

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 28th June, 2011
Time: 1.30 pm
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. **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.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

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.

For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

Contact: Mark Grimshaw
Tel: 01270 685680
E-Mail: mark.grimshaw@cheshireeast.gov.uk

4. **Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Assessment and Referral Arrangements - action plan** (Pages 1 - 20)

To consider the action plan resulting from the Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Assessment and Referral Arrangements in Cheshire East.

5. **Corporate Parenting Strategy Update** (Pages 21 - 56)

To receive an update on the corporate parenting strategy.

6. **Regulation 33 bi-annual report** (Pages 57 - 62)

To receive the Bi-Annual Report for Regulation 33 Visits to Cheshire East Children's Homes.

7. **Work Programme update** (Pages 63 - 74)

To give consideration to the work programme.

8. **Forward Plan - extracts** (Pages 75 - 78)

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

9. **Consultations from Cabinet**

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

Freshford House
Redcliffe Way
Bristol BS1 6NL

T 0300 1231231
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 03000 130570

Safeguarding.lookedafterchildren@ofsted.gov.uk



10 May 2011

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 5 and 6 April 2011. 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.

The inspection identified areas of practice that met requirements, with some areas for development.

The council has acted swiftly to modernise services following its creation in 2009 as part of the local government reorganisation. Despite improvements there remain issues about the variability of practice and effective management oversight. The areas of development identified at the previous inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in July 2010 have been addressed by the council through an action plan. There have been some improvements in most of the identified areas however in others arrangements are too recent to have sufficient impact.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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

The service meets the requirements of statutory guidance in the following areas

- Following the last inspection the council has identified the need to co-locate teams undertaking contact, referral and assessment functions. Although this realignment of services is too recent to have much impact the unified management structure combined with increased capacity provides a strong platform to deliver improvements.
- Partnership working with the police is good. As a result there has been a significant improvement in the appropriateness and quality of referrals from the police ensuring both agencies focus their resources on the most vulnerable children.
- Thresholds regarding child protection are well understood by partner agencies. This ensures that concerns are referred and acted upon promptly.
- Improved management of child protection investigations ensures that initial child protection conferences are held promptly. This ensures good multi-agency involvement in planning to meet children's needs in a timely manner.
- The emergency out of hours team is effective in investigating child protection concerns. Referrals to daytime services are timely and contain the relevant information.
- There are clear arrangements to co-work child protection cases with the children's disability team where appropriate. This ensures that vulnerable children are protected.
- The recording of equality and diversity in assessments is consistent and examples of good consideration of cultural needs were seen.
- There are clear arrangements in place for the transfer of work to longer term teams supported by weekly meetings. This minimises disruption and delays for children and families.
- The Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board has a good focus on performance in the updated business plan which holds agencies to account in achieving improvements to services for children.
- Training programmes reflect the priorities identified at the last inspection and include supervision and quality assurance for managers and the 'back to basics' course for social workers. There is good dissemination of findings from serious case reviews.
- Progress to reduce social work caseloads is good and these are now generally

manageable.

- Supervision practice and recording are adequate and social workers report they are well supported by approachable managers. Social workers are positive about the recent reorganisation of services and increased management support.
- The resourcing of administrative support in the teams is good. This enables social workers to spend more time on direct work with families.

Areas for development

- ① ▪ The common assessment framework is yet to be embedded with a lack of consistent understanding of thresholds and purpose. The local authority is aware of this and is working with partner agencies to develop its use.
- ② ▪ The effectiveness of the contact and referral service is compromised by delays in processing of initial contacts and a lack of clarity on the requirements to gather information. This is recognised as an area for improvement by the local authority who have recently introduced increased management monitoring and oversight.
- ③ ▪ All core assessments seen considered risk and protective factors and there were examples of good analysis. However the recent increase in management capacity to improve oversight has yet to ensure that all assessments are of a sufficiently good quality. This was an area for development at the previous inspection.
- ④ ▪ Measures to monitor and manage initial and core assessments are now in place, but have only recently been introduced and are yet to have an impact. This was an area for development at the previous inspection.
- ⑤ ▪ The quality of recording of strategy discussions and child protection enquiries remains variable. The local authority has recognised this and has put in place improved auditing and training but this has yet to have an impact. This was an area for development at the previous inspection.
- ⑥ ▪ The council has introduced a structured programme to systematically audit the quality of assessments, planning and recording although this has yet to have an impact. This was an area for development at the previous inspection.
- ⑦ ▪ Improvements to the council's electronic system have been introduced and further upgrades are scheduled. However there are still weaknesses in the system and it does not provide managers with easily accessible performance management information. This was an area for development at the previous inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Ralph Trevelyan-Butler
Her Majesty's Inspector

Copy: Erica Wenzel, Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education

IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN


Code (a) Relates to areas of development from the Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment (5/6 April 2011).



