the meeting should apply to do so no later than midday nine working days before the date of the meeting.

Information on how to apply can be obtained from the Democratic Services Officer named on the front of the agenda.

## **PART A - Items likely to be considered in the presence of the press and public**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2. Disclosures of Interest**

To receive declarations by councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest, personal interests, other registrable interests or any other interests in respect of items on the agenda.

### **3. Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

### **4. Public Participation**

To receive any questions or representations which have been received from members of the public.

### **5. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 January 2024 (copy enclosed).

### **6. 10.40 am Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support (Pages 9 - 42)**

To consider a report from the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing and the Director of Children and Family Wellbeing (copy enclosed).

### **7. 11.40 am Transitions to Adulthood (Pages 43 - 48)**

To consider a report from the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing and the Director of Children and Family Wellbeing (copy enclosed).

### **8. 12.40 pm Committee Update (Pages 49 - 54)**

To receive a report by the Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor (copy enclosed).

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on 26 April 2024 at 10.30 am at the Civic Centre, Carlisle



## People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Friday, 5 January 2024

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Location:** Copeland Centre, Catherine Street,  
Whitehaven

**Present:** Cllr C Wills (Chair), Cllr J Whalen (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Eldon, Cllr L Jones-Bulman, Cllr S Pollen, Cllr A Pratt and Cllr H Tucker

**Also Present:** Cllr E Williamson and Cllr E Lynch

**In Attendance** Director of Children and Family Wellbeing  
Democratic Services Officer  
Policy and Scrutiny Advisor  
Public Health Consultant  
Senior Manager, Children and Families  
Virtual School Headteacher  
Senior Manager, Children and Family Wellbeing

### **PEOS.31/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Davison and Ms L Watson, Co-opted Member.

### **PEOS.32/23 Disclosures of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **PEOS.33/23 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED**, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

### **PEOS.34/23 Minutes of Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2023 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **PEOS.35/23 Family Wellbeing Programme Overview**

Members received a report from the Senior Manager, Early Years and the Consultant for Public Health advising that an ambitious Family Wellbeing Programme had been in development since September 2023. This was being developed to change the way that the Council delivers and commissions prevention and early help services for families. Members noted that effective early help services could prevent problems escalating when statutory interventions were required.

The officer advised that the re-design of the delivery of early help and prevention services provided a golden opportunity to deliver a Family Wellbeing Programme for children, young people and families in collaboration with Council Executive, Community Panels, communities and families.

The report set out work undertaken to progress the Programme from early 2024 onwards. The portfolio holders spoke passionately about the Programme, highlighting the fantastic opportunity to redesign services for Cumberland residents. It was noted that investment in enhancing the leadership team had been made and a Family Wellbeing Transformation Project Delivery Board had been established to provide strategic and operational oversight of the Programme. The establishment of the Family Hub programme was outlined.

Members, in discussion, welcomed the Programme. The negative impacts of the Covid pandemic, the rising demand on mental health services and the cost of living crisis were discussed at length. Officers acknowledged recruitment and retention pressures within services and in partner organisations. Joint working was taking place to address this. A member raised concerns that mandatory children's checks were not being undertaken. Officers acknowledged concerns and advised that there was a national shortage of health visitors. It was recognised that service improvement was needed.

The rurality of Cumberland and the difficulties this caused was highlighted. Transport and how some families may struggle to access services was discussed. Officers and the portfolio holder advised on outreach services that would be put in place to help with this.

Budget pressures and the cost of delivering the transformation programme were discussed. Officers and the portfolio holders reiterated the need for change, to prevent problems escalating to the point where statutory interventions was required. The portfolio holders and officers advised that the changes were achievable with commitment. Members were informed that Cumberland was the first council to auto enrol families for free school meals and this was welcomed by the Committee. Members were advised of engagement and their duty to drive the programme forward at a community level.

A member raised concerns on pressures placed on schools, especially in light of budget cuts. A member sought assurance on the oversight of home schooled children. Following a question on provision for teenagers, it was noted that Cumbria Youth Alliance provided programmes for this age group. A member was informed of a dedicated phone line for self-referrals and the vital role schools and family hubs play in service referrals was discussed..

The officers were thanked for their very informative report.

**RESOLVED, that**

- (1) that an evidence based report, to include case studies, status of health checks, family hub development, pressures and support for schools and evidence to show if the Programme had reduced the need for high level services, be received by the Committee in September;
- (2) a paper on workforce in the whole of Children's Services, including providers, be received by the Committee in September;
- (3) a paper on home schooling be placed on the Committee's work programme.

## **PEOS.36/23 Virtual School Annual Report**

Members received the Cumberland Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report which covered the academic year 2022-2023. The report outlined delivery and challenges from the past year as well as a detailed summary and analysis of education performance outcomes for Cared for Children for the last year. Members noted that the Corporate Parenting Board considered this report annually which allowed for a detailed understanding of children's performance and the extent to which the schools continued to deliver in their statutory duties relating to Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

Members noted the key priorities for 2023/24 and welcomed other key priorities including further development of the Virtual School training offer and recruitment of new roles to improve the offer to each of the different cohorts. It was noted that maths was the only subject where Cumberland did not outperform against national data. Members were advised that the group of children who were supported by the Virtual School Team had a high-quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place each term, effective targets and action plans, specifically for maths, together with the provision of additional pupil premium plus where necessary to support this subject.

Members noted the additional support provided through the Letterbox Scheme to promote reading and suggested that a similar approach be considered for older children. It was noted that the biggest challenge was for schools to meet the needs of pupils. A discussion took place around suspensions and exclusions and whether a comparison could be done with school figures. In answer to a member's question, the officer confirmed targeted support was offered to schools where possible if a pattern of suspensions or exclusions emerged. A member agreed to submit further questions by email to the officer.

The portfolio holder concluded the report by thanking the team for their hard work and detailed a virtual school case which showcased the work of the Team.

The officer was thanked for his report.

**RESOLVED**, that an annual update report be placed on the Committee's work programme.

## **PEOS.37/23 Outcomes from public examinations EY GLD, KS1 and KS2, GCSE, 'A' and Tech Level 2023**

Members received a report that gave an overview of educational outcomes in 2023 for early years good level of development (EY GLD), Key Stage 1 and 2 (KS1 and KS2), GCSE, A Level and Tech Level. Members noted that attainment measures EY GLD, KS1, KS2 and KS4 were improving against the national outcomes in 2019, achieved through improved focus on teaching, curriculum and school improvement through a cluster-based working and sharing in a system approach.

Members were informed as there were no national comparator for 2020 and 2021, the 2019 outcomes were used as a benchmark and the report focused on all pupil's outcomes. The officer outlined four key priority areas for improvement identified from the data. Members noted that an improvement had been achieved in a pilot scheme in Carlisle through a cluster-based working and sharing system approach

Members questioned benchmarking with similar geographical counties. In answer to a member's question on working relationships with Academies, the officer highlighted the importance of maintaining good relationships with the schools.

The officer was thanked for the informative report.

**RESOLVED**, that an annual report, including case studies, be placed on the Committee's work programme.

**PEOS.38/23 Committee Update**

The Policy and Scrutiny Advisor presented an update report providing an overview of matters relating to the Committee's work, including the Forward Plan of Key Decisions. A new work programme for the Committee was being developed.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the items on the Forward Plan be noted.

**PEOS.39/23 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 1 March 2024 at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Allerdale House, Workington.

