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## Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

### Date: Tuesday, 1st June, 2010

Time: 10.30 am

### Venue: Delamere 1 Floor 2, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe, CW1 2J2

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

#### PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010.

#### 3. Declaration of Interest/Party Whip

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests and for members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda.

#### 4. Public Speaking Time/Open Session

For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be<br/>asked by a member of the publicContact:Mark NeddermanTel:01270 686459E-Mail:mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public notified the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting with brief details of the matter to be covered.

#### 5. Work Programme update (Pages 7 - 18)

To consider a report of the Borough Solicitor.

#### 6. Forward Plan - extracts (Pages 19 - 20)

To note the current Forward Plan, identify any new items and to determine whether any further examination of new issues is appropriate

#### 7. Standard Assessment Tests (SAT's) Boycott

The Services Manager Improvement & Achievement, Children Services, to provide an oral update on the impact within Cheshire East of the recent boycott by some schools of this years SAT's

#### 8. **Consultations from Cabinet**

To note any consultations referred to the Committee from Cabinet and to determine whether any further action is appropriate.

## Agenda Item 2

### **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children and Families Scrutiny Committee** held on Monday, 22nd March, 2010 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

#### PRESENT

Councillor R Westwood (Chairman) Councillor D Neilson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Beckford, D Flude, J Goddard, G Merry, M Parsons, S Davies, W Livesley and S Wilkinson

#### **Apologies**

Councillors A Kolker, M Simon and T Jackson

#### 80 ALSO PRESENT

Mr G Roper – Co-opted Member Councillor P Findlow Children and families Portfolio Holder Councillor R Bailey – Cabinet Support Member

#### 81 OFFICERS PRESENT

Lorraine Butcher - Head of Children's and Family Services Mark Bayley – Quality Assurance Manager Janet Smith – Strategic Implementation Lead – Be Healthy Paul Mossman – Services Manager – Integrated Delivery Mark Nedderman – Senior Scrutiny Officer

#### 82 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Councillor D Flude declared a personal interest on the grounds that she was a Director of EIPC LTD

#### 83 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 January and 12 February 2010 be approved as correct records.

#### 84 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no Members of the Public present who wished to address the Committee

#### 85 CHILDREN & FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORTING PROCESS : HIGH RISK INDICATORS

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – People relating to the reporting of performance across Children and Family Services.

The Committee had previously supported the establishment of a scorecard which focussed primarily on the 82 national Indicators which were reported upon by Children and Family Services.

The Children and Families team had undertaken work to evaluate performance following the quarter 3 period (October – December2009) which had identified a number of high risk indicators where there were concerns that targets over the year may not be met.

The paper highlighted the 13 high risk performance indicators and outlined actions planned which were:

NI 45	EET and young people who offend
NI 59	Initial assessments carried out within 7 days
NI 60	% if core assessments carried out within 35 days
NI 64	Duration on the child protection register
NI 68	% of referrals going on to initial assessment
NI 87	Secondary PA rate
NI 99	Cared for Children reaching Level 4 in English at KS2
NI 100	Cared for Children reaching Level 4 in Mathematics at KS2
NI 101	Cared for Children achieving 5A*-C or equivalent at KS4
	Including English and Maths
NI 102 a&b	Achievement Gap FSM v Non FSM
NI 112	Under 18 Conception rate
NI 117	16-18 NEET

An additional sheet was circulated detailing the percentage of inspected service providers judged to be outstanding/Good/satisfactory/inadequate for the period covered by quarter 3.

The Head of Services Children and Families answered members' questions in respect of each of the 13 high risk performance indicators.

RESOLVED – That the actions listed in Appendix A of the report to address key areas of underperformance be endorsed

#### 86 **REDUCING TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director People, relating to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and national targets as they related to Cheshire East and to support received from Government Office North West and the National Support Team.

The Committee had previously considered a report on Teenage Pregnancy on 14 September 2009 and had supported recommendations made by the National Support Team that the Council should work with PCT and other partners to finalise action and delivery plans.