Code (b) Relates to areas of development identified by the Children’s Assessment Team (CAT) and Child in Need and Child Protection Team (CIN/CP)

Lead Person responsible for this Plan: Catherine Knowles Head of Safeguarding and Shirley Jordan Principal Manager for CAT/CIN/CP

	Area for Development	Key Action	Timescale	Evidence	Lead Person	Key Outcome
(a) 1	The common assessment framework is yet to be embedded with a lack of consistent understanding of thresholds and purpose.	Regular Progress reports re CAF to be presented to LSCB via Children’s Trust Board Launch Levels of Need materials at Multi –agency Pathways to Support workshops Design Early Intervention front door service to streamline pathways to support and increase support available to practitioners in partner agencies	In Place 20.05.2011 Sept 2011	Reports to Children Trust. Report of Workshop findings Plans finalised and team operational	Tilly Heigh Tilly Heigh Tilly Heigh	Agencies are encouraged to improved engagement with CAF Practitioners across agencies are aware of levels of Need materials and use them to inform practice Children and young people’s needs are assessed at early stage and they are able to access well coordinated support

(a) 2	The effectiveness of the contact and referral service is compromised by delays in processing of initial contacts and a lack of clarity on the requirements to gather information.	Contacts pending action allocated to CRO are for no longer than 24 hours. Reviewed by PC. CRO's to be recruited and have clear induction to processes once in post	In place July 2011	Data collection & audit C&R Unit fully staffed	Shirley Jordan	Contacts to be dealt with within 24hours C&R Unit fully staffed and PARIS compliant
(a) (b) 3	All Core Assessments seen considered risk and protective factors and there were examples of good analysis. However the recent increase in management capacity to improve oversight has yet to ensure that all assessments are of a sufficiently good quality.	To identify and utilise an audit tool to ensure there is consistency of good practice across all units	Immediate effect	Through audit activity	Shirley Jordan NM & LJ to develop the audit tool. All Group Managers and Practice Consultants to utilise the audit tool across the service	All Core Assessments are of good quality and are consistent
(a) (b) 4	Measures to monitor and manage Initial and Core Assessments are now in place, but have only recently been introduced and are yet to have an impact.	IA allocation now managed through Duty Diary in CAT with the oversight of PC's on a daily basis GM's & PC's to run off weekly PARIS audit reports re outstanding	In place In place	Increase in the number of assessments completed within timescale	Shirley Jordan together with all Group Managers, Practice Consultants and Bev Harding	A more robust system in place to ensure the needs of children and families are identified within timescale

		assessments				
5	(a) The quality of recording of strategy discussions and child protection enquiries remains variable. The Local Authority has recognised this and has put in place improved auditing and training but this has yet to have an impact. (b)	Minimum standard of recording to be introduced to include; date; time; who present; key concern; risk factors; risk analysis; decision making; reason for decision; outcome. A Guidance Note to staff re the content required in Strategy Discussions to be issued	31 st May 2011 31 st May 2011	Audit minimum standards in line with new Guidance Note	Shirley Jordan together with: LJ to draft Guidance Note for issue. All Group Managers of CAT; CIN/CP to implement in conjunction with: Annas Feeney – Workforce Development (for training needs) And Kate Rose Safeguarding unit for auditing of quality as per QA function	Strategy Discussions meet the new minimum standards and are fit for purpose
6	(a) The council has introduced a structured programme to systematically audit the quality of assessments, planning and recording although this has yet to have an impact	Tool and programme is developed SMT approve process Training is delivered Audit programme is delivered	April 10 April 10 May to July September	 SMT-ELT_paper in_safeguarding_	Kate Rose – Safeguarding Unit	Audit demonstrates improvement in key areas identified.