The meeting finished at 1.05 pm



## Report to

Meeting Date – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolios – Cllr Markus Campbell-Savours, Governance and Thriving Communities, Cllr Emma Williamson, Deputy Leader and Statutory Lead for Children’s Services, Cllr Elaine Lynch, Lifelong Learning and Development

Directorates – Adult Social Care and Housing and Children and Family Wellbeing

Lead Officers – Chris Jones-King, Director of Adult Social Care and Housing and Martin Birch, Director of Children and Family Wellbeing

**Title – Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers Support**

### Summary:

This paper provides Scrutiny members with detail relating to the Refugee, Evacuee and Asylum programmes now operational within Cumberland. The report outlines the current position in relation to each programme. Including providing an overview of the current support provided, in relation to Housing, Communities, Social Care and Education and identifies longer-term plans.

### Recommendations:

Scrutiny is asked to note the attached report and its contents.

### Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	



## **1. Background**

- 1.1. The report provides an overview of migration routes currently operational within Cumberland. Many of these programmes were introduced at short notice in response to government announcements. Each programme has separate Local Authority funding streams and are funded through Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- 1.2. The Refugee, Evacuee and Asylum Strategic Partnership is currently chaired by Tracey Ingham, Assistant Director, Thriving Communities in Westmorland and Furness. This arrangement came into place following the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and is still in place following the Global Resettlement Service disaggregation in October 2023. Attendees are Police, Health, Public Health, DWP, Education, Housing, Social Care, Education and Skills, Third Sector, Cumbria Voluntary Service and Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP). This Strategic Partnership, during the disaggregation met on a monthly basis and currently meets on a 2 monthly basis or more frequently when issues arise that require a coordinated multi-agency response.

## **2. Proposals**

- 2.1. To note the report

## **3. Alternative options considered**

- 3.1. n/a

## **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1. n/a

**Implications:**n/a

**Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities -**

**Relevant Risks – n/a**

**Consultation / Engagement -**

**Legal – n/a**

**Finance –n/a**

**Information Governance – n/a**

**Impact Assessments –**

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment? n/a

**Contact details:**

Contact Officer: Rob Cartner – Resettlement Programme Manager

Email: rob.cartner@cumberland.gov.uk

**Appendices attached to report:**

- Cumberland Council Global Resettlement Service-Service Plan 2024-2025.

**Background papers:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: n/a

**Title of Briefing:** Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers Support

**Author:** Rob Cartner, Resettlement Programme Manager

**Directorate:** Adult Social Care and Housing

**Date:** 01.03.24.

**Purpose:** To provide an overview of current migration routes and the support provided.

## **Executive Summary**

- Provides an overview on all the Refugee, Evacuee and Asylum programmes now operational in Cumberland.
- Outlines current position in relation to each programme.
- Identifies current delivery and future longer-term plans in relation to Housing, Community, Education and Social Care.
- Appendix 1: Service Development Plan, provides an overview of areas for service development.

## **1. Background**

**1.1** The Cumberland Global Resettlement Service (CGRS) became operational in April 2017 in response to the Syrian conflict. CGRS now delivers and supports the following programmes:

- **United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)** this programme provides safe and legal routes into the UK for humanitarian purposes. Eligible refugees come from the following regions-Syria, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Kurdish population across the Mena region. This programme provides support to refugees for a 5-year period.
- **Afghan Relocation Assistance Policy (ARAP)** became operational in April 2021 with the first arrivals in Cumberland in July 2021, ahead of the fall of Kabul. This programme is for citizens who worked alongside the UK Military and UK Government. Those eligible for relocation under ARAP may do so with a partner, dependant children and wider family members. This programme provides support for a 3-year period.
- **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)** formally opened in January 2022. This programme prioritises those who assisted with the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values, such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law. Vulnerable people, including women and girls and minority groups at risk (including ethnic, religious, and LGBT+). There are 3 separate ACRS Pathways:

**Under Pathway 1;** vulnerable and at-risk individuals who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme have been first to be resettled under ACRS. This means Pathway 1 families all arrived into the UK immediately following the Fall of Kabul.

**Under Pathway 2;** referrals come via the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), made up of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan, individuals and families are assessed under their vulnerability criteria. This makes Pathway 2 similar to UKRS, in that there is a longer assessment process completed by UNHCR, and families may have been living outside of Afghanistan for some time.

**Under Pathway 3;** a route to offer resettlement to those at risk who supported the UK, as well as vulnerable groups, who have fled Afghanistan to neighbouring countries or remain in the country.

Regardless of Pathway, support is provided for resettlement for a period of 3 years.

- **Homes for Ukraine** became operational in March 2022. This programme provides Ukrainian's fleeing the conflict and who were resident in Ukraine prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to be sponsored to come to the UK. This route is uncapped and dependant on the number of Sponsors/Hosts who come forward. Sponsors/Host match with Ukrainians (Guests) over social media, we then undertake accommodation assessments, suitability assessments along with enhanced DBS checks on all adults within the Hosting family. Once these are complete a visa is issued. Thank you payments are made to Hosts on a monthly basis with the expectation that they will continue their hosting arrangement for a minimum period of 12 months.
- **Homes For Ukraine Unaccompanied Minors** is a programme for 'eligible minors' who are coming to the UK without their parent(s)/legal guardian. Sponsors of these applicants must follow a different process to the main scheme, including providing parental consent, and will need to meet relevant eligibility criteria and pass enhanced safeguarding checks before a visa can be issued.
- **Ukraine Family Support Scheme** is a scheme where Ukrainian residents in the UK are able to support family, friends or general Ukrainians who wish to flee the conflict. This scheme is not funded by the UK government and we are unable to assess the number of Ukrainians who have settled into this arrangement in Cumberland. National data based on visa's issued to those coming via this route into the UK is in the region of 56,600. Some case work has been delivered to this group due to breakdowns in relationships and families requiring general support.
- **Asylum Contingency Hotels**, all 3 hotels within the Cumberland footprint closed in December 2023. A small portion of the occupants were dispersed into dispersal accommodation within Cumberland, the remainder were relocated to out of county asylum estate.
- **Asylum Dispersal** is new to Cumberland and as a Local Authority we have been allocated 166 bed spaces. Serco is the northwest regional contracted provider for the Home Office, who procure accommodation across the region. All properties are homes of multiple occupancy (HMOs) and can accommodate 4 or 5 individuals per property. Once an individual within dispersal accommodation receives their Leave to Remain (LTR) they are given 28 days' notice to leave, the bed space is then reoccupied.

- **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)** are children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but have arrived and been separated from their parents. This programme is delivered by the Children Looked After and Leaving Care Team. Those who arrive under this programme are age assessed and then supported dependant on age in either foster care, residential care or supported living.
- **Community Sponsorship Programmes (CSP)** enables community groups to directly welcome and support resettled families into their local community. These groups need to raise £10,000, have a property for use of the family and have developed an integration support plan. The CSP is supported by Caritas who are the lead sponsor. The CGRS inspect the property and review the integration plan and provide ongoing support to the group as well as the family if required.
- **Hong Kong British Nationals** became operational on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2021. Citizens can apply for limited leave to remain to work or study in the UK for up to 5 years and become eligible for settled status after 5 years of qualifying residence. To date Cumberland has not seen or had formal requests for support from anyone arriving within this scheme.

