

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 19th October, 2010
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

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 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 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 asked by a member of the public

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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. **Special Educational Needs Review** (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive a report on the Children and Families review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision and progress made to date.

6. **Academies Update** (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive an update on the Academies Act 2010 and its subsequent financial implications for both Academies and the Local Authority (LA).

7. **Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Local Authority Children's Services** (Pages 17 - 30)

To consider a report of the Director of Children's Services

8. **Biannual Report for Regulation 33 Visits - Cheshire East Children's Homes** (Pages 31 - 36)

To receive a Bi-Annual Report for Regulation 33 Visits

9. **Frequency of Meetings**

Members to consider the frequency and form of meetings going forward.

10. **Work Programme update** (Pages 37 - 52)

To give consideration to the work programme

11. **Forward Plan - extracts** (Pages 53 - 54)

To give consideration to the extracts of the forward plan which fall within the remit of the Committee.

12. **Consultations from Cabinet**

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

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children and Families Scrutiny Committee**
held on Tuesday, 7th September, 2010 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

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

Councillors A Barratt, D Beckford, D Flude, J Goddard, A Kolker, W Livesley,
G Merry, M Parsons, A Ranfield and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors T Jackson and M Simon

1 OFFICERS PRESENT

Mark Nedderman
Mark Grimshaw
Fintan Bradley
Rob Hyde

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Councillor D Flude declared a Personal interest on the grounds that she was a
Director of EIPC Ltd.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the
Committee.

Prior to moving to the first agenda item, the Chairman wished to draw attention to
the excellent education results recently achieved in Cheshire East and to
congratulate everyone involved, most of all the students. It was noted that the
results placed Cheshire East as the 2nd best local authority in the North West with
an average 6% improvement from last year.

4 REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

The Committee considered the final report of the Task/Finish Group who
conducted a Scrutiny Review of Residential Provision.

As Chairman of the Task/Finish Group, Councillor Neilson was invited to
introduce the report and to go through certain items which might need further
explanation or clarification. The Committee was informed that the group had been
set up with some very clear guidelines. These were to scrutinise the residential
provision that Cheshire East provided, evaluate the efficacy of these services and

then subsequently come to some conclusions regarding a possible way forward in future practice. Councillor Neilson explained however, that as the review progressed it became clear that some elements of care that were perhaps outside of the group's remit, such as fostering, required some comment and as a result these were included in the report.

Councillor Neilson continued to go through the report and explained certain items which might need further clarification. For instance, it was noted that the phrase 'in house' used in the report refers to those services within the *geographical* area of Cheshire East, not just those provided by the Council. It was suggested and agreed that when referring to services provided in the area of Cheshire East but not those provided by the Council, then these should be described as being 'in borough'.

In concluding, Councillor Neilson made it clear to the Committee that residential care should always be the last resort. Whilst there was recognition that there would always be a need for residential care, the group had reached the agreement that early intervention was the best way forward. Not only would this reduce the need for residential care thereby reducing cost, most importantly it provided the best outcome for Cheshire East's cared for and vulnerable children and young people.

Prior to considering the recommendations, attention was drawn to the fact that the report had made some recommendations about certain elements of care which were the responsibility of the Corporate Parenting Board. It was suggested and agreed that this is made clear in the summary at the beginning of the report.

The Committee discussed each recommendation in turn and after detailed consideration they were approved.

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider some additional paragraphs that would be inserted into the report. These were discussed and agreed.

As portfolio holder, Councillor Gaddum was asked when Cabinet might be able to bring back a response to Committee. The Committee was informed that a response could be available in late October but there was a request for flexibility considering the fact that budgetary decisions would be given priority during the next couple of months.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report of the Task/Finish group be welcomed and supported;
- b) That the recommendations of the Group be endorsed, and referred to the Cabinet for consideration and necessary action, and that the Cabinet be invited initially to comment on the details of the recommendations;
- c) That the response of Cabinet be considered by the Task/Finish Group in due course;
- d) That the Task/Finish Group be requested to keep progress under review, and to report further on the implementation of the Report's recommendations in 12 -18 months time.
- e) That the Committee offer their thanks to Councillor Neilson and the task/finish group membership for their hard work and excellent report.

- f) That a thank you is extended to Denise French for her scrutiny support and drafting skills.

5 MACCLESFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND MACCLESFIELD SCHOOL REVIEW

Prior to receiving the presentation from the relevant officers, the Chairman outlined that this was an opportunity for the Committee to make comments on and give input into the design of the consultation process rather than a discussion on the actual options.

Fintan Bradley and Rob Hyde, Organisation and Capital Strategy Manager attended to provide a short presentation to outline the latest position at the mid point of the informal consultation process which ended on 8 October.

It was explained that the purpose of the presentation was to bring the committee up to speed on where the process was currently at, provide some preliminary conclusions and then go through the next steps.

Fintan Bradley reported on the consultation on the future of Macclesfield High School and referred to the report previously heard by the Committee on the 29 June 2010.

The Committee was made aware that there has been four consultation events already held and that these were very well attended. The Council had also set up a website with a number of FAQs to provide as much information to the public as possible. It was reported that the Council had constructed a list of 10 possible options for the future of Macclesfield High School and as a result of the consultation process to date, they had received a further 19 options. It was explained that many of these were variations on particular themes. These were as follows:

- Rationalisation
- Federation
- Closure
- Cap Entry
- College
- Super Head
- Super Primary School
- UTC – Universities that Count programme

It is likely that there would be further options raised at the consultation events on the 15th (Macclesfield Town Hall) and 16th (Macclesfield Football Club) September. Attempts have been made to engage with all relevant stakeholders but the Committee was informed that there have been some notable exceptions at this point. An external consultant was to be appointed to provide support and to act as a 'critical friend' during the process.

It was explained that the evaluation criteria had not been finalised and that the observations and advice of the Committee would form an essential part of the validation of the process.