		Reports to SMT	Ongoing	 SMT April 20th KR Audit (final...		
(a) 7	Improvements to the council's electronic system have been introduced, further upgrades are scheduled. However, there are still weaknesses in the system and it does not provide managers with easily accessible performance management information.	To continue to develop a system that is fit for purpose	Ongoing	 ICS Update.doc	Bev Harding	Robust and comprehensive information is readily available for all system users in a timely manner
(b) 8	Audit and Quality Assurance of supervision files ensuring these meet standards and expectations.	Quality Assurance processes to be implemented through the Workforce Development Team In addition there will be an expectation that Group Managers will undertake a minimum 4 audits per month of staff supervision files within their own teams, using the auditing toolkit to evidence this task has been achieved.	Immediate effect	Quality Assurance report provided by Workforce Development Team	Annas Feeney	Standardise and improve the quality of all aspects of supervision recording

(b) 9	Audit and Quality Assurance of case files including ICS records ensuring these meet standards and expectations.	Supervisors to undertake a minimum of 2 audits per supervision session of case work within their own units using the auditing toolkit to evidence this task has been achieved.	Immediate effect	Case Files and ICS records meet required standards and the audit demonstrates improvement	Shirley Jordan	Case Files and ICS records are fit for purpose. This will be further evidenced through the independent audit undertaken by the safeguarding unit.
(b) 10	A Multi Agency referral form that is Laming Compliant	Develop and agree a multi agency form for use as a referral tool into the Children's Assessment Team	31 st May 2011 (IDT / SMT) July 2011 for LSCB / CT	IDT / SMT agree the referral tool, then to LSCB & The Children's Trust for multi agency approval Tool implemented within CAT and partner agencies	Shirley Jordan to lead the approval process NM / LJ to lead implementation once agreed	Referrals are Laming compliant, have full consent and the contain appropriate information for decision making

Please note the following additional comments:

- 1. Where it refers to all Group Managers – this includes Louisa Jones; Nancy Meehan; Sandra Eells; Sheila Franks.**
- 2. PC's refers to all Practice Consultants within CAT and the CiN / CP service**
- 3. Where a lead person is identified, there is an expectation that you will provide updates to this plan on a 4 weekly basis to Shirley Jordan**

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children And Families Senior Management Team

Date of Meeting: 22.12.10
Report of: Glynis Williams and Kate Rose
Subject/Title: Quality Assurance social care audits

1.0 Purpose of Report

To update SMT on the first cycle of the Quality Assurance Social Care Audits and highlight key areas of concern.

2.0 Background

The Quality Assurance Frame work audit paper came to ELT in July 2010 from the Interim Principal Safeguarding Manager.

The first cycle was intentioned to introduce the tools, familiarise the managers with the auditing role and establish some early findings both in relation to the process and quality of social care's practice in keeping children safe.

The audits were carried out in pairs by Group Managers and Independent Safeguarding Chairs (ISC's). The Safeguarding Unit oversaw and administrated these audits, providing training, support and guidance. This cycle's theme was Child Protection.

3.0 For discussion

Findings:

There were 29 audits requested and 26 were completed and returned by the auditing team. The 3 that were not returned have been followed up but the delay has meant that it was not possible to include them in the analysis within this report. This anomaly was not representative of the process as a whole, and there has been excellent engagement from the auditors involved with most attending the training offered, familiarising themselves with the audit tool and contributing to the process. The absent reports are a reflection of specific circumstances.

In reviewing the findings it is important to recognise there are clear limitations. The methodology needs to develop much further, both in terms of the process, including statistical significance of the audit sample; what the audits are telling us about the standards we set ourselves, the quality of the work social care are providing and the difference it is making in keeping children and young people in Cheshire East safe.

These tentative results need to be viewed within that context and not assumed as a definitive reflection of the current position of practice across the service as a whole.

The initial findings identified 8 key areas : (the figure represents where evidence was on file)

- Core groups that were held regularly and judged of good quality -60%
- Involvement of parents in core groups -50%
- Evidence of gate keeping and decision making on file (although this was covered in the tool it was not answered in all cases and therefore a meaningful figure can not be ascertained)
- Care Plan judged to be of good quality -60%
- Child seen at point of core assessments -60%
- Complaints info made available for families -48%
- Evidence of involvement of parents and child at initial assessments -48%
- Supervision notes evident on Paris -70%

Analysis:

As stated previously, any analysis needs to be viewed with great caution as the process and tools are in their early stages of development. Of equal significance, there is no historical benchmark that allows any judgement as to whether this is an improvement against standards or what the expectation of achievement should be. It is also important to note that there may be an issue of the evidence not being located consistently in the same place within records, rather than it not having been done. This may mean that evidence has been missed by the auditors