## 2. Current Position

**2.1 United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme:** Since commencement of this scheme in April 2017 we have resettled 171 individuals ( 41 families). During this time we have seen in the region of 14 births in Cumberland and 34 individuals have left county during this time. We have only had 7 individuals (2 families) arrive during 2023.

As part of this scheme, we provide wrap around Resettlement support, with the first 12 months delivered through early help assessments and plans. Support is provided for up to 5 years, at which point families can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain or Settlement Status.

As part of the safe and legal routes consultation, Cumberland has agreed to accept 50 individuals through this route in 2025. This will equate to approximately 12 families.

**2.2 Afghan Relocation Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme:** Each arrival under these schemes have an early help assessment and plan for approximately 6 to 8 months. Following this period, they continue to receive support from the service up to 3 years from point of arrival.

Since commencement in July 2021 of both ARAP and ACRS, Cumberland has resettled 113 individuals with a further 11 individuals arriving in February 2024. There has been no formal request by Home Office for a resettlement pledge in 2024, however we are working towards 50 individuals.

Whilst the Home Office has now closed all Afghan Bridging Hotels, eligible Afghans overseas are being moved to the UK with around 3,500 arrivals from both ARAP and ACRS arriving in the UK in the last quarter of 2023. Arrivals either go into transitional

accommodation such as the 4 interim hotels, Service Family Accommodation (SAF) or MOD sites. These are short stay accommodation and all LA's are asked to put forward suitable accommodation.

Additionally, MEARS a contracted provider of the MOD is securing properties for Afghans and to date one property has been put forward in Cumberland. Once this property is ready to receive a family, the CGRS will provide integration and support.

- 2.3 Homes for Ukraine** has seen 440 Ukrainian Guest arrive in Cumberland since the start of the conflict in Ukraine. The 440 Guest were accommodated by 231 Hosts. There are currently 62 Hosts accommodating 148 Ukrainian Guests, including 52 children under the age of 18yrs, with a further 18 Hosts awaiting Guest arrivals. We have seen an additional 177 Ukrainians leave their hosting arrangement and move into social housing or private rental. We have also seen 117 Ukrainians move out of Cumberland either to other local authorities or returning to Ukraine or Europe.
- 2.4 Homes For Ukraine Unaccompanied Minors** has seen only 2 arrivals through this route since the start of the conflict.
- 2.5 Asylum Dispersal**, changes on a daily basis, and currently stands in the region of 30 active properties with approximately 120 occupants. Numbers will continue to fluctuate as occupants of the properties receive Leave to Remain (LTR) outcomes. Home Office has indicated that 40,000 claims will be processed before the end of April 2024. This in turn means that the pace of asylum dispersal and LTR outcomes may increase in Cumberland, which in turn may impact on available housing for those who receive a positive LTR and are then given notice to leave the dispersal accommodation.
- 2.6 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs)** has seen an increase in the number of assessments in 2023, linked to the Asylum Contingency Hotels. Currently there are 40 UASCs under the age of 18 years, placed in a combination of foster placements, supported living and residential care, both locally and outside county. In addition to the above group there are 43 young people over the age of 18 years supported by Leaving Care Advisors.
- 2.7 Community Sponsorship Programmes (CSP)**, only one programme exists in Cumberland (Carlisle) and is called Our Lady of Perpetual Hope. This group supports one family of 5 who came through the UKRS route in August 2022.

### **3. Housing**

- 3.1** The availability of housing stock within Cumberland Council is under pressure. Serco as part of their asylum dispersal accommodation procurement have a pipeline of properties. Many of these properties will not come to fruition. However, this means that these

properties are no longer available to the public, or our housing options teams to assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

- 3.2** Mears who are contracted by the Ministry of Defence have secured one property to date for the placement of Afghans. Placements of this nature will receive CGRS wrap around support and the LA Funding tariff. As this is a recent national response we do not know at this stage what levels of accommodation will be secured through this route in Cumberland.
- 3.3** Properties for the refugee and evacuee programmes, UKRS, ARAP and ACRS were, historically, solely sourced through social housing. This has recently changed and the service is now actively engaged with private landlords and hosting arrangements across all our programmes. Projected accommodation needs for 2024 will be in the region of 12 properties.
- 3.4** Additionally, we have seen 177 individual Ukrainian Guests move into either social housing or private rental. They have been supported through the Global Resettlement Services Re-Matching and Housing Officer in securing accommodation. Whilst this is positive for these individuals it does further compound the availability of housing stock at a time when homelessness is on the increase, fuelled by the cost-of-living crisis and affordable homes.

#### **4. Housing Support Plan**

- 4.1 Home England Funding:** It has recently been announced that Strategic Partners with Homes England can now apply for capital grant to fund replacement homes alongside net additional affordable housing. This may bring opportunities to regenerate housing that registered providers have previously deemed unviable to replace or bring up to decent homes standard where there is capacity to build new homes as well. This is something we will be discussing with our strategic partners in terms of general affordable housing.
- 4.2 Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF):** The Local Authority Housing Fund is a capital fund that supports local authorities in England to obtain housing for those who are unable to find settled accommodation on resettlement schemes. Round 3 of the LAHF was announced in the Autumn statement, worth £450 Million, to help support and we are currently awaiting detail. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The grant is for 40% of the median property price in the area plus an allocation of £20k per property for refurbishment costs, so there is an expectation that local authorities put forward funding themselves. It is expected that a minimum of one bridging unit and one Temporary Accommodation unit is delivered should funding be allocated.

**4.3** The Local Authority Housing Fund will support selected local authorities in England to obtain and refurbish property in order to provide sustainable housing for those unable to secure their own accommodation who are here under the following schemes: ARAP, ACRS, HFU and Ukraine Family Scheme.

**4.4** As well as helping to fulfil the UK’s humanitarian duties to assist those fleeing war, this fund will reduce the impact of new arrivals on existing housing pressures and ultimately create a lasting legacy for domestic households by providing a new and permanent supply of accommodation for local authorities to help address local housing and homelessness pressures.

**4.5 Empty Homes:** In November 2022 empty homes figures for the 3 former district areas were (from CTB1 extract):

District	Empty Homes	Second Homes	1 in every x homes out of use
Allerdale	647	1270	25
Carlisle	668	569	44
Copeland	468	1097	22

We know that many homes remain empty as owners are unable to fund works to bring them back into use or are unwilling to sell them below market value as they still see the property as an asset, even in a dilapidated state. Some properties are also bought by people outside of the county who hold them as part of a portfolio with no intention of making available as housing.

There has been a reduction in long term empty homes which may be due to the increased Council Tax premium, however numbers remain significant. The recent press release about an empty home in Carlisle being brought back into use through the Enforced Sale Policy has led to numerous other properties being reported by residents, and Councillors, with little resource or funding available across Cumberland to respond. Consideration should be given to what could be enabled through use of empty homes.

**4.6** Working in partnership with Housing and Homelessness an application for LAHF funding will be made. CGRS has allocated £200,000 in support of securing and providing accommodation that will help address housing and homelessness pressures. This allocated funding will come from the Homes for Ukraine budget.

