

TERMS OF REFERENCE – SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES WORKING GROUP

The Supporting Children & Strengthening Families is a working group established by Barrow Local Committee for the purpose of advising the Local Committee on decision making with regard to supporting children, young people and families in the Barrow Borough area.

The Working Group will advise and inform the Local Committee on its priorities, focusing on the key theme(s) in the Barrow Borough area as identified through members on the group. It will ensure its objectives link in with Cumbria County Council Plan, Barrow Area Planning, Children's Services and Partners' priorities. This will allow for focus of the Working Group to strategically scrutinise, influence, support and address particular issues on a locality basis.

The Working Group can make funding recommendations to Barrow Local Committee on strategic grant application requests from non-profit making/voluntary organisations where such projects meet the priorities of the Working Group.

At its first meeting, the group shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair who will remain in office for one year, after which the positions will be open to re-election. The facilitation of the Working Group will be provided by the County Council's Community Development Team and also supported by officers from Cumbria County Council's Children's Services.

Name of the Group

The group shall be known as the Barrow Local Committee Supporting Children and Strengthening Families Working Group.

Admission of Public and Press to Meetings

As this Working Group does not come within the definition subscribed by section 100 (j) (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it has not been constituted under any enactment as a corporate body and that it does not discharge functions of two or more principal Councils, it does not fall within the provisions of the admission of the press and public to meetings or access to information.

If the Working Group wish to or feel the need to they can open their meetings to the press and public with the proviso that the provision of Part 1 and Part 2 agenda items could apply should the need arise.

Core Membership

4 Cumbria County Council Barrow Local Committee Elected Members
Children's Services Representation
Children in Care Council Representative
Public Health Representation
Integrated Care Community Representation
2 Barrow Borough Council Elected Members
Barrow Borough Council Officer Representation
Barrow Police Representation
Voluntary Sector Representation

Cessation of Membership

Should any member of the Working Group cease to be an Elected Member of Cumbria County Council or Barrow Borough Council then they shall also cease to be a member of the Working Group.

Substitute Members

To allow for the appointment of substitutes on those occasions when a Member of the Working Group is unable to attend a meeting.

Disclosure of Interests

Members should disclose personal and/or prejudicial interests relating to any agenda items.

Co-option

The Working Group shall have the power to co-opt other persons; representatives of agencies; members of the community; specialist technical advisors; or any other persons having regard to any support they can offer the Working Group.

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be held every 2 months and diaried in advance, taking into account the timescales of Local Committee meetings so as to coincide with the production of information and allow effective decision making by the Barrow Local Committee.

Confidentiality

Due to the nature of the work, the Working Group will adhere to a strict code of confidentiality regarding information on individual young people and their families. Any issues surrounding Child Protection will be dealt with through County Council policies and procedures.