The raw data suggests that there are improvements that can be made in all areas but in only two areas was compliance with expectations below 50%. It may be of significance that these were both areas that related to the involvement and information for families in the process. It is possible that this should be the focus of more concentrated work if it is representative of a current gap in service delivery. The advocacy contract has recently been awarded to Barnardos and the service has been widened to facilitate all service users (children) to access advocacy not just our Cared for population

There is evidence that the quality of the work is judged good in 60% of cases audited in the areas considered and it may be useful to develop exemplars of good work for staff based on the audits, to help drive up standards, if this has not already been done.

There are some 'quick wins' that can be made to improve performance in some areas that are possibly a reflection of staff 'forgetting' the requirements e.g. complaints information being made available, evidencing that a child has been seen. This can be through sending out reminders or implementing processes that ensure it occurs each time.

Lesson's from the process:

There are number of areas that can be developed further as the auditing cycle progresses in relation to improving the process itself:

- The tools need refinement to ensure that they: capture what is required, that this reflects agreed standards of practice and also allows for more descriptive evaluation of the judgements made.
- The tools need to be established within a performance framework that brings together the quantitative and the qualitative data such that they inform each other and the themes and priorities for improvement. It also needs to bring together all the areas of audit currently planned or underway both across services and within service areas e.g. supervision files
- The Auditor's feed back very clearly indicated that using ICS presented huge challenges in trying to locate some of the simplest of documents. Local variations on where to store certain documents within ICS was prevalent and the variations on use of paper files varied greatly.
- There needs to be a way of capturing the wider organisational issues that impact on cases such as managing vacancies and changes in social workers and team managers, in order to provide a context for the findings.

4.0 Recommendation/Actions

- That SMT accept the findings within the report
- There is agreement to continue with the Quality Assurance Social Care Audits -cycle two, reporting next to SMT in February 2011. The next theme is Cared for Children post 16
- Report the outcome from the Audits to the LSCB QA&PM sub group
- Feedback to Group Managers and ISCs (Auditors) with the overview of findings and disseminate to Social work staff
- That a steering group is established, led by the Safeguarding Unit to refine and develop the audit tool, develop a framework for auditing across children's social care, which incorporates SCR findings, inspection criteria and locally determined practice priorities and bring this draft report back to SMT at a later date
- Make cycle improvements benchmarking against existing areas highlighted in this report and creating new ones.

Name: Glynis Williams and Kate Rose

Designation: Safeguarding Manager (Conference and Reviews)

Principal Manager Safeguarding

Tel: 01270 257673

Email: glynis.williams@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SMT

Date of Meeting: April 20th 2011

Report of: Kate Rose, Principal Manager Safeguarding, Children's Services

Subject/Title: Social Care Audit

1.0 Report Summary

One of the key mechanisms through which organisations can learn how effective their practice is, is by carrying out systematic audit against agreed standards. Auditing should be a dynamic process with the aim of being a driving force in improving services and promoting good practice. This process should be informed by intelligence from performance measures, inspection findings, changes to statutory function, findings from complaints, Serious Case Reviews, and be part of a wider performance management framework. The evidence from the audits should also be triangulated by seeking the experience of children, young people and their families, as well as partners. However, as Munro stated, 'social work presents particular challenges because of the nature of its knowledge base. Improvements in services to users cannot be achieved just by managerial changes but requires rigorous research to increase understanding of what works. The process of making social work 'auditable' is in danger of being destructive, creating simplistic description of practice and focusing on achieving service outputs with little attention to user outcomes'. With this limitation in mind, the proposal in this paper sets out how the thematic audit process may be carried out in Cheshire East and some of the current challenges in implementing this.

In order to be effective, the process needs to be 'owned' and supported by all senior managers and relevant staff, and sit alongside the systematic audits carried out by first line managers as a check that minimum expectations are met by their individual workers.