## **5. Community**

- 5.1** The experience to date in relation to Asylum Dispersal accommodation and its occupancy is challenging. Serco do not routinely inform the Council when properties are occupied. Those moving into dispersal accommodation generally come from out of county and are supported remotely by Migrant Help. This often means that those occupying the accommodation are unfamiliar with the local area and the service that could support them, impacting on community and integration.
- 5.2** Third sector play an important role in supporting Asylum Dispersal as well as Refugees and Evacuees. The resilience and capacity of third sector, voluntary and community groups is of particular concern, given the reliance on the work they undertake to provide basic supplies, support with English lessons, one to one support, and general activities that promote integration into our communities, especially for Asylum Seekers.
- 5.3** In general terms there are numerous localised social events which involve local communities, which enhance community integration and breakdown perceived barriers to migration. These are most often organised through third sector and supported by the CGRS and other partners. Weekly drops ins run by both Council, partners and third sector are held across the Cumberland footprint, providing access to support across a range of issues.
- 5.4** Access to immigration lawyers/advice through legal aid nationally is limited and overwhelmed. There are currently no Immigration Advisors in Cumbria, and there are no legal firms preparing to take on this work around asylum. Supporting asylum seekers in Cumberland with their application to remain, will prevent destitution and homelessness in our communities where failed application occurs. Using recognised Immigration Advisors, will ensure national standards are applied.
- 5.5** Funded by CGRS 'Escape to Safety' is an interactive, multi-media walk-through exhibition (designed by Global Link in Lancaster) where you put yourself in asylum-seekers' shoes and listen to and experience refugees' stories as you navigate through the exhibit and complete activities associated with it. It involves a powerful combination of a reconstructed journey with audio, some short films, VR, conversations with the students and thought-provoking introductory and follow-up exercises.

Closely linked to the schools' curriculum and Post-16 studies, the project will be open to all the college pupils, local schools and the wider community.

## **6. Community Support Plan**

- 6.1** Supporting those arriving via asylum dispersal as well as refugees and evacuees in our communities is essential, if these groups of people are to become valued members of our communities. In support of all migration routes and our valued Third Sector and Support groups an allocation of £150,000 for 2024 has been awarded to support integration.

- 6.2** The Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) Levels 1,2 and 3 training will enhance Cumberland's offer in relation to asylum. The above funds will assist Third sector who are currently training a volunteer.
- 6.3** We are in the process of developing a Resettlement working group, made up of Refugees, Evacuees, and Asylum Seekers. This group will provide opportunity for these groups to feed into our services to better enable us to deliver initiatives that are more meaningful to those receiving support. This will provide us with an opportunity to gain feedback on services delivered already and assess how much families and individuals already engage with existing community initiatives outside of their own.
- 6.4** We will be seeking to secure a Community and Volunteer Coordinator from our migrant community. The purpose of this role will be to develop a volunteer programme made from the resettlement community with a focus on cohesion and integration in our communities.
- 6.5** Links with all the Carlisle City of Sanctuary network partners are established. The purpose of which is to build culture of 'hospitality and inclusiveness', predominantly for asylum seekers and refugees, by coordinating and supporting network of community groups.

## **7. Social Care**

- 7.1** All refugees as part of the UKRS, ARAP, ACRS are supported by the Cumberland Global Resettlement Service through an Early Help assessment and plan. This provides the right support at the right time using the Signs of Safety approach and prevents escalation into the Safeguarding Hub. Since April 2017 we have seen 4 families referred into the Safeguarding Hub from our UKRS programme and 1 from ARAP. Early Help plans for those arriving via the Homes for Ukraine Scheme are only opened where issues/concerns are identified.
- 7.2** Each new Refugee and Evacuee as part of the intensive orientation are taken through, UK culture awareness, British laws, and British values. Both the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service and Cumbria Constabulary are involved in this process. This supports families to know what is and is not acceptable within the UK.
- 7.3** The UASC service has experienced some challenges in relation to the number of age assessments, and access to interpreters. This was a direct result of the Asylum Contingency Hotels however this is now resolved following closure of the hotels. Delays in receiving asylum outcomes and access to solicitors pose a significant problem within all the asylum population for adults. In relation to UASC, legal aid is available,

where a Solicitor is required this is sourced outside of county, due to no legal firms in Cumbria currently providing legal advice on migration issues.

- 7.4** There are currently 6 UASC Care Leavers who were offered move on accommodation, but refused, resulting in all moving into homelessness accommodation. Access to available housing poses a risk of further homelessness or the need for homelessness accommodation as we see an increase in adult Asylum Seekers entering the county.
- 7.5** The CGRS reports directly to the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) a minimum of twice yearly. Providing updates on all migration routes along with detail relating to themes and barriers. This Board is valued and contributes to assisting CGRS in the delivery of services.

## **8. Social Care Support Plan**

- 8.1** Recently CGRS in partnership with the International Organisation of Migration have delivered training to staff within the UASC team and wider partners. This training has involved bespoke training packages based on nationalities and has provided cultural awareness, beliefs and values, religious practices, ethnicity, and culture shock. This type of training will continue and be offered to social care and other partners.
- 8.2** Further training has been delivered through Migrant Help and offered to the wider council services in relation to Asylum seekers. Enabling staff to gain knowledge on the different aspects of migration, status and entitlement. Sharing practice and greater levels of training and support to practitioners across the Council will enhance Cumberland's offer.
- 8.3** Work will commence as part of the development plan to identify settled families who might be interested in becoming a Homestays provider, with a view to supporting young people 16 to 21 years who are UASCs.
- 8.4** Through funding Third Sector/Community Groups that support all migration routes the UASC service will be able to establish closer links with these organisations. For the UASC service users this would mean contact with others of the same nationality, age, culture, beliefs, and values. Access to the wider public, support and social activities will enhance integration and resettlement.

## **9. Education**

- 9.1** All educational establishments are invited to contribute to Early Help plans and team around the family, many of these meetings, whilst coordinated by the CGRS are held within school establishments. This enables the family and professionals to work together to achieve positive outcomes for the family.

- 9.2 Access to interpretation within schools is often sporadic, where capacity is available within our service area we are able to support with Arabic, Pashto, Dari, Ukrainian and Russian.
- 9.3 Education reports that there is current capacity within school's admissions, however dependant on individual schools this may mean that learners don't get the nearest school. Education is currently providing exceptional transport costs.
- 9.4 Education establishments receive the following payments from CGRS in relation to school age children:

Programme	Children 5-18 years	Children 3-4 years
UKRS/ARAP/ACRS	£4,500	£2,250

- 9.4 Maximus, Refugee Employability Programme is a new programme to Cumbria and is delivered on behalf of the Home Office. This service helps refugees prepare for work and life in England, with individual support and a learning plan to improve their English and career skills.
- 9.5 ESOL provision for those 18 years and above is available from a number of organisations, such as Adult Learning who are funded directly for 8 hours per week provision per learner. Additionally, Carlisle and Lakes College, Brook Street School, Maximus and Third Sector also deliver ESOL.
- 9.6 CGRS are currently delivering the B1 Citizenship English classes for families to get ready for their citizenship applications and test following receipt of their Indefinite Leave to Remain. To date 8 families have made an application of which 2 families have been successful and awarded citizenship.

**10. Education Support Plan**

- 10.1 The CGRS is currently developing an educational resource pack, which highlights what financial support is available as well as support from the service. It also provides links to training resources, promotes best practice as well as information on culture, beliefs, and values across a range of nationalities. We will be working closely with the SEND Team in developing resources. This resource pack will be distributed/disseminated through the cluster meetings for heads of school.
- 10.2 In addition to the above CGRS are working with partners such as Migrant Help and Third Sector in the development of information, which can be presented in school assemblies.
- 10.3 International Rescue Committee, provide the Healing Classrooms programme, which aims to support schools and educators to develop inclusive and nurturing learning

spaces where refugee and asylum-seeking students can gain the necessary academic, social and emotional skills to develop their full potential. They offer free training sessions and resources to educators and schools supporting refugee and asylum-seeking students in the UK.

