14-19 Education in Cumbria Developing a Transport Policy in a Very Rural Context

Key Issues

And Possible Solutions

Building pride in Cumbria

Beacon Authority 2008-2009 Better Brighter Futures

Cumbria County Council

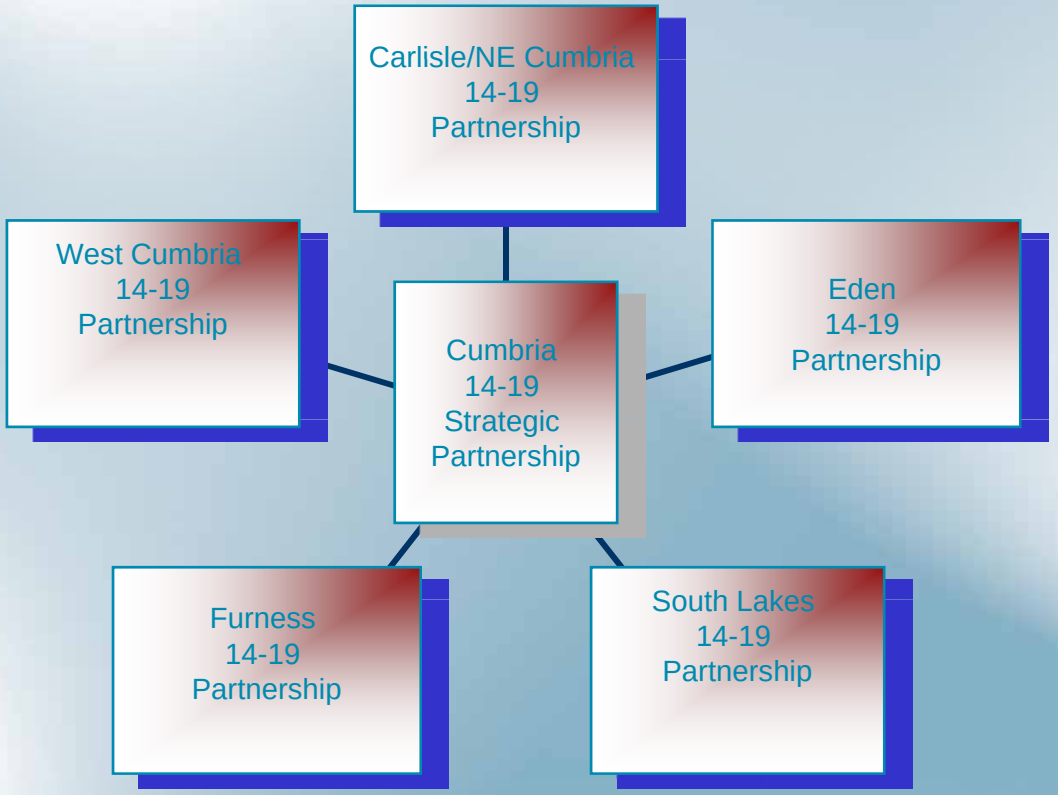
Goals of the 14-19 Reforms

- Ensure all young people participate in learning until at least their 18th birthday to achieve their full potential
- Develop the skills required for the economy to prosper
- Close the achievement gap by giving all young people the opportunity to succeed

The Cumbrian Context

- Third most sparsely populated county in England.
- Long history of developing collaborative provision in five ‘travel to learn’ area 14-19 partnerships.
- Continued to support home to learning transport for 16-19 year olds after 1993/2002

Cumbria 14-19 Partnership(s) Structure



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Cumbria 14-19 Strategy

- Focus on delivering the universal entitlement.
- Leadership, governance and management.
- Learning, curriculum and qualifications.
- Access – impartial, expert information, advice and guidance, September Guarantee, District Prospectus, E-ILP, personalisation, targeted support, **transport to collaborative courses**.

The Statutory 14-19 Landscape

DCSF 14-19 Next Steps

- 13-19 entitlement, curriculum and routes
- Raising of the Compulsory Participation Age
- Area Partnership planning supported by central county services

Raising Expectations

- 2010 transfer of 16-19 responsibilities to Local Authority
- Commissioning plan to identify strategic priorities from area analysis
- Duty to secure access to entitlement for all

Commissioning Decisions

- Must take into account planned delivery of the 14-19 reforms;
- Must be based on informed learner choice; and
- Must be made jointly with local authority partners, employers and providers.

The County Commissioning Process

- Detailed area level analysis and modelling of learner density, potential demand (learner and employer) and local capacity to provide.
- Area based planning of delivery including Information, Advice and Guidance, employer engagement and transport arrangements.
- Match with County commissioning specification.
- Entitlement gaps identified, cross area provision secured and new provision developed.

14-19 Implementation
Thorny Transport Issues in Cumbria

- Population density and falling school rolls
- Securing equality of access to entitlement wherever young people reside
- Protecting discretionary transport budget for 16-19 until compulsory learning age is raised in 2013
- Additional costs of transport for collaboration 14-16
- Ambiguity of relationship with other national drivers and relationship with county transport strategy

Some Solutions

- Countywide co-ordination, planning and procurement from 2004.
- Flexibility in operation of home to school transport policy during transition.
- Communication with partner providers in schools, FE colleges and business.