The Government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, first launched in 1999, set out to halve the under 18 conception rate by 2010, compared to the 1998 baseline rate. This target

was reflected in NHS Vital Signs Indicator VSBO8 and in the Cheshire East Local Area Agreements, National Indicator 112.

Conception statistics were produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and were presented on a local authority, regional and national footprint. Data was presented at around 14 months after the period to which they related and was released annually in February. Data for 2008 was released in February 2010.

In 2007, Cheshire East Unitary Authority had an Under-18 conception rate of 34.9 per 1000 females aged 15-17. This represented an overall reduction of 8% since the 1998 baseline rate of 37.9 per 1000 for Cheshire East and was 16% lower than the England average of 41.7 per 1000. The most recent performance information published on 24 February 2010 for 2008 indicated that the overall national reduction was 13.3% and the Cheshire East reduction was 9.1%.

Cheshire East rates varied considerably between areas. For example the rates in the Congleton area were relatively low but had seen a rise over the 10 year period, whereas for Macclesfield, Crewe and Nantwich the under 18 conceptions were much higher, but had shown a small decrease in rate.

The 'hotspot wards' where the rates of under 18 conceptions were high, were those that had the highest index of multiple deprivation. The largest number being in Crewe.

Termination rates were a concern for Cheshire East, and again they varied with Congleton having a termination rate of 59%, Macclesfield 61% and Crewe and Nantwich 43%. Janet Smith Strategic Implementation Lead - 'Be Healthy', informed the Committee that the Council was concerned about outcomes for teenage parents and it was therefore important to reduce conceptions.

Lorraine Butcher Head of Children's Services stated that a key question the authority had to address was ' Are we commissioning the right sexual health services in Cheshire East for teenagers?

In June 2009, the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team (NST) visited Cheshire East and made a series of recommendations. As a result, a number of actions were taken including:

- The establishment of an Executive Board in October 2009, chaired by the PCT, including the Director of Public Health and Head of Children's Services
- The establishment of an Operational Group across Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester, chaired by an Associate Director of Public Health from the PCT. This group has agreed collaborative action on communications including campaigns; condom distribution and workforce development.
- The appointment of an Associate Director in Public Health from the PCT to be the PCT strategic lead along with a regional advisor from Government Office North West working with Cheshire East for two days per week to May 2010
- The completion of a Sexual Health Needs Assessment
- The establishment of a data group across Cheshire. Hot spots were identified and actions targeted in those areas.
- Young Advisors from Knowsley had undertaken a "mystery shopping" exercise and identified areas for improvement in access to young people friendly sexual health services which the PCT's Sexual Health Programme Board was incorporating as part of its redesign of sexual health services; work was in progress to establish a condom distribution scheme across Cheshire by 31 March 2010

- Connexions had completed a consultation survey with over 300 young people in Cheshire East on their views about sex and relationship information and advice
- The Radical Review of Sexual Health Services Planning event offered by a GONW team took place in January 2010.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained in the report by the National Support Team on contraceptive and sexual health services be noted and the steps being taken to formulate a more targeted programme of action to address the issue be endorsed.

#### 87 SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director People outlining the current position of the Council in relation to Sex and Relationship Education in schools and colleges.

Personal, Social and Health Education and particularly Sex and Relationship Education were recommended to become statutory for all schools from September 2011. The report outlined how Cheshire East would prepare for this requirement and how it would develop delivery mechanisms to support schools to implement this effectively.

The Council would be using 'Are We Getting It Right' toolkit with the young people of Cheshire East, to evaluate the impact and quality of the Sex and Relationship Education they received.

A workforce development strategy for Sex and Relationship Education was being developed and national standards published would be published as part of the new refreshed 'Teenage Pregnancy strategy 2010 and Beyond'. Tiered training would be given to the children's workforce.

Work with parents and carers would be developed further through a range of parenting programmes, for example local programmes such as 'Speak Easy' in Children's Centres, schools, and voluntary sector organisations.