Considering the large volume of options, it was made clear that an evaluation criteria was required that was able to reduce the number in a fair but effective

manner. As a result, it was reported that the criteria had a number of fundamental principles that the option must have met if it was to be considered viable. These were as follows:

- Addresses surplus places
- Improves Achievement (choice, added value and exam results)
- Affordability (capital and revenue)
- Sustainability (brand, transport, asset utilisation, micro costs)
- Deliverability (disruption, leadership, transport and time frame)

The Committee was also made aware that a review panel (approx. 8 members) had been established which included the Children and Families portfolio holder, key officers and representatives from the Diocese and Admissions Forum among its membership.

It was reported that a decision by the Children and Families portfolio holder would be made on 1 November as to whether or not to go forward with a formal consultation. If this were to go ahead there would be a 6 week formal consultation period leading up to 22 December 2010. Following this, a further 6 week period for representatives would take place, ending on 18 February 2010. Any implementation of possible options would continue from the beginning of March 2011.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their proposal and commended them for their work on a difficult issue.

RESOLVED – That the Committee endorse the robustness of the process and the proposed timescales.

6 ANNUAL UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTRACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Fintan Bradley reported on the annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Local Authority Children's Services.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the Committee note the report and note the significant progress that has been made.
- b) That the improvement plan be brought to this Committee in the near future.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.00 pm

Councillor R Westwood (Chairman)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2010

Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services

Subject/Title: Special Educational Needs Review

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee of the Children and Families review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision and progress made to date.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee comment on the scope of the review, note the progress made in the review and request further updates on progress during the course of the review.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Ensure the appropriate scrutiny of the SEN review as it progresses

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The full impact of the review's proposal on Council policies is still emerging as the review progresses.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 Clearly there will be financial implications from the emerging proposals but these are yet to be fully developed.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 To be developed

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 Many proposals from the review will have to adhere to the current legislation and regulations relating to SEN and school organisation. The Coalition Government has published a Green Paper on SEN and any proposals will have regard to any future legislation.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The financial position of Children and Families will impact on the ability to deliver an appropriate range of provision. Therefore, savings realised by not placing and transporting children and young people with SEN across and out of borough in specialist provision could be used to develop more local provision.

11.0 Background

11.1 Cheshire East has a number of legacy policies, guidance and provisions for children and young people with SEN. Since Local Government Reorganisation the range of provision, both specialist and resourced has been significantly reduced and the policy and practices of the former County Council need revising and updating.

11.2 The review is also taking place at a time when the Coalition Government has issued a Green Paper in which they are considering a range of options, including:-

- how to give parents a choice of educational settings that can meet their child's needs
- transforming funding for children with SEN and disabilities and their families,
- making the system more transparent and cost-effective while maintaining a high quality of service
- preventing the unnecessary closure of special schools and involving parents in any decisions about the future of special schools
- supporting young people with SEN and disabilities post-16 to help them succeed after education
- improving diagnosis and assessment to identify children with additional needs earlier

11.3 In Autumn 2009, initial work was undertaken by Senior Officers to scope current/initial arrangements for meeting the needs of pupils with SEN in Cheshire East. This involved a statistical review of SEN numbers, placements and progress.

11.4 The underlying principle of the review is to ensure that the Local Authority provides a sustainable service which provides best value for money and is transparent and accountable and that it improves levels of educational achievement and attainment for pupils with SEN. The review must enhance opportunities for all pupils to have an entitlement, if appropriate, to be educated in mainstream schools. Furthermore, it should ensure effective integrated partnerships to ensure pupils with the most complex needs have access to appropriate highly specialised local provision, early and effective intervention and an effective integrated approach to service delivery for children and their families

11.5 The review has five work streams

- Resource provision and services for SEN
- SEN funding
- Pathways and Access to SEN services
- Specialist provision
- Policy, guidance and protocols

11.6 **Resource provision and services for SEN.**

This work stream is currently examining the location, roles, practice and impact of the 11 primary and 6 secondary resourced provisions attached to mainstream schools across the borough. The group is examining pupil attainment and achievement in these settings and the range of delivery models. Headteachers, pupils and parents are being consulted on the roles of the provision and on the development of future models of delivery. This group is also reviewing the central support services for SEN pupils and how this is delivered to schools. The impact of such a service on outcomes for children is also under review.

11.7 **SEN funding**

The funding of individual pupils with SEN, without a statement, in mainstream schools continues to rely on an expensive bureaucratic assessment process which is perceived not to deliver funding to support individual pupils in a timely way.

The Local Management of Schools (LMS) Funding Formula review group is looking at ways of devolving as much Individual Pupil Funding (IPF) through school budgets. This will result in decisions around

support to individual pupils being delivered in a timely fashion avoiding the need to escalate issues resulting in more costly interventions.

In July this year the Coalition Government issued a consultation paper on the schools formula and the Pupil Premium. The Pupil Premium is intended to be targeted at pupils with additional needs including SEN. The formula review group, whilst continuing to work on the models of mainstream funding are delaying the review of IPF element until the Pupil Premium proposals become clearer.

The group is not reviewing the Special School Funding formula as this was undertaken two years ago and it is just bedding in.

11.8 Pathways and Access to SEN Services

One most common cause of complaint and frustration by parents and teachers of children with SEN is how to access appropriate support and advice in a timely fashion. This working group is reviewing current pathways and access arrangements to services, support and advice. The group is seeking the views of parents in identifying blockages in the systems and to help develop clear pathways to advice, guidance and support in relation to children and young people with SEN.

11.9 Specialist provision

The Local Government Review resulted in Cheshire having only 4 of the 14 SEN schools that existed in the former County Council. The borough has 2 all age special schools that cater for children with severe and complex needs and 2 that cater for secondary aged pupils with behaviour, social and emotional needs. As a result of the disaggregation the authority is increasingly reliant on other Local Authority schools to cater for some children whose needs cannot be met in our schools and maintains a reliance on the independent sector for some complex cases. This work stream is examining the current and projected demand for special schools places and will make costed proposals to establish a high quality range of provision that meets the needs of children and their families in the borough. The group is also planning the establishment of Pupil Referral Unit in the borough.

