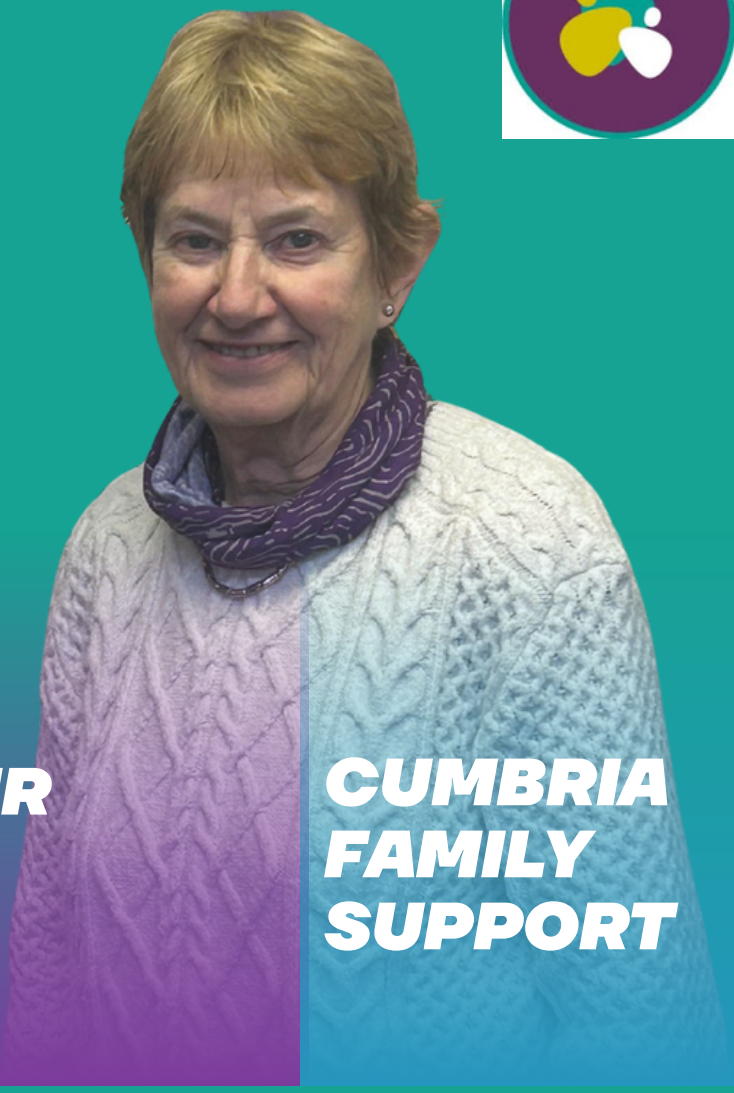
TRUSTEE CASE STUDY



CHRISTINE RENOUF

CHAIR

CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT

ABOUT

Christine Renouf is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Cumbria Family Support. Christine has been with the Board for the last 8 years, and has been the Chair for the last 4 years. Christine came to Cumbria when she retired, and wanted to volunteer with a local community group. Her background was within the Voluntary Sector, and she ran a charity that gave a voice to children in care. We asked Christine what interested her in becoming a Trustee for Cumbria Family Support.

'I was particularly attracted to Cumbria Family Support, because they do what I believe in really strongly, and that's work with families at the earlier stage, when they are first beginning to experience problems, and needing help to cope. We stay with families as long as they need us, so it's not cut off under some artificial time limit'.

WHY DOES CHRISTINE ENJOY BEING A TRUSTEE

'I'm working with a really good team of volunteer trustees, all of whom are commited to the organisation. I've found I've still got the skills I had when I worked, and it's an opportunity to use those and see them benefiting. We are an organisation that has alot of volunteers delivering our service, and I can see that those volunteers bring something special to work with familiies and make a difference'.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING A CHAIR OF TRUSTEES FOR CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT

The Trustee Board meetings are held every 2 months. Christine line manages the Chief Executive, and they meet round every 6 weeks. As Christine has run a charity herself, she understands the challenges, which is helpful in enabling her to support the charity's CEO; Christine know's how important the relationship is between the Board and CEO.
A governance review is carried out every 3 years, which includes a Skills Audit. This helps them to identify any gaps in skills within the Board, which are relevant to the aims and objectives of the organisation, and need to be filled.

'It's an opportunity to work with like minded people, with an organisation where I see it makes a difference'.

HOW HAVE CUMBRIA CVS SUPPORTED CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT IN RECRUITING TRUSTEES

- *Cumbria Family Support have always used Cumbria CVS to promote their trustee. vacancies. Their last 3 trustees have come through CCVS*
- *They recently attended an online Trustee Recruitment event that CCVS organised, where Christine presented.*
- *They attend the many volunteer fairs that CCVS host across Cumbria*
- *They have signed up the CCVS Volunteering Opportunities Database* where they can list any current Trustee vacancies
- They receive regular updates on CCVS training opportunities, workshops and events and attend/share information where relevant

WHAT 3 WORDS WOULD CHRISTINE USE TO DESCRIBE HER TRUSTEE EXPERIENCE

SATISFYING **REAFFIRMING** **FUN**

WHAT PIECE OF INFORMATION/TOOL/PRACTICE HAVE CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT USED FROM CCVS, IN RELATION TO VOLUNTEERING

'Since attending the CVS Supporting and Recognising training session, our Volunteer Coordinator has started sending birthday cards to volunteers, as well as a yearly recognition pin badge, with their number of years of volunteering '.

WHAT OTHER VOLUNTEER ROLES DO YOU HAVE AT CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT

- *Family Time Centre Volunteers. Their Family Time Centres in Kendal and Carlisle provide a safe, friendly and neutral place for children to reconnect with their non-resident parent*
- *Family Support Volunteers, who help local families experiencing stress, emotional or practical difficulties, ill health, disabilities, or those in need of parenting support*
- *Parents Forum. Parents who are receiving support from Cumbria Family Support can join this Forum, who meet once per term. Trustees also attend this Parent Forum*
- *Administrative Volunteer*

WHAT 3 WORDS WOULD CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT USE TO DESCRIBE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH CCVS

ACCESSIBLE **KNOWLEDGEABLE** **SUPPORTIVE**

HEAR MORE ABOUT THE SUPPORT CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT HAVE RECEIVED FROM CUMBRIA CVS IN RELATION TO VOLUNTEERING

CHRISTINE RENOUF, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES CUMBRIA FAMILY SUPPORT