**10.4** Links into the Primary Heads Association and the Multi Academy Trusts are in the process of been established, providing a direct route into education.

**10.5** As part of the safe and legal routes consultation it was identified that when CGRS secure properties for incoming Refugees and Evacuees that school catchment areas need to be taken into consideration to prevent over subscription in school settings. As such, when properties are put forward we will discuss with education prior to accepting the property and also identify what availability there is within education settings, this will then inform Home Office referrals.

**10.6** In relation to Homes for Ukraine, Hosts put forward their hosting arrangement and we have no authority to refuse the offer unless there are safeguarding concerns, or the property is unsuitable. Where a local school is unable to accept a Ukrainian child and they secure a placement at a different school then CGRS will cover the cost of school transport.

## **11. Appendix**

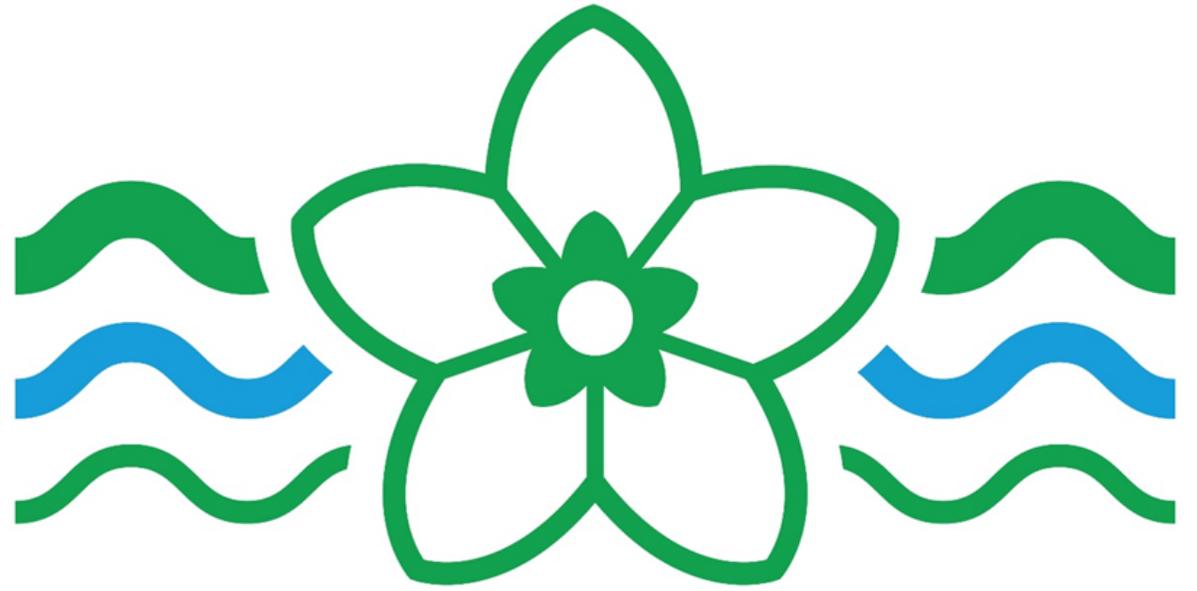
Appendix 1: Cumberland Council Global Resettlement Service-Service Plan 2024-2025.

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# Global Resettlement Service

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## Service Development Plan 2024-2025



# Cumberland Council



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# Global Resettlement Service: Areas of Work

The Global Resettlement Service became operational in 2016/17 following the Councils pledge to accept refugees from Syria as part of the UK's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Childrens Resettlement Scheme (VCRS).

The Global Resettlement Service has since responded to a range of world crisis's and are currently supporting the following programmes:

- **United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)** *5-year programme of integration and resettlement.*
- **Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP)** *3-year programme of integration and resettlement*
- **Asylum Dispersal (AD)** *supporting integration and resettlement in our communities.*

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# Global Resettlement Service: Areas of Work

The Global Resettlement Service has since responded to a range of world crisis's and are currently supporting the following programmes:

- **Afghan Citizens Relocation Scheme (ACRS)** 3-year programme of intervention and resettlement
- **Homes for Ukraine (HFU)** 3-year programme for evacuees
- **Community Sponsorship Programme (CSP)** 5-year programme delivered by community groups as part of UKRS
- **Asylum Dispersal (AD)** supporting integration and resettlement in our communities.

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# Summary

- **This Service Plan sets out how Cumberland Council’s Global Resettlement Service, in partnership with other organisations will support refugees, evacuees and asylum seekers. Ensuring those who arrive in Cumberland through migration routes are treated fairly, supported to integrate, realise their full potential, and can live and thrive as valued members of our communities.**
- **It is essential that we approach refugee, evacuee and asylum seekers integration early in a person’s migration journey, failure to do so will have an impact on wider communities. As a service we must recognise our responsibilities in providing the right services at the right time, reducing demand on statutory partners whilst promoting integration for the individual and the contributions they can make to our society.**



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# Summary

As part of the Cumberland Council Plan 2023-2027, we will provide:

- Services that are accessible, trusted that listen, involve, and engage.
- Are driving change, learning, and improving.
- We demonstrate leadership whilst working collaboratively.
- Think local first and sustainability.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention.

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**Our Vision is that Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers are valued, feel safe, are integrated into our communities, and are supported to reach their full potential.**

**To achieve this Vision the Cumberland Global Resettlement Service identifies the following high-level outcomes and associated actions.**



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# OUTCOME 1: Services that are accessible, trusted that listen, involve and engage

To achieve this outcome Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers need to be recognised, valued members of the community, who have a contribution to make to society.

- To develop a framework that ensures the lived experience of Asylum Seekers and that of Refugees and Evacuees is taken into account and embedded in service development and policy.
- Ensure involvement of refugees, evacuees and asylum seekers in the development of ESOL provision alongside ESOL Tutors in the design of course materials and resources. To ensure ESOL provision is available in a timely manner and takes account of learner's other commitments and responsibilities.

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# OUTCOME 1: Services that are accessible, trusted that listen, involve and engage

- **Recruit and establish** a volunteer service made up of those with lived experience that assist's resettlement of Asylum Seekers and their integration into UK life and the local area.
- **Promote regular engagement** with organisations working with Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers, as well as directly with those with lived experience.
- **Consult with Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers** to develop and maintain themed 'drop ins' that support the needs and promote integration.

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## Outcome 2: Services that are driving change, learning, and improving

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers have timely access to services to achieve their full potential.

- **To develop and ensure language**, cultural and social needs of refugees, evacuees and asylum seekers are considered across Cumberland Council and partners, including Third Sector and community groups.
- **Work in collaboration** with Serco, Home Office, Migrant Help, Fire Service and Environmental Health in relation to dispersal accommodation to ensure property is safe and secure.