11.10 Policy, guidance and protocols

The authority has inherited a range of strategies, policies and guidance from the former County Council. Whilst much of this documentation remains relevant it does not sit in one document and does not reflect the aims and ambitions of Cheshire East Council. This work stream, in consultation with schools and parents, is reviewing all the policies and guidance in detail and will bring forward proposals later in this academic term.

12.0 Access to Information

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

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2010
Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services
Subject/Title: Academies Update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel on the Academies Act 2010 which received Royal assent in July 2010. The report also provides an update on the financial implications for both Academies and the Local Authority (LA).
- 1.2 There are currently two confirmed Academies in Cheshire East:-
 - Fallibroome High School (1 September 2010)
 - Brine Leas High School (2 September 2010)
 - Sandbach High School (anticipated 1 November 2010)

2.0 Decision requested

- 2.1 That the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel notes the report and request further updates at regular intervals
- 2.2 Request further reports as Academies evolve in Cheshire East.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the ongoing development of Academies in Cheshire East

4.0 Wards Affected

All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 There are significant policy implications resulting from the Academies Act 2010 in relation to:-

- Land Transfer
- Transfer of Employees
- Property and Asset Transfer
- Finance
- Governance

- 6.2 The land and buildings occupied by the school will be transferred to the Academy Trust so that they are available for use by the Academy. The exact arrangements depend on the type of school, i.e. Community Schools, Foundation (or Trust) School or Voluntary and whether public land, private land, or combination of the two involved. Mixed public/private land may require lease arrangements with private owner to LA and sub-lease to Academy Trust. The Secretary of State (SoS) is to have increased powers over provision of land for Academies and greater powers of intervention in disputes. The protection of public element of mixed ownership land on closure of an Academy is to be safeguarded along with public purse investment in buildings.
- 6.3 Transfer of Undertaking Protection Employment Regulations (TUPE) - automatic transfer of employees – applies to all teaching and non-teaching employees to Academy Trust. Schools transferring are required to provide Information and fulfil their consultation obligations with staff and their representatives. There are some timing implications regarding September 2010 academies/pre-transfer access and related indemnities. Converting schools could be open to challenge on the length of this process due to the summer holidays. There are implications for LA service staff and there is the potential for redundancies should Academies choose not to buy back from LA services. With regard to pensions, the Academies will be regarded as the 'scheme employer' and, therefore, are required to notify the administering authority of the change of status.
- 6.4 There will be other property and assets that will need to be transferred and there is a need for an asset transfer agreement (including employee provisions) to be drawn up.

The following will need to be considered as part of the transfer:-

- Assets/liabilities
- Surplus/ Deficit budgets
- List of contracts
- With LA or third parties
- Transfer or renegotiate?
- Software licences
- Books and records (NB Data Protection)

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 7.1 There are substantial financial implications for the Council following the transfer. This ranges from funding allocated by the Government to facilitate the provision of specific Council wide educational provision (via the central element of the Dedicated Schools Grant, (DSG)) being top sliced with an element passed direct to each school to allow them to

decide on the level of provision they feel appropriate, to a full range of disaggregation issues splitting schools from the Council. The disaggregation will differ in the level of complexity depending on the nature of the school, with Foundation Schools, operating in a 'full cheque book' mode with their own payroll functions being the simplest to disaggregate, through to those schools who buy back the majority of their support from the Council, where more activity will be required.

From a finance perspective it will be necessary to ensure activities such as Pension Fund status for support staff, insurance provision, VAT registration, full accounting and procurement arrangements just to mentions a few are quickly resolved and the detail of the basis of disaggregation agreed.

- 7.2 Academies will receive the same level of per pupil funding as they would from the Authority as a maintained school, with top up funding to meet those additional responsibilities that are no longer provided from them by the Authority. There is an additional payment of £25,000 to cover transfer costs in 2010/11. This is funded directly by the government. The Government is explicit that a change to academy status should bring neither financial advantage nor disadvantage to a school. The Act retains the existing legal requirements for funding agreements to last seven years, with agreements still providing for intervention or termination, if the academy fails.
- 7.3 The Department for Education (DfE) has provided all Schools and Local Authorities with guidance and access to a online toolkit that allow LAs and transferring schools to understand what central LAs resources would transfer to schools during 2010/11. Whilst it is possible to use the toolkit to estimate the impact on later years, the DfE have stated
- 7.4 Utilising the toolkit the estimated impact on schools is summarised below:

	All Secondary	Secondary Average	Primary Average
	£m	£m	£m
LA Recoupment (current basis 2010/11; DSG)	1.6	0.08	0.03
One Line Budget	91.3	4.57	0.69
Total impact on DSG	92.9	4.65	0.72
Recoupment Extension (possible for 2011-12; non-DSG)*	3.9	0.20	0.04
Total possible Recoupment from LA	96.8	4.84	0.76

** i.e. to include bits from 'LA Other' section of S251 Budget Statement*

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

8.1 Whilst no information is currently available to LAs about 2011/12 and onwards modelling, including the LA recoupment for 2010/11 and the recoupment extension for 2011/12, would indicate approximately £5.5m being recouped from Cheshire East's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) central funding and £91.3m from the DSG schools one line budgets. Linked to these transfers is the possible impact on the School Business Support Agreement (SBSA) for both schools and the LA. Each SBSA supplier needs to consider with each school whether it intends to continue to trade with that school and on what basis. It is possible as further consideration is given, that there will be a charging differential to reflect the different status that Academies have over LA schools. For example, there will be a small impact on the Council needing to provide additional professional liability cover for the advice it provides to the Academy companies.

8.2 In addition to the amounts recouped from LAs and transferred to schools the DfE have added additional funding to contribute to the additional costs borne by Academy schools for both VAT and the costs of Insurance that they will be issuing further guidance on the amount to be recouped from LAs in later years. It is anticipated that the amounts to be recouped will follow the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcements.