#### RESOLVED -

That cabinet be informed that this committee supports the following recommendations:

- (a) That Cheshire East Council should work with the Healthy School programme to develop Sex and Relationship Education through the National Healthy Schools programme and the newly launched Enhanced Healthy Schools Model.
- (b) That Cheshire East Children's Trust should develop a model of linking effective Sex and Relationship Education with on site health services, including sexual health services, on school and college sites.
- (c) That children and young people be actively involved in an evaluation of their Sex and Relationship Education and sexual health provision.
- (d) That the children's workforce be trained to deliver the recommendations in (a)and (b) above

(e) That work be undertaken with parents and carers, using effective Sex and Relationships Education programmes, to enable them to talk to their children and young people in order to raise their aspirations.

#### 88 IMPLEMENTATION OF CARE MATTERS

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director People on the progress in the implementation of Care Matters.

The Care Matters White Paper, issued in 2007, set out an ambitious programme of change to improve the outcomes of children in care. Care Matters set out a vision to ensure that in the future, children in care would have the same opportunities in life as their peers – a good education, good health care, and consistent support, advice and practical help to give them strong foundations on which they can build happy and successful lives. Improving the lives of children in care must involve all local partners and professionals including local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, foster carers, residential care workers, social workers, GPs and other health care practitioners and teachers.

In 2008, the Government had published 'Care Matters – Time to Deliver for Children in Care' and an implementation plan. This plan marked a new phase in the Care Matters programme – a shift from developing policy nationally to delivering change locally. It aims to support local Children's Trusts, led by Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services, to transform outcomes for children and young people in care.

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) had agreed to review progress annually and in November 2009, the Minister had published an annual stock take. His report set out what the DCSF had achieved for children in care through the Care Matters programme of reform, and the plans for 2010.

The Minister in his letter to local authorities listed questions that Councillors should ask of their authority. This contained a response to those questions and set out what had been achieved so far in Cheshire East.

RESOLVED –That the progress made on the implementation of care matters be noted.

#### 89 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee reviewed the work programme, which had been updated at the mid-point meeting on 22 February 2010.

Two Task/Finish Panels were now underway – Review of Residential Provision and Family Support Services. The Review of Residential Provision Task and Finish Group was scheduled to complete its work by May and Members were recommended to consider identifying a new topic to scrutinise once the Group had finished.

The Chairman raised the possibility of undertaking a review in relation to ICT systems in the People directorate. The Strategic Director, People suggested that

any review of IT systems should be linked to overall plans to deliver the redesign of Childrens services.

RESOLVED -

- (a)- That the report be received and the work programme progress noted;
- (b) That a review of IT systems as they relate to the redesign of Children's Services be added to the work programme;
- (c) That consideration be given to the inclusion of an item to investigate the sufficiency of care provision in Cheshire East, particularly in relation to Foster carers.

#### 90 FORWARD PLAN - EXTRACTS

The Committee considered the current Forward Plan in relation to Children and Family Services.

RESOLVED: That the Forward Plan be noted.

#### 91 CONSULTATIONS FROM CABINET

There were no consultations from Cabinet.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.15 pm

Councillor R Westwood (Chairman)

## CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

### REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	1 June 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Work Programme update

#### 1.0 Report Summary

1.1 To review items in the 2009/2010 Work Programme, to consider new items listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee recommend a draft work programme for 2010/2011 to be subject to consultation with Cabinet.

#### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.
- 4.0 Wards Affected
- 4.1 All
- 5.0 Local Ward Members
- 5.1 Not applicable.
- 6.0 Policy Implications including Climate change - Health
- 6.1 Not known at this stage.
- 7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)
- 7.1 None identified at the moment.