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# Outcome 2: Services that are driving change, learning, and improving

- **Through collaboration build on positive engagement** with NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Public Health England, taking account of localised pressures. Developing bespoke and tailored packages of intervention that meets the needs of refugees, evacuees, and asylum seekers.
- **Ensure through positive engagement** a joined-up approach to the provision of housing for refugees, taking account of localised pressures and regional/national experience.
- **Develop and deliver bespoke training packages** for partners that identify issues and rights in relation to No Recourse to Public Funds status, Right to Work restrictions and or Migrant Access to Benefits

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## Outcome 3: We demonstrate leadership whilst working collaboratively.

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers are integrated into diverse and inclusive communities and are aware of, and able to exercise their rights and responsibilities:

- **To develop and support formal and informal** working relationships with Third Sector and Community Groups which engage directly with refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Through collaborative working, fund and develop** a homelessness strategy that responds to the needs of asylum seekers and the public.
- **Review and ensure appropriate structures** are in place across Cumberland Council and partners to develop a coordinated approach to the delivery of services for Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers.

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## Outcome 3: We demonstrate leadership whilst working collaboratively.

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers are integrated into diverse and inclusive communities and are aware of, and able to exercise their rights and responsibilities:

- **Ensure Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Evacuees** are identified as an at-risk group in strategies and guidance/policy.
- **Ensure that schools have sufficient information and resources** to support learning.

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# Outcome 4: Think local first and sustainability

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers feel welcome and live here safely without fear of persecution or discrimination regardless of migration status.

- **To fund Third Sector and Community groups** to support delivery of services that meet direct local need of individuals and groups of Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers.
- **Ensure that localities are taken into account** when contracting providers and or through Grant giving to ensure local needs are taken into account.
- **Proactively identify and engage** where necessary with newly arrived Asylum Seekers, within dispersal accommodation.

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# Outcome 4: Think local first and sustainability

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers feel welcome and live here safely without fear of persecution or discrimination regardless of migration status.

- To ensure **Schools have the support required** to support pupil engagement, attainment, and integration, including curriculum options, for those young people who arrive in Cumberland aged 14-16 years.
- **Promote and ensure timely access and support** into employment, education, training, and volunteering opportunities.

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# Outcome 5: Focus on prevention and early intervention

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers have access to services and support to achieve.

- **Identify and deliver training** to staff group and partners including Third Sector and Community Groups, on human trafficking, and modern slavery.
- **Ensure the most vulnerable**, such as victims of trafficking, women, children, and LGBT have appropriate support in place.
- **Ensure access to trauma and therapeutic support** services are communicated with Asylum Seekers and those who are experiencing mental health issues such as PTSD.

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# Outcome 5: Focus on prevention and early intervention

To achieve this outcome, Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers have access to services and support to achieve.

- **Develop and support Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers** into pathways to work, taking account of individual circumstances and needs.
- Develop a parent and child information pack to facilitate knowledge of the education system and what to expect.
- **Identify Right to Work restrictions for Asylum Seekers** and seek out development opportunities that will prepare for joining the work force.
- **Assist and identify support to help** Refugees, Evacuees and Asylum Seekers to identify equivalent qualifications or access additional or alternative training.

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# Indicators of Resettlement Integration

Integration has many meanings and can mean different things to different people. Integration can be intergenerational and takes place at multiple levels including the individual, family and the community and incorporates all aspects of life.

Integration is a two-way process and depends on everyone taking responsibility for their own actions/contributions, including new arrivals, and receiving communities.

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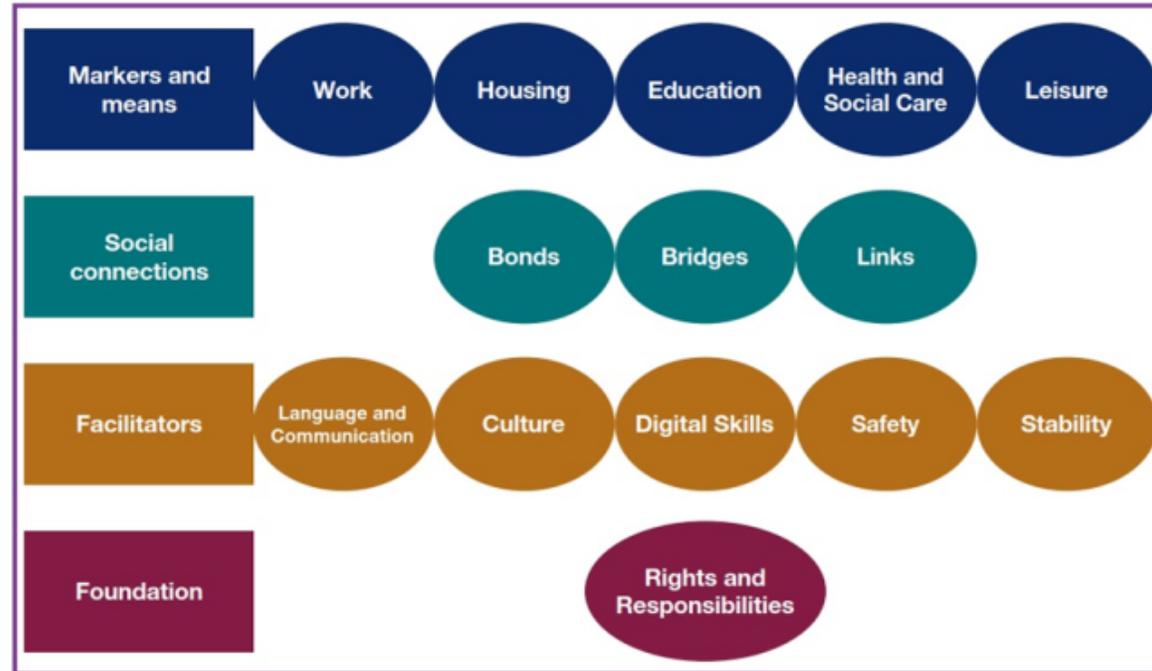
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# Indicators of Resettlement Integration

The below Indicators of Resettlement should at all stages be the golden thread which runs through the work of resettlement and integration.



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# Thank you for listening

## Any Questions?



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## Report to People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 1 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Councillor Elaine Lynch, Portfolio Holder – Lifelong Learning & Development and Councillor Lisa Brown, Portfolio Holder – Adult Social Care  
Directorate – Children & Family Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and Housing  
Lead Officer – Martin Birch, Director – Children & Family Wellbeing and Chris Jones-King, Director – Adult Social Care & Housing

### Transitions to Adulthood

#### Summary:

An update and options to be considered to support the continued development of transitions pathways across Cumberland and to identify gaps and opportunities.

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the information contained in this report regarding the activity undertaken is reviewed and the update is noted by the members.

#### Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Professionals across education, (including early year, schools, colleges and 16-19 academies), health and social care, have statutory responsibilities under the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2015, to support and prepare children and young people with special educational needs into adult life. The LA and local health services should set out how they identify individuals and plan their support as they approach and move through to adulthood and transition between children's and adult's services to ensure that appropriate support is delivered in a timely and seamless way.
- 1.2 The Local Area SEND inspection carried out in 2019, identified that young people in Cumbria were not supported adequately with this transition. Since the inspection, improvements to services have been developed and implemented across services within Cumberland Council and across Health. This work is ongoing. Historically there has been a strategic oversight to the planning and monitoring of developments, through the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Group which was implemented as part of the SEND improvement Programme.
- 1.3 Following the re-visit and reflecting the changing nature of the development work, the PfA Group was stood down, with focus on a business-as-usual approach. There remained some areas of development that need to be implemented and delivered as highlighted by the Continuous Improvement Plan for Transitions.
- 1.4 A Cumberland multi-disciplinary team meets on a bimonthly basis which oversees the day-to-day casework for those who are about to go through a transition between services or who are already within that process. Attendance at both groups pre LGR was mixed and did not always include a full representation of services across each area. Post LGR this has improved, and the group is now largely well attended. Engagement with Continuing Health Care has been difficult throughout.
- 1.5 Additional training and guidance has been carried out across SEND staff and with education providers through various platforms such as SENCo meetings and the SEND Conference.
- 1.6 New Annual Review paperwork focusing on Preparation for Adulthood has been co-produced with education settings and is now being used.
- 1.7 A Transitions Protocol which provides information and guidance to all families and young people on the various stages of transition is scheduled to go to the next Cumberland SEND Partnership Board for approval.