8.3 The table below details the anticipated funding to be recouped from Cheshire East in 2010-11 in relation to the three new academies. 'One Line Budgets' have already been devolved to schools and any verified surplus at conversion date will transfer to the new academies. The calculation of such surpluses will only be completed in November 2010 for Fallibroome and Brine Leas and in January 2011 for Sandbach.

	Fallibroome	Brine Leas	Sandbach
	£'m	£'m	£'m
LACSEG recoupment *	0.06	0.04	0.04

* LACSEG: Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant

8.4 The table below details the possible funding to be recouped from Cheshire East in 2011-12 in relation to the three new academies if, as anticipated, the current basis of calculation of the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) is changed to incorporate other areas of the S251 Budget Statement. Also shown in the table are the 'One Line Budgets' (shown at 2010-11 levels) for the three converting schools as the income for these will not be received by Cheshire East,

i.e. there will be a reduction in DSG received.

	Fallibroome	Brine Leas	Sandbach
	£'m	£'m	£'m
LACSEG recoupment	0.31	0.21	0.28
One Line Budget	6.21	4.49**	5.27

*** Adjusted to reflect full year effect of VI Form*

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 The full extent of legal implications of conversion to academies continue to emerge.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The most significant risk to Local Authority will be the ability to continue to provide services to those schools that don't convert to academies.

11.0 Background

11.1 The Academies Act 2010 enables all types of maintained schools to become an academy, including secondary, primary, faith and special schools. Those rated 'outstanding' by OFSTED have pre-approval. Special schools are not currently anticipated to be able to convert to academy status before September 2011. The Secretary of State has the power to issue an Academy Order where the Governing Body so applies, or if the school is 'eligible for intervention' under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

11.2 The act has several significant implications for Cheshire East as an Authority which has a number of outstanding schools. These, and others which have expressed an interest in possible conversion to academy, status are detailed in the tables below (taken from the DfE website 22nd September 2010).

11.3 The nature of the relationship between academies and the Local Authority is not prescribed but it is anticipated that academies will wish to continue to work collaboratively with other schools, clusters and Education Improvement Partnerships (EIPs). The Local Authority will continue to be responsible for statutory duties around SEN statements, home to school transport and admissions co-ordination.

11.4 The school Governing Body is required to "consult such persons as they think appropriate" on whether the school should be converted to

an academy. They are able to do so either before or after an application or an academy order has been granted in respect of the school but before the conversion process is completed. Thus the consultation process is the sole responsibility of the Governing Body. The Local Authority has endorsed National Governors' Association advice that this consultation, to be 'meaningful' should include consultation with parents, students, staff and local partners and should provide full information on a range of issues, including proposed changes in governance and details of the Trust, as well as any planned changes in curriculum or other policy and practice. There is a requirement for an academy to have at least two parent governors on its Governing Body, and an entitlement to continue with one Local Authority governor.

- 11.5 The Local Authority retains its overall responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient high quality school places locally. It will be consulted on any request made by an academy to the Secretary of State for an increase of pupil numbers or change of age range. A lower-performing academy, unless it is eligible for intervention, can only be closed after it has been given seven years' notice by the SoS to terminate the funding agreement.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 Appropriate Council departments are working together in response to the issues identified above in a concerted manner.

13.0 Access to Information

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

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children & Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2010

Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services

Subject/Title: Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Local Authority Children's Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Cheshire East Council Children's Services were inspected on the 20 and 21 July 2010 by OFSTED under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This report conveys the outcome of that inspection. The findings of the report were published on the 18 August 2010. An action plan detailing actions to address the areas for development identified from the inspection is currently being compiled.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and at a future date receive regular updates on progress being made to address the areas for development identified.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the ongoing improvement in the arrangements for effectively safeguarding children and young people in Cheshire East.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Effective safeguarding of children and young people contributes to their emotional health and well-being.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 Not applicable

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

8.1 Actions being taken to address improvements in safeguarding arrangements particularly in the assessment, contact and referral procedures are being contained within the budget agreed for the Service by the Council.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 Establishing effective arrangements for contact, referral and assessment is at the heart of steps taken to safeguard children and mitigate risks.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 In July 2010 the Local Authority was inspected by OFSTED under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, of its contact, referral and assessment arrangements.

11.2 The purpose of the annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authorities is to assess the effectiveness of front-line practice in managing potential risks to children and young people and to minimise the incidence of abuse and neglect.

11.3 The outcomes of the inspection can inform the scheduling of future inspections, in particular the full inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children.

11.4 Attached as Appendix 1 is the letter confirming the findings of the inspection conducted in July 2010. Critically no Priority Actions were identified. These are areas where there are significant concerns identified by the inspectors that children and young people are not being kept safe.

11.5 Detailed in the letter are areas identified as satisfactory practice and areas for development. Attached as Appendix 2 is an Action Plan to address the areas for development identified. The Head of Service for Safeguarding and Specialist Services will have responsibility for implementing the Action Plan and driving forward the required areas for improvement. It is proposed that quarterly reports on progress are reported to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 Shortcomings in safeguarding arrangements were identified by Cheshire East Council shortly after becoming a new unitary council in April 2009. The Unannounced Inspection while identifying areas for development has provided a useful external perspective on progress to date and areas for further improvement. The Service is keen to maintain its momentum for securing further improvements.

13.0 Access to Information

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

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18 August 2010

Mrs Lorraine Butcher
Head of Service for Children and Families
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
CW11 1HZ

Dear Mrs Butcher

Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Cheshire East Council children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Cheshire East Council which was conducted on 20 and 21 July 2010. The inspection was carried out under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will contribute to the annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year. I would like to thank all of the staff we met for their assistance in undertaking this inspection.

The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including: electronic case records; supervision files and notes; observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties; and other information provided by staff and managers. Inspectors also spoke to a range of staff including managers, social workers, other practitioners and administrative staff. During the inspection 56 children's files and 18 staff supervision files were seen.

The inspection identified areas of satisfactory practice, with some areas for development.