## 8.0 Financial Implications 2010/11 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 Not known at this stage.

#### 9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None.

#### 10.0 Risk Management

10.1 There are no identifiable risks.

#### 11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 19 April 2010 approved a paper entitled 'Strengthening the Scrutiny Function' which proposed a more formal approach to the work programme setting process in 2010 to enable the views of Cabinet to be fed into the process. This approach was also considered and endorsed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group. The main aim of the new approach is to share work programmes with colleagues in Cabinet and Corporate Management Team (CMT) at the outset, so that Overview and Scrutiny becomes an integral part of the Corporate business planning process of the Council. Work programme items will subsequently be linked to relevant Corporate plan targets, and where appropriate, Performance Indicators and LAA targets.
- 11.2 It is intended that all emerging work programmes will be presented to Cabinet informally in June, and then each Committee will formally endorse its work programme before the summer recess. Children and Families will approve its work programme on 29 June 2010
- 11.3 This does not however preclude the committee from adding to or subtracting from the work programme during the year, nor does it affect the committee's powers to deal with call-ins, or items referred to it by Cabinet etc. However, care should be taken to ensure that there is sufficient leeway to allow for additional activities throughout the year.
- 11.4 The schedule attached, presents the work programme in a new format. This document will be updated when the final programme is formally approved at the next meeting, so that all the appropriate targets will be included within the schedule.
- 11.5.1 In reviewing the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the emerging Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. Both of these documents are currently in consultation stage and are expected to be adopted by Council in July.

- 11.6 The emerging Corporate Plan has 5 emerging strategic objectives which are:
  - Cheshire East people empowered through local services and personal choice
  - The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East
  - Closing the gap for everyone in Cheshire East
  - Enhancing our Cheshire East environment
  - Being an excellent Council and working with others to deliver in Cheshire East
- 11.6 The draft Sustainable Communities Strategy 'Ambition for All 'has 7 Priorities for action:
  - Nurture strong communities

Give people a strong local voice Support the community to support itself Deliver services as locally as possible Ensure communities feel safe

#### Create conditions for business growth

Harness emerging growth opportunities Provide a leading broadband infrastructure Make the most of our tourism, heritage and natural assets Create a climate attractive to business investment

#### • Unlock the potential of our towns

Regenerate Crewe Revitalise Macclesfield Deliver sustainable growth for our towns

#### • Support our children and young people

Ensure good transitions and skills for the future Improve support and facilities for children and young people Strengthen the voice of children and young people Improve the health of children and young people

#### • Ensure a sustainable future

Provide affordable and appropriate housing Encourage environmentally sustainable living Improve transport connections and accessible services Protect and enhance our heritage and countryside

#### • Prepare for an increasingly older population

Help people stay fit and active for longer

Improve care and support for those who need it

#### • Drive out the causes of poor health

Target actions to reduce heart disease and cancer Tackle the impact of alcohol misuse on individuals and society Focus local actions on the wider determinants of health

- 11.7 Members must also have regard to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate. Matters should be assessed against the following criteria:
  - Does the issue fall within a corporate priority
  - Is the issue of key interest to the public
  - Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation
  - Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends
  - Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
  - Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service
- 11.8 If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:
  - The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
  - The matter is subjudice
  - Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale
- 11.9 Two Task/Finish Groups are now underway Review of Residential Provision and Family Support Services. The Review of Residential Provision group has almost finished its deliberations, having recently met with representatives of the Children in Care Council. It also has a planned visit to view a short break facility in High Peak at the end of May. The Group aims to finalise its report in June for submission to this Committee on 29 June prior to forwarding the report and recommendations to Cabinet on 19 July.
- 11.10 The Family Support Services Group has met 3 times and is due to meet after today's meeting. The group has agreed its terms of

reference and most recently met with the Head of Children's Services and Children and Families Portfolio holder to discuss the vision for the future of family support services.