- 1.8 Cumberland is currently working in partnership with Westmorland and Furness to develop the pathways to employment for young people with SEND. This programme focuses on doubling the number of Supported Internships across the 2 authorities by April 2025. It is also aiming to develop employer engagement and the potential for young people with SEND to gain paid employment after leaving education.
- 1.9 A project request form (PRF) has also been submitted to investigate the opportunities to develop pathways to employment for those accessing Day Opportunities.
- 1.10 The PRF is also requesting that Cumberland Council offers Supported Internship placements to the current programmes which are offered by our 2 colleges and develops opportunities for paid employment in the long term for young people with SEND.
- 1.11 Work is continuing on the transitions dashboard through IAS (Adult Social Care's electronic recording system) to provide performance information relating to transition activity. This enables reporting about what stage individuals are at in transition, such as progress with Continuing Care and when assessment is undertaken under the Care Act. This will also enable tracking of individuals that fall into safeguarding concerns who are also undergoing a transition. In future we would want to start our transition planning in Year 9.
- 1.12 The activity dashboard on IAS has made significant progress. This has been slowed down slightly due to the time demands on the performance and systems teams due to the planned disaggregation of systems following LGR.
- 1.13 Although a review of the Social Care transport policy is underway, ideally any developments should be aligned with the SEND transport policy which is currently in draft form. Transport and the ability to develop independence around travelling are often overlooked in the planning and preparation for adulthood. The lack of these skills can limit the potential for attending further education, training and employment, including accessing programmes such as the Supported Internship scheme.
- 1.14 Cumberland lacks a formal framework for assessing and evaluating individuals' ability to gain these skills within its assessment process or later when they move into secondary education or are moving to further education. The majority of those who are supported with transport will continue to be supported for the longer term.
- 1.15 There has been an improvement in the timeliness of referrals to Adult Social Care's (ASC) Transitions workers where there is a potential Continuing Health Care need. In some cases, referrals now bypass adult services as individuals are in receipt of

appropriate funding by health whilst children and so arrangements are made within health in advance of their transition. In some cases, there is still a challenge for those referred through at 18 or above.

- 1.16 There is a need around a Housing Strategy to incorporate an element of transition planning for those who have a housing need from early on to those who may need assistance to take up a tenancy in the future. The STEP project which is currently underway is aiming to address some of these issues by taking a tenancy centric support-based approach to individuals undergoing a transition from 18-25. The STEP project is delivered by Home Group and has a proven track record in the Northeast. There is a working group involving ASC and Housing to see how this approach can be replicated in Cumberland.
- 1.17 Adult Social Care and Housing works closely with their commissioning team to identify individuals as soon as possible who might require long term support and accommodation arrangements post 18. Conversations can start as soon as year 9 transition planning in some instances, given the complexity of individual need. Whilst adult specialised commissioning discussions can start as soon as the academic year an individual turns 14, there can still exist structural barriers that make the move into specialised accommodation uncertain for people post 18. The regulatory relationship between OFSTED and CQC is illustrative of one challenge that exists in maintaining an individual in a placement post 18 or transitioning them to a more sustainable placement in advance of reaching the age of majority. Improving provision in relation to direct payments or personal health budgets, can be a means of addressing such challenges as well as providing families with a greater sense of certainty and control as an individual moves toward their 18th birthday. It is important to note that those individuals identified as likely to require a specialised level of accommodation and support early on in the transition journey, will most likely have a primary health need and as such it is imperative that NHS Funded care are part of the wider conversation.
- 1.18 There is a great deal of activity and partnership working across the county which relates to transitions and pathways to adulthood. What is lacking is a way to link this activity up and ensure that there is strategic oversight to direct the work, reduce duplication and increase the opportunities for young people.
- 1.19 Whilst this paper predominately focuses on the nature of Transition in the context of SEND to Adult Social Care support, it is important to remember that for some young people their experience of transition is defined by concerns pertaining to exploitation and safeguarding. Adult Social Care and Housing have worked closely with children's services to implement learning from Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Kate. As such a defined Transition safeguarding pathway has been developed. The pathway outlines responsibilities relating to when Children's Services alert Adult

Social Care and Housing around Transitional safeguarding concerns. The pathway also notes when Adult Social Care and Housing will link in with children's services in advance of a young person turning 18, to ensure that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place for when an individual reaches the age of majority. This process is supported by Adults Safeguarding attending a Transitions meeting hosted by Children's Services and chaired by the Complex Safeguarding team.

## **2. Proposals**

- 2.1. A working group to be established to bring together the various aspects of transition activity. The meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 led by Adult Social Care and Housing DAS outlined a number of areas that need to be aligned, however, a Senior Responsible Officer within the Council needs to be identified to take forward the schedule of work.
- 2.2. A Cumberland Policy for Transport and Travel Training is developed to support young people with developing independence. This will also offer potential financial savings to the associated budgets.
- 2.3. Cumberland Council agrees to supporting those accessing day opportunities and those with SEND with employment pathways by incorporating SEND into the recruitment process and offering Supported Internship opportunities.

## **3. Alternative options considered**

- 3.1. Continue with developments to transitions and preparation for adulthood on a service-by-service basis, to allow individual teams to develop services in line with their own priorities.

## **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1. Coordinate the development of transitions and preparation for adulthood on a Cumberland basis through a joint strategic group. This will maximise opportunity for partnership working and joint commissioning, reduce duplication and promote a consistent approach across education, social care and health.

### **Implications:**

**Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities** – Providing accessible and trusted services that listen, involve and engage will contribute to our aim to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents; promoting independence and providing early help and services to support our residents to live well.

**Relevant Risks** – n/a

**Consultation / Engagement – n/a**

**Legal – n/a**

**Finance – n/a**

**Information Governance – n/a**

**Impact Assessments –**

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment?

If you have not screened the decision using the Impact Assessment, please explain your reason

**Contact details:**

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Jonathan Ashworth, Acting Senior Manager – Mental Health,  
Learning Disabilities & Safeguarding

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[Jonathan.Ashworth@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Ashworth@cumbria.gov.uk)

**Appendices attached to report:**

- None

**Background papers:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:



## Report to

Meeting Date – 1 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cross Cutting

Directorate – Assistant Chief Executive

Lead Officer – Joel Rasbash, Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor

### Title – Scrutiny Committee Update Report

**Summary:** To provide Members of People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of matters related to the committee's work.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that scrutiny:

1. Note items on the most recent Forward Plan of Key Decision.
2. To note questions on School Attainment that Members followed up with officers following the last Committee.
3. Note potential items on the 2024-25 Forward Plan for the Committee pending further discussions with the Committee, relevant Executive Directors and Executive Lead Members following the confirmation of the Council Diary.

### Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	People 5 January 2024
Council:	N/A

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. The Cumberland Constitution (Part 3, Section 5 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) sets out that Overview and Scrutiny committees will consider the following items at their meetings:

### **16 PROCEDURE AT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### *16.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall consider the following business:*

- 16.1.1 minutes of the last meeting;*
- 16.1.2 declarations of interest (including whipping declarations);*
- 16.1.3 consideration of any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision;*
- 16.1.4 responses of the Executive to reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;*
- 16.1.5 Councillor's Call for Action; and*
- 16.1.6 the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.*

- 1.2. The minutes of the last meeting are considered as a separate agenda item and the Chair will seek declarations of interest at the start of each scrutiny meeting. This Committee Update Report will provide detail on references to the committee, responses of the Executive and any Councillors Call for Action

## **2. References to People Scrutiny Committee**

- 2.1. None

## **3. Councillors Call for Action**

- 3.1. None

## **4. Responses of Executive to People Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1. None.

## **5. Update since the last Committee in November**

- 5.1. The People Scrutiny met on 3 November and received a report on the CQC Inspection Preparations.
- 5.2. Work is underway in response to Member recommendations from these items.

## **6. Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

- 6.1. The most recent Forward Plan of Key Decisions is published on the Cumberland Council website.

<https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=125&RP=312>

## **7. Work Planning**

7.1. Currently the Committee is awaiting confirmation of the Council Diary for 2024-25. Once this is published the Committee will agree alternating children's and adults' themed sessions with at least one joint children's and adults' session. Based on previous meetings the Committee has agreed to the following being on the work programme:

- Family Wellbeing – an evidence based report, to include case studies, status of health checks, family hub development, pressures and support for schools and evidence to show if the Programme had reduced the need for high level services, be received by the Committee in September;
- Education – an update on educational attainment and work specifically to address narrowing the attainment gap for children known to a social worker and disadvantaged children.
- Education – an update on elective home education.
- Children's Workforce – a paper setting out the children's workforce challenges in the Council and partners (including the NHS) and steps to address workforce sufficiency.
- Equity and Equality in Education Strategy update – looking at how the Council has implemented its ambition for a more inclusive system of SEND education.
- Care Quality Commission – An update on progress in addressing a) understanding of the needs of the community, b) assurance to Members on adult safeguarding arrangements, c) assurance to Members on workforce sufficiency and skills.

7.2 Depending on the outcome of the discussions with officers on 1 March, Members may also consider further items on transitions from children's to adults' services and migration support programmes.

7.3 **Educational attainment further clarification:** Following the previous committee a Member asked the officers presenting on the Virtual School and educational attainment several questions, including questions specifically relating to whether there was differential between Academies and Locally Maintained schools. In response to the question the Member was advised that there is limited value in making Cumberland academy to Locally Maintained school comparisons as the majority of schools are Locally Maintained, so there may be year on year fluctuations in academy results. The further attainment data sent in response to the Member's questions has been attached with this report.

## 8. Proposals

8.1. Consider the proposed work programme and informal sessions and suggest any items that could be considered at the next Tripartite sessions.

## **9. Alternative options considered**

- 9.1. Members consider an alternative approach to work planning.

## **10. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 10.1. This report provides an overview of current scrutiny work. Members are asked to agree the recommendations in order to ensure that scrutiny activity remains effective and focussed on Cumberland Council's strategic priorities.

### **Contact details:**

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### **Appendices attached to report:**

- Further attainment data in response to subsequent Member questions.

### **Background papers:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

## Education Attainment 2023

	Baseline Cumberland (AY 2021-22)	End of Q1/Q2 2023 (AY 2022-23)	Cumberland Direction of Travel (Last Year)	National 2022-23	Cumberland Academy (Ay 2022- 23)	Cumberland LA Maintained (AY 2022-23)
<b>Early Years Foundation Stage Profile</b>						
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> with Good Level of Development	59.7%	65.0%	Up	67.2%	65.6%	64.9%
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils with good level of development	36.8%	46.7%	Up	52.0%	40.9%	47.5%
<b>Key Stage 1</b>						
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> with achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths combined.	50.0%	53.5%	Up	56.0%	52.5%	53.1%
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths combined.	30.3%	36.6%	Up	40.1%	35.0%	36.7%
<b>Key stage 2</b>						
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.	50.6%	53.7%	Up	59.5%	55.8%	54.0%
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.	32.3%	36.3%	Up	44.0%	37.4% *	35.7% *
Progress of <b>all pupils</b> KS1-KS2 in Reading	-0.58	-0.45	Up	0.0	-0.46	-0.43
Progress of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils KS1-KS2 in Reading	-1.13	-0.60	Up	-0.90	-0.91 *	-0.71 *
Progress of <b>all pupils</b> KS1-KS2 in Writing	-0.33	-0.36	Down	0.0	-0.19	-0.34
Progress of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils KS1-KS2 in Writing	-1.39	-0.97	Up	-0.70	-0.44 *	-1.03 *
Progress of <b>all pupils</b> KS1-KS2 in Maths	-1.27	-1.15	Up	0.0	-1.48	-1.12
Progress of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils KS1-KS2 in Maths	-2.27	-2.18	Up	-1.10	-2.67 *	-2.31 *
<b>GCSE</b>						

Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> – Attainment 8 score	46.2	43.2	Down	46.4	44.5	44.0
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils – Attainment 8 score	34.4	31.6	Down	35.1	32.5 *	33.5 *
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> – Progress 8 score	-0.24	-0.28	Down	-0.03	-0.14	-0.22
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils – Progress 8 score	-0.87	-0.94	Down	-0.57	-0.86 *	-0.84 *
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> – English/Maths Grade 4+	64.9	60.4	Down	65.2	62.3	61.9
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils – English/Maths Grade 4+	40.5	35.0	Down	43.3	36.1 *	38.5 *
Proportion of <b>all pupils</b> – English/Maths Grade 5+	43.7	37.3	Down	45.4	39.9	39.4
Proportion of <b>disadvantaged</b> pupils – English/Maths Grade 5+	21.5	17.9	Down	25.2	19.4 *	22.1% *
<b>A'Level/Key stage 5 (All State Funded Schools and Colleges – cohort 1606 in 2023)</b>						
Average points per entry (best 3 subjects)	34.6 (C+)	33.6 (C+)	Same	34.5 (C+)	33.0 (C+)	32.1 (C+)
Average points per A'Level entry	35.2 (B-)	31.8 (C+)	Down	34.0 (C+)	33.1 (C+)	32.1 (C+)
Average points per Academic entry	35.1 (B-)	31.8 (C+)	Down	34.1 (C+)	33.2 (C+)	32.1 (C+)
Average points per Applied General entry	32.4 (Dist-)	30.9 (Dist-)	Same	29.5 (Merit+)	31.9 (Dist-)	31.2 (Dist-)
Average points per Technical Level entry	36.0 (Dist)	31.7 (Dist-)	Down	28.5 (Merit+)	37.1 (Dist+)	36.5 (Dist)

**\* NB: Pupil Premium disadvantaged data not available – FSM eligibility has been used instead**

# NB: RAG Ratings calculated as follows: Green = within 5% of national, Amber = within 5-10% of national and Red = 10% or more from national.