From the evidence gathered, the following features of the service were identified:

Satisfactory practice

- All child protection enquiries are undertaken by experienced and qualified social workers and in the cases seen by inspectors appropriate actions were identified to ensure that children are protected.
- Management oversight ensures that timely decision-making and prompt action occur to allocate work, to undertake initial assessments or to divert or close



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

referrals appropriately.

- Managers monitor the timeliness of initial assessments effectively and ensure that risks to children are considered where there are delays.
- The quality of initial assessments is adequate and includes attention to risk and protective factors; where children require further assessment this is recognised.
- Safeguarding and child protection thresholds are set at an appropriate and consistent level. Referrals seen from partner agencies are appropriate and contain relevant and sufficient detail.
- The recent establishment of the duty and initial assessment team has resulted in a reduction in social workers' caseloads in the children in need/child protection teams, which are now at a manageable level.
- Clear guidance for staff supports effective case transfers between the initial assessment team and the children in need and child protection teams.
- Child protection strategy meetings are held in a timely way and in the majority of cases relevant agencies attend in line with statutory requirements.
- Children and young people are interviewed alone where appropriate and are routinely involved in their assessments. Children and their families are consistently informed about the outcome of their assessment.
- Children's identity and their cultural and linguistic needs are assessed satisfactorily and there is effective use of translation and interpreter services.
- Social workers receive regular supervision and inspectors saw some examples of challenging and reflective discussions.
- There is a good range of training and development opportunities and staff expressed positive views about their access to, and the quality of, recent training.

Areas for development

- Timeliness in completing initial and core assessments varies and in some cases results in delays in meeting children's needs.
- The management oversight of core assessments is inconsistent and so does not always ensure their timeliness or that risks to children are sufficiently monitored when there are delays.
- The quality of core assessments is not consistent. Although some are satisfactory, others are too brief and lack analysis of risk or protective factors. Inadequate assessments are being seen and signed off without challenge by

first line managers, which is unsatisfactory.

- Although no children were found to be at risk, the quality of child protection enquiries is variable and some were inadequate. Inspectors found cases where not all of the factors which had led to the referral had been sufficiently addressed and potential risks to children had not been adequately assessed. The quality of the recording of these enquiries also varied.
- The quality of child protection strategy meeting minutes is inconsistent. In some cases, inspectors saw brief and superficial records which lacked sufficiently detailed or clear plans about how the child protection enquiries would be carried out. Similarly, they lacked necessary information about how criminal investigations would proceed.
- The council's electronic system does not deliver sufficient management information or support managers at all levels in the effective management of performance. The impact of this is recognised by the council and funds have been secured to purchase a new system.
- Although policies to quality assure and audit social work practice have been developed recently, the inspection did not find evidence of effective implementation or impact. Consequently, strengths and areas for development are not systematically identified and analysed by managers, or reported to Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board to drive improvement.

Any areas for development identified above will be specifically considered in any future inspection of services to safeguard children within your area.

Yours sincerely

Judith Nelson
Her Majesty's Inspector

Copy: Erica Wenzel, Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council
David Mellor, Chair of Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board
Hilda Gaddum, Lead Member for Children's Services, Cheshire East Council
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education


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ACTION PLAN – Unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements.

On the 20/21 July 2010 OFSTED conducted an inspection of the Contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Cheshire East Children Services. The inspection identified areas of satisfactory practice, with some areas for development. It should be noted that the areas for development that have been identified will be specifically considered in future inspection of services to safeguard children with our area.

The inspectors identified seven (7) areas for development which have been addressed accordingly in the plan outlined below:

Area for Development	Action	Timescale	Risk/other Factors	Person Responsible	Notes/Outcomes
(1) Timeliness in completing initial and core assessments varies and in some cases results in delays in meeting children's needs	Interim Changes within Access service involving splitting into two service areas 1) contact and referral 2) duty and initial assessment team (DIAT). This to ensure that all referrals coming into access are assessed in a timely way on the safety, need and wellbeing of child/YP.	12 August 2010 ongoing until further notice	Changes are interim whilst a review undertaken by Elaine Peace is completed. Review is looking at threshold model, interagency working and understanding and viability of a permanent duty and initial assessment service which will undertake all IA and S47 work up within an eight week period. Changes are in line with the redesign of services	Integrated Delivery Team comprising of: Cath Knowles Dave Richards Shirley Jordan Julie Lewis Elaine Peace - consultant	

<p>(2)</p> <p>The management oversight of core assessments is inconsistent and so does not always ensure their timeliness or that risks to children are sufficiently monitored when there are delays</p>	<p>Routine audits of Core Assessments to be undertaken.</p> <p>Weekly reporting card per team required to identify Initial and core assessments progress.</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p> <p>Linked to ICS/ICT programme - ongoing</p>	<p>Group Manager's continue to manage day to day work which remains high in volume. Need to move to unit structure and practice consultants this should reduce inconsistency.</p> <p>Change request likely to be delay to ICT services to enable such information to be available.</p>	<p>Shirley Jordan - PM Julie Lewis – PM</p> <p>Mark Bayley/ Bev Harding</p>	
<p>(3)</p> <p>The quality of core assessments is not consistent. Although some are satisfactory, others are too brief and lack analysis of risk or protective factors. Inadequate assessments are being seen and signed off without challenge by first line managers, which is unsatisfactory.</p>	<p>Back to Basics training to be undertaken by all managers/ practice consultants and social workers as per workforce development proposal of February 2010.</p>  <p>CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL workforce c</p> <p>Development of standards in practice</p>	<p>With immediate effect, this training is mandatory and needs to be implemented asap</p> <p>Within next 3 months</p>	<p>Timetable needs to be agreed for roll out of workforce development programme and linked to CPD of staff</p> <p>Standards will enable a more effective quality</p>	<p>Annas Feeney</p> <p>Annas Feeny/Shirley Jordan/Julie Lewis/Sue</p>	