#### 12.0 Access to Information

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The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name:Mark NeddermanDesignation:Senior Scrutiny OfficerTel No:01270 686459Email:mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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## Children and Families Work Programme June 2010

Issue	Description / Comment	Suggested by	Portfolio Holder	Corporate Priority	Current Position(R,A,G)	Date
Safeguarding and Redesign of Children's Services	Committee to be kept updated on the current position with the redesign - Challenges and Opportunities, emerging work programme, update on redesign of integrated service delivery - and given the opportunity to comment	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Committee receives regular updates	On-going
Performance reporting	(key exceptions – red/amber and explanations/commentary) to include adoption rates, staffing information and profile of children in Cheshire East	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Submitted to Scrutiny on a 3 monthly basis	Every quarter
Corporate Parenting	Training event	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Completed	25 September 2010
Inspections	Committee to be informed of the outcome of any relevant inspections	Head of Children	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Report on Fostering Inspection due.	June 2010
Childrens Services Performance rating	Report on Performance rating				Completed Completed, possible	18 January 2010
Youth Offending Inspection	YOS Action plan to be considered at a future meeting				update in future Completed	18 January 2010

Fostering Inspection	Report on the outcome from inspection					18 January 2010
Review of Residential Provision	Task/Finish Group set up and underway	Head of Children and Families/Portfolio Holder	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Review nearing completion – see covering report for update.	Summer 10 to report to Committee
Family Support Services	Task/Finish Group set up	Head of Children and Families/Portfolio Holder	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East attainment	3 meetings held, next meeting on 1 June 2010	Autumn 2010
School Admissions Policy	Formerly TLC. Review completed	Head of Children and Families	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Scrutiny to be a consultee when a policy has been developed	November 09
Education Attainment	Headlines submitted when available and detailed analysis to follow	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Headlines submitted when available and detailed analysis to follow Identified as a high priority by Portfolio Holder in April 2010.	Ongoing
Early Years Funding Reform	Consultation	Cabinet	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Submit results of consultation exercise to meting when available	Completed 18 January 2010

Teenage Pregnancy – reduction	Committee to be kept updated on action taken as a result of the visit by the National Support Team	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Completed	22 March 2010
Post 16 Transfer of Funding to Local authorities		Head Of Children	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	No further action recommended	Transfer Completed in 2010
Children's centres	Investigation into the role and purpose of Childrens Centres	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Included in the scope of task and finish Group on Family Support Services	Autumn 2010
Transport for Young People	Access arrangements for young people in education and/or employment.	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Identified as a high priority by Portfolio holder in April 2010. Presentation on transport for young people in the wider context of the Integrated Transport unit expected	TBA
Draft Childrens' plan/ children's trust	Presentation on current position	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Further training agreed at meeting on 18 January 2010	ТВА
Teenage Pregnancy Reduction	Committee to be kept updated on action taken as a result of the visit by the National support team		P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Report considered by the Committee in March 2010	Completed

Budget	Scrutiny Consulted on draft budget 2010/2011		P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Committee represented on Budget Consultation Group preparing for the 2011/12 Budget	Ongoing
Analysis of School Performance	Connected with the Educational attainment item	Committee	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To be included in School attainment (as above)	ТВА
School Status Report			P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	No action required at the moment	ТВА
Schools White Paper	Presentation		P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Completed	18 January 2010
Sex and Relationships Education (		Referred from Health Scrutiny)	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Completed	March 2010
IT Systems	Review of IT systems as they relate to the redesign of children's services	Committee 22 March 2010	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		ТВА
Foster Services	Review of adequacy	Committee 22 March 2010	P Findlow	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		ТВА
Connexions – Value for money	Investigation recommended in light of funding reductions in the North West	P Findlow	H Gaddum	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		ТВА
Every Child matters	Re visit	Chairman	H Gaddum	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		ТВА

NEET's –	availability of schemes for college places entry into employment etc	Councillor Beckford	H Gaddum	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	ТВА
CRB checks for Members and Corporate Parenting.		Councillor Parsons	H Gaddum	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	ТВА

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# Agenda Item 6

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision
CE09/10-37 Review of Children's Homes Provision	To decide how children's homes placements will be provided to ensure good outcomes for cared for children in Cheshire East.	Cabinet	19 Jul 2010

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