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Dr Carolyn Otley  
Chair of Cumbria Community Resilience Group

for distribution

To you all

Writing as The Queen's Representative in Cumbria I want to thank you all enormously for whatever part you have played to support our communities during the last few months of the Covid-19 crisis. Working together and stepping up to meet all challenges, everyone of you has made a difference contributing to the wellbeing of thousands of people in Cumbria.

Cumbria has had its fair share of disasters over recent years but if any good that could be said to have emerged from these it is that they have provided our emergency planning teams with the experience and expertise which is currently so evident in their responsive and inclusive management of the current crisis.

We can all be very proud of the way the structure of resilience groups, hubs, helplines and the Support Cumbria website has been so effective in communicating countywide but, equally importantly, in recruiting and harnessing the skills of an unprecedented number of willing volunteers. They in turn have engaged with and supported hundreds of organisations and people. The sense of collegiality and neighbourliness that you all have generated has been incredibly heartening and uplifting and a reason for great pride in the spirit of Cumbrians.

So many of you have played a part in this structure whether at the centre or in your organisations or local communities and have given generously of your time, expertise and local knowledge. I do hope that this way of co-ordinated working, bringing the public and voluntary sectors together more closely, will endure beyond this pandemic; it has to be the best way to support our vulnerable people.

Let us hope that there will be some respite for us all over the summer and pray that we manage to keep the virus at bay when the cooler temperatures of the autumn arrive.

Thank you all again

Yours sincerely

Claire Hensman