	<p>which is linked to evidence based practice particularly around risk, decision making and care planning</p> <p>Quality assess via auditing programme via safeguarding unit to measure quality of assessments ensuring they are linked to need and are child focused</p>	With immediate effect	assurance and should be linked to CPD of social work profession	Atkinson	
				Safeguarding Unit	
(4) Although no children were found to be at risk, the quality of child protection enquiries is variable and some were inadequate. Inspectors found cases where not all of the factors which had led to the referral had been sufficiently addressed and potential risks to children had not been adequately assessed. The quality of recording of these enquiries also varied.	<p>Implement proposed auditing programme as outlined in report of Paul Jackson Safeguarding Manager</p> <p>Also linked to action 1 changes within Access service</p> <p>Also linked with action 3 development of standards in practice and back to basics training</p>	With immediate effect – need to ensure ongoing timetabling of dates throughout the year		Safeguarding unit, Principal Managers Integrated Delivery, Group Managers, Annas Feeny workforce development.	
(5) The quality of child	Linked to action 4	With immediate effect		Safeguarding unit,	

protection strategy meeting minutes is inconsistent. In some cases, inspectors saw brief and superficial records which lacked sufficiently detailed or clear plans about how the child protection enquiries would be carried out. Similar, they lacked necessary information about how criminal investigations would proceed.	implement auditing programme Also linked to action 3 development of standards in practice and back to basics training			Principal Managers Integrated Delivery, Group Managers, Annas Feeny workforce development.	
(6) The council's electronic system does not deliver sufficient management information or support managers at all levels in the effective management of performance. The impact of this is recognised by the council and funds have been secured to purchase a new system.	Linked to ICT/ICS shared service redesign	Ongoing	Issue of separating shared system from CWAC and then CE Adults, cost implications of whether this can be achieved.	Cath Knowles/Mark Bayley/Bev Harding/Peter Thorley	
(7) Although policies to quality assure and audit social work practices	Implement proposed auditing programme as outlined in report from	With immediate effect		Safeguarding Unit/ Tim Newton (LSCB)	

have been developed recently, the inspection did not find evidence of effective implementation or impact. Consequently, strengths and areas for development are not systematically identified and analysed by managers, or reported to Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board to drive improvement.	Paul Jackson safeguarding manager Ensure progress reporting to LSCB of all audits and this action plan				
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Catherine Knowles Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services (Interim)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children & Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 October 2010
Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services
Subject/Title: Bi-Annual Report for Regulation 33 Visits- Cheshire East Children's Homes

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 Background

Regulation 33 (Children's Homes regulation 2001) requires for a monthly visit to children's homes and units run by the local authority by a person not employed at the home nor directly responsible for it, and the presentation of a written report to the responsible authority – referred to below as the Visitor. The person undertaking the visit should be properly informed of its purpose and have access to the reports provided for the previous 6 months.

The focus of the visits is to ensure that the day-to-day care provided is of a satisfactory standard. This is achieved through a combination of the Visitor's own direct observations, conversations with young people and staff and reading of key records and reports which together provide important insights into the ways in which the home/unit operates on a daily basis and how appropriate care and control is provided.

The visits will also assist in service development by providing a regular independent perspective on the functioning of children's residential provision. The report written should relate what the Visitor thinks of the home's performance. Ofsted require these monthly reports along with the response from the Registered Manager.

1.2 Process

Visits take place every calendar month, unannounced, varying in time and date, requiring a minimum of 3 hours. Records are checked and the premises and furniture and fittings, young people and staff spoken to. The arrangements for health care and education are checked and community relations. A report is completed and sent to the Lead Safeguarding Officer (Conference and Reviews) for quality assurance and to the Residential Senior Manager to provide responses to issues raised. A response within 24 hours is made to the Visitors and the Lead Safeguarding Officer (Conference and Reviews). If satisfactory both

reports are sent to Ofsted. It is critical that we carry out visits in a timely manner and send to Ofsted promptly. Visitors in the subsequent month are sent copies of the last visits report and the response to it, in order that on going issues can be monitored.

- 1.3** The Local Authority currently maintains three children's homes, namely Claremont, Broad Street and Priors Hill (Langley Unit). Ofsted have recently rated all three Children's Homes as good with outstanding features.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the content of this report.
- 2.2 That training goes ahead for Visitors in the new calendar year.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure the highest standards for our young people resident in our Children's Homes

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

- 6.1 N/A

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 N/A

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 N/A

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 N/A

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 N/A

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Rota

The following visitors are on the rota to undertake Reg 33 visits. There are 9 Members, 2 volunteers external to Cheshire East Council and 1 working for Cheshire East in Strategic Support and Partnerships.

- Councillor Darryl Beckford
- Councillor Andrew Kolker
- Councillor Rhoda Bailey
- Councillor David Neilson
- Councillor Diana Thompson
- Councillor John Goddard
- Councillor Dorothy Flude
- Councillor Lesley Smetham
- Councillor Ray Westwood
- Rick Howell- Cheshire East –Strategic Support and Partnerships
- John Hattersley – Volunteer
- Emma Dunkin - Volunteer

11.2 Issues raised between April 2010-September 2010

Priors Hill – Langley Unit

- **It would be desirable to have more outside play equipment suitable for disabled children whilst there is warm weather.**
Suitable equipment ordered (verification needed to see if now in place)
- **Door self closing very sharp on some doors - Need to adjust closing mechanisms.** *Health and Safety Checks carried out and door adjusted for safety reasons.*
- **Young Person (YP) move on plan is still fragile - Monitor outcome.** *The YP person has now made a successfully transition to semi -independent living.*
- **Need to enter all accidents in the accident book however minor.** *All staff reminded of procedures and reported to be running better as a consequence.*
- **Maintenance records of fire equipment need to be kept with fire records.** *This was resolved*

- **Need some means for reporting of concerns of parents as many of the YP in Langley are unable to use the complaints process - resolved, a range of options available to parents.**
- **Need for a list of all the documents and their location and who has the restricted records. *This was resolved***
- **All current fire safety records to be kept in the fire record book. *resolved***
- **Fire evacuation drill required, over 6 months since the last one *resolved-April 2010***
- **The indoor soft play room smelt of urine needs to be cleaned - *resolved***