2.0 Recommendations

- SMT agree the policy and tools (appendix A)
- Agree the steering group process and report format
- Discussion and agreement in respect of the challenges outlined below in background and options.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

As a relatively new authority Cheshire East did not appear to inherit a comprehensive audit programme that was well established and embedded from the previous County Council. Prior to my appointment a start was made and so far 2 audits have been carried out, the report of the most recent is attached (appendix B), as well as an audit of supervision files. Another audit is planned for April. The early findings of the audits carried out revealed as much about the process as the cases themselves. As a result a steering group has been established (membership and terms of reference within Appendix A), a draft policy written, new tools piloted and revised training incorporating the changes planned. In order to make progress SMT need to not only endorse the proposals, but actively lead the process and ensure that all relevant managers to the 'audit pool' are clear that SMT expect that they meet the requirements in a timely way.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Safeguarding Children is an issue for every ward in the Council and the audit process is a part of this responsibility

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 There is a clear expectation that Children's Services staff at all levels are attuned to how well the services they are responsible for delivering meet the expected standards. This is tested out in Inspection and poor performance is a risk to the individual children, their families, the service and the potentially the

wider Council. The issues identified in the section below present a potential risk to the process and therefore in any external inspection.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 The development of a more comprehensive quality assurance framework has been a priority for Children's Services Social Care. Part of this is the further development of a thematic audit process to complement the 'check list' auditing that occurs on the teams by line managers. It is important to accept that audit is an extremely complex and time consuming activity. A balance has had to be struck between establishing a process that will provide quality information for analysis that minimises individual variation in perception and is also manageable within the workforce availability and capacity. As a result the proposal in the policy will require phased introduction, and a number of issues need to be resolved or agreed on by SMT. These issues can be identified as:
- 11.2 There is currently no overarching performance framework that the audit process fits into, in order to adjust the focus from what *has* happened, but drives towards what *is* happening and what *will* happen. The proposal here is just one part of this and should inform and be informed by the experience of front line workers, partners, children, young people and their families, learning from SCR's and complaints, workforce development, horizon scanning etc
- 11.3 Currently, in electronic records, there is no consistency about what documents are placed where, which makes systematic auditing impossible to achieve – the steering group (and inspectors) will look in only one place and provide a nil return if the relevant document is not there but there needs to be agreement across the teams what and where this is. This needs to be tied into an updated recording policy.
- 11.4 The process of arranging the audit, the geography of the Authority and the scattered nature of paper files makes it complex to audit anything other than the electronic files. There needs to be a decision and resource, about the transfer of paper files into electronic information. Alongside this there also appears to be inconsistency in understanding what remains as paper information and what is required to be electronic, and some teams lack the resource to scan documents to meet this requirement.
- 11.5 There is currently no obvious place within PARIS for third party information in the way that paper files can distinguish. This results in these documents remaining as hard copies, and potentially as evidence divorced from the file that may have informed the decisions about a child.
- 11.6 There is currently no section within PARIS where it can be separately identified that the case has been audited, and for the reports to be posted when appropriate. Ideally there needs to be a section within the document element of PARIS with a note in the chronology identifying an audit has been undertaken (this would be any audit)
- 11.7 In order to conduct the audits effectively it was agreed that they needed to take place at a central location, (a number of possible permutations were considered). This is most appropriately done at Dalton House with

the expectation that auditors use 'hot desk' facilities. This has an implication for there being sufficient space made available at Dalton House and it would need to be agreed by SMT that if audit is a priority then the required facilities would need to be made available for the auditors.

- 11.8 Ideally, as outlined within the policy, the information needs to be triangulated by children, young people and their families and partners. There is not capacity at present to undertake this work and therefore the policy will be introduced in a phased way. If capacity is available from corporate colleagues to carry out this element of the audit process this would be very welcome and would carry the additional benefit of greater independence.
- 11.9 The importance of the audit process, the expectation that all members of the audit pool are required to participate, including attending the training, as outlined in the policy needs to be directed from senior managers.
- 11.10 Senior managers need to be visible as part of the audit process refer to paragraph 10:3 of the policy.)
- 11.11 It would be helpful to have the support of a member of the corporate auditing team to the steering group to offer expertise and challenge to the process.

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: Kate Rose

Designation: Principal Manager Safeguarding, Children's Services

Tel No: 01606 288076

e-mail: kate.rose@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Embedded documents:

Appendix A - Audit Report & Tools



audit policy final
version.doc

Appendix B - Audit Cycle Report from Glynis Williams



smt summary sheet
2.doc

Update

- **Business Objects Reporting Environment**
 - Full suite of reports now available for Children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Cared for Children
 - Looked after children report for the Safeguarding Team broken down into IRO chairs and case load detailing next due review date.
 - Report suite for Virtual School
 - Scheduled reports for appropriate partner agencies

- **Reports in PARIS main system**
 - Developed two new reports 531 and 543 around the number of referrals coming into the authority by team and worker detailing source of referral, outcome and whether repeat or not
 - Production of guidance document for staff detailing the reports available, where to find them and what they include – cascaded to all teams.
 - Production of guidance document for managers detailing key reports and how to use them/ where to find them.