Broad Street

- **Young person needs to be accepted by a school –resolved. *Started at appropriate School***
- **Improve the maintenance arrangements - staff seemed constrained by the support provided by Enterprise. This needs to give them a better service.**
- **Expect to see reduced requirement for restraints as YP settles in. *Progress is made with behavioral issues and this should result in de-escalation techniques and sanctions proving more effective than they are at present.***
- **Broad Street has been a considerable investment for the Council. We need to ensure we use it more fully. *Now has 3 beds occupied.***
- **Broadband and internet need to be available. *Exploring use of lap tops and access to internet in bedrooms. Currently being priced.***
- **Plans are needed for young people's meetings now that there is more than one resident. *Strategies being developed, proving challenging!!***
- **Updates needed for YP's master file - dentist and opticians. *Updated as requested***
- **Lone working review and fire risk assessment needs updating. *Resolved***
- **Menu planning to be reviewed since YP has joined Broad Street - this should improve consistency with meals as well as involvement of young people. *Resolved***

- **J's visits to the dentist and to the opticians for glasses need to be followed up.** *Resolved*
- **Arrangements to be made to look into the young people's access to independent visitors.** *Needs senior management resolution*

Claremont Road – (open since 17.8.10)

- **Significant incidents file to be set up.** *Resolved shown to visitor*
- **Laptop computer to be obtained for young person.** *Exploring use of lap tops and access to internet in bedrooms. Currently being priced*
- **Concerns raised why YP attending school in Macclesfield, whilst living in Crewe area.** *Resolved express wishes of YP, family and professionals.*

11.3 Positive comments noted over review period:

Priors Hill

- Good menu, dietary clean and tidy, medication systems improved happy with plans for young people, staff smart and spoke positive. Staff friendly and treated young people with dignity and respect.
- Artwork done in bathrooms by staff particularly pleasing.
- Children appeared comfortable.
- Good relationship between young people and staff.
- Recording appeared to be up to date.

Claremont Road - Only had one visit as did not open until 17 August.

- Young person well dressed and tidy and continues to attend school
- Young person seems comfortable with staff and has settled in well.
- Staff polite and helpful.
- Relationships between staff and resident appear good, firm but friendly.
- Atmosphere and facilities excellent

Broad Street

- Menus displayed – diet seemed low in fat and well balanced.
- Young people doing shopping lists.
- Building in excellent condition and felt 'homely', kitchen an excellent family space.
- Young people suitable dressed and looking well.
- Young people aware of complaints procedure.
- Staff appeared caring and capable. Appeared to have a good relationship with young people, some boundary setting and low level challenging and attention seeking behaviour managed well by staff

11.4 Conclusions

Overall, we have found the most challenging part of the visits is ensuring that the visits go ahead within the month allocated, and that a response goes to Ofsted promptly! Managers are finding the visits beneficial and welcome the observations of others. As you can see we are managing to resolve issues raised and this is to the credit of the residential services, which I believe is now a credit to our department. The next challenge will be as Claremont and Broad Street grow to capacity, ensuring high standards remain.

11.5 Training and Development

As a response to questions about the role, we have offered subsequent training following our awareness training first given in 2009. This training was sadly cancelled last minute due to poor take up and final cancellations. We plan to run the training again in the Spring.

One of the disappointing aspects about cancelling the training was the opportunity to bring the visitors together as a group to ensure consistency and develop the delivery of the service as a team. Re-scheduling the training in the new year should allow this opportunity.

All visitors have enhanced CRB's.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 N/A

13.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Glynis Williams

Designation: Safeguarding Manager (Conference and Reviews)

Tel No: 01606 288939

Email: glynis.williams@cheshireeast.gov.uk

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	19 October 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 work programme be received and noted.

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

- 7.1 None identified at the moment.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The monitoring Officer has now issued advice to Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the Membership of Task and Finish Groups for those occasions when Members do not wish to set up a Task and Finish Group on a proportional basis as follows:
- 10.2 The constitution currently requires that Task and Finish are organised on a proportional basis, but this has proved difficult with such small numbers (they usually consist of 5 or 6 members).
- 10.3 If the constitutional requirement for proportionality were removed, there is still a statutory requirement. By virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Schedule 1, advisory committees are subject to the proportionality rules contained in the act. Unlike the constitutional requirement, however, the Act permits proportionality to be dispensed with, provided that the scrutiny committee so decides on a 'nem con' vote. Removing the requirement in the constitution would therefore provide greater flexibility.
- 10.4 In effect this means that if members are mindful to set up a Task and Finish group on a non proportionate basis, this can only be done by a 'nem con' vote i.e. a vote without objection, otherwise the Task and Finish Group must be set up on a proportional basis
- 10.5 In reviewing the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- 10.6 The schedule attached, has been updated in line with the Committees recommendations on 27 July. Following this meeting the document will be updated so that all the appropriate targets will be included within the schedule.
- 10.5 In reviewing the work programme, Members must 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

10.6 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

11.0 *Access to Information*

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

Name: Mark Grimshaw
Designation: Scrutiny Officer
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Email: mark.grimshaw@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Workplan: June 2010 – December 2010

Portfolio Holder – Hilda Gaddum

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
1 June 2010	Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) boycott	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
29 June 2010	Consultation on School Re-organisation proposals in Macclesfield	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Changing policy landscape in children's services	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		

	Presentation on adoption – prior to a forthcoming inspection of the service	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Performance – Outturn	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Corporate Plan	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
27 July 2010	Admissions Regulations	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Adoption	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Early years funding reform – briefing on the national formula	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
	Informal Meetings	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East		

Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
7 September 2010	Review of Residential Provision (Task group)	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To consider and agree the recommendations of the task group	All recommendations agreed and went to cabinet 20.09.10
	Macclesfield High School and Macclesfield School Review	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Following the meeting on 27.07.10 – Committee asked to consider and comment on the evaluation process for considering future options	Evaluation process approved – reports to come back after consultation has ended.
Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
16 September 2010 (Mid Point meeting)	Performance Monitoring Report – 2010 Exam Results	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Report on the recent exam results – highlighting areas of success and areas in need of improvement	To consider areas earmarked for improvement when next appropriate i.e. next years exam results.
	Safeguarding and Redesign of Children's Services update	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To listen to an update of the redesign and for the Committee to be aware of the proposed action plan and direction of travel.	Keep the Committee updated of any developments
	Draft Children's Plan update	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To provide the committee with an update	Involve the Committee in the consultation process due in mid-November 2010