- **Management Reports**
 - Extensive development of monthly and quarterly CP reports to principal manager of safeguarding
 - Development of monthly monitoring of assessment data to complement the score card data produced on a quarterly basis
 - Development of the wider LSCB management report.

- **Paris 4.4 upgrade**
 - Work ongoing to bring in 4.4 for upgrade. Core functionality of upgrade is sound but there are issues with the financial module, with considerable work ongoing (more detailed in attached SMT papers)
 - This is a collaborative venture with Adult services to ensure we all sit on a consistent version that meets both service requirements.

- **Paris Training/ development**
 - Recruited a dedicated systems trainer to support the service who is working with teams on a 1:1 basis and revising training modules to reflect the new working structure

- **Statutory Returns**
 - We have implemented the Civica (supplier of PARIS) reporting module for delivery of the CIN return.
 - This is the first year of usage and data extract has proved considerably easier.
 - Intention is to use this ongoing as a data quality tool for teams.

- **Work with the new CAT team**
 - Comprehensive management information work completed with the CAT team from manual records to understand range of work coming through and nature of contacts that result in No Further Action to Social Care. This is developing future of system use.

Ongoing work

- **Reporting**

- Developing a further suite of Safeguarding reports around CP module
- Reviewing the reporting environment currently available to develop further reports around the wider CIN cohort and assessment work,
- We have started working with the newly developed placement team to address the reporting requirements and developing the business model for effective management information
- We have completed an exploratory piece of work to possibly utilise the SQL Microsoft product reporting tools linked to the reporting instance of PARIS which may be adopted following 4.4 upgrade depending on a cost/ benefit analysis.

- **System Future**

- Any replacement of system has been delayed pending the recommendations from the Munro report and ongoing requirements.
- Due to issues with PARIS 4.4 implementation and testing, a high level Options paper has already been compiled to consider.
- Two new staff have been recruited to commence in August 2011 with the remit to continue with process redesign and system development to fully document the service requirements.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children And Families Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 28 June 2011

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

Subject/Title: Update On Corporate Parenting Strategy

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Children and Families Scrutiny in relation to progress of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Cheshire East approved at Cabinet 14 March 2011.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A report setting out how the Council intends to undertake its Corporate Parenting responsibilities was approved at Cabinet on the 14 March 2011. This report revised the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board and introduced a Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 2.2 The concept of Corporate Parenting was first given prominence in 1998, with the Quality Protects Programme, launched by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health at that time. The key message was that Councillors should view the needs of children in public care and have ambitions for them as though they were their own. Since 1998 central Government has continued to strengthen the concept of the Council as Corporate Parent and the role of Elected Members in championing this approach.
- 2.3 Following recent local elections the membership of the Board can now be revised in line with recommendations in the report.

3.0 Update

- 3.1 Since the report went to Cabinet in March 2011, additional members of the board have been recruited from CAMHS, Legal, Housing and Health Agencies. Children in Care Council representatives are now also involved.
- 3.2 Themes covered in meetings have included

1. Apprenticeships for Cared for Children

- Currently 5 Care Leavers accessing Council Apprenticeship

2. Awards Event Update

- Resulted in key members of Corporate Parenting Board offering to sit on Steering Group

3. Cared for Children Monitoring Information.

- See Appendix 1 – attached

4. Barnardo's Advocacy Report

- Identified themes in relation to advocacy requests.

5. Children in Care Council Briefing

- See Appendix 2 - attached

6. Education Update

- Verbal update in relation to expected outcomes for Cared for Children and also proposed governance of Virtual School.

7. Health of Cared for Children

- See Appendix 3 - attached

8. Reg 33 Visits Report

- See Appendix 4 - attached

9. One Minute Guide on Corporate Parenting

- See Appendix 5 - attached

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Future meetings of the board will consider the establishment of a Sub-group to undertake projects on behalf of the board and reporting systems in relation to outcomes.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications relating to the content of this report.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 That members of Scrutiny note contents of this report and identify timescales for future updates in relation to Corporate Parenting Board.