	Developments in central government thinking	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Update / Brief	More will be known post CSR – perhaps bring this back to Committee in November?
	Connexions update	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Update / Brief	In period of consultation – option to bring back to Committee after decision is made to consider future options.
Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
19 October 2010				
Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
16 November 2010				

Date of meeting	Topic	Link to Corporate Priorities / Targets	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
7 December 2010				

Possible Future Issues / Items

Item	Corporate Priority / Targets	Suggested Action	Notes
Ongoing issues			
Safeguarding and Redesign of Children's Services	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	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	Last update provided 16.09.10
Performance reporting	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	(key exceptions – red/amber and explanations/commentary) to include adoption rates, staffing information and	Wait until new performance reporting style is produced?

		profile of children in Cheshire East	
<p>Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services Performance rating Youth Offending Inspection Fostering Inspection 	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	<p>Committee to be informed of the outcome of any relevant inspections</p> <p>Report on Performance rating</p> <p>YOS Action plan to be considered at a future meeting</p> <p>Report on the outcome from inspection</p>	<p>Regular reports from Members who have undertaken Regulation 33 visits</p> <p>Also, regular agenda item to update the Committee on progress on post-inspection action plan.</p> <p>6 monthly.</p>
Budget	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Committee represented on Budget Consultation Group preparing for the 2011/12 Budget. Chairman to provide regular update reports to Committee.	
Corporate Parenting	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Training event	Completed, but as there are new Members, this training session be repeated and offered again to all Members of the Committee – possibly wait until election after May
Review of Residential Provision	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in	Follow up on recommendations in 6 and 12 months (March & September)	Recommendations went to Cabinet for consideration on 20.09.10

	Cheshire East		
Family Support Services	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Recommendations to come to committee in December	8 Meetings held
School Admissions Policy	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Committee to be consulted when recommendations from the committee begin to be actioned.	Report completed
Education Attainment	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Headlines submitted when available Possible task and finish group to review the work of the multi agency improvement and achievement group	Detailed analysis of 2010 results provided at the mid point meeting 16.09.10
Children's centres	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Investigation into the role and purpose of Children's Centres. Included in the scope of the family support task group – decision to be made whether this should be considered as a separate issue	
Transport for Young People	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Access arrangements for young people in education and/or employment. Presentation to be made followed by a potential task and finish group	

Draft Children's' plan/ children's trust	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To be involved in consultation in mid-November	Update provided 16.09.10
Teenage Pregnancy Reduction	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Committee to be kept updated on action taken as a result of the visit by the National support team Report to be submitted on the action plan.	
School Status Report	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Presentation to future meeting on current status	New Government policies could significantly influence the status of schools and the relationship with the LEA.
IT Systems	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Review of IT systems as they relate to the redesign of children's services	Include a section on Children's IT systems such as PARIS as part of the briefing on Redesign of Children's Services
Foster Services	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Review of adequacy Possible task and finish group to be set up	
Connexions – Value for money	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Possible full session on the future of Connexions – in light of possible budget cuts.	Briefing received on 16.09.10
Every Child matters	Supporting and Protecting our young and	Revisit – possible refresher training to be arranged	

	vulnerable people in Cheshire East		
NEETs	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Availability of schemes for college places entry into employment etc	Possibly include as part of the Connexions review
School Admissions Regulations	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Monitor	Presentation given 27.07.10
Academies	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Presentation to Committee required	Equip Councillors with the pro's and con's of schools moving to academy status
Interventions in schools	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Presentation on what triggers interventions, what actions occur as a consequence and what the results of these are.	
SEN process	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Review in light of recent OFSTED report – possible task group	
Macclesfield High School Review	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To keep Committee updated after consultation events (possibly on January meeting)	Update provided on 27.07.10 and 07.09.10
Obesity and Diabetes Review		To update the Committee of recommendations and progress against these	

		which relate to children and families.	
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Ongoing items/reviews

Item	Reporting:	Committee Meeting							
		01/06	29/06	27/07	07/09	16/09 (mid point)	19/10	16/10	07/12
REDESIGN OF CHILDENS SERVICES	When Appropriate					X			
PERFORMANCE REPORTING	Quarterly (except in instances of a red flag)								
INDEPENDENT INSPECTIONS OR REVIEWS	When Appropriate								
SAFEGUARDING	When Appropriate								
REGULATION 33	Regular						X		
BUDGET PROCESS	When Appropriate								
REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME	Regular			X					

Disregarded / Discontinued Items

Item	Date	Reason
Post 16 Transfer of Funding to Local authorities	22.09.10	Responsibility no longer with LA
Analysis of School Performance	22.09.10	To be merged with educational attainment item
Early Years Funding Reform	22.09.10	Briefing heard on 27.07.10

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Task Groups – potential/current/recently completed

Title	Progress Notes/Actions
Residential Provision	Recommendations agreed 07.09.10 – went to Cabinet 20.09.10 for consideration. Come back to in 6 months (March) & 12 months (September)
Family Support	8 meetings held so far. Next meeting 5.10.10. Final report expected in December 2010.
Education attainment	Set up Task and Finish Group to review the work of the multi agency improvement and achievement group
Transport for young People	Potential task group to be set up.
Foster services	Potential task group to be set up.
SEN Process	Potential task group to be set up.

Links to Key Documents/Sites

Corporate Plan

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Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made
CE10/11-53 16-19 Learning Needs Commissioning Priorities	To agree the commissioning priorities for 16-19 year olds for 2011-12 to ensure their learning needs are being met through various providers including schools and colleges.	Cabinet	15 Nov 2010	Through Sub Regional Group, involving Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester Councils.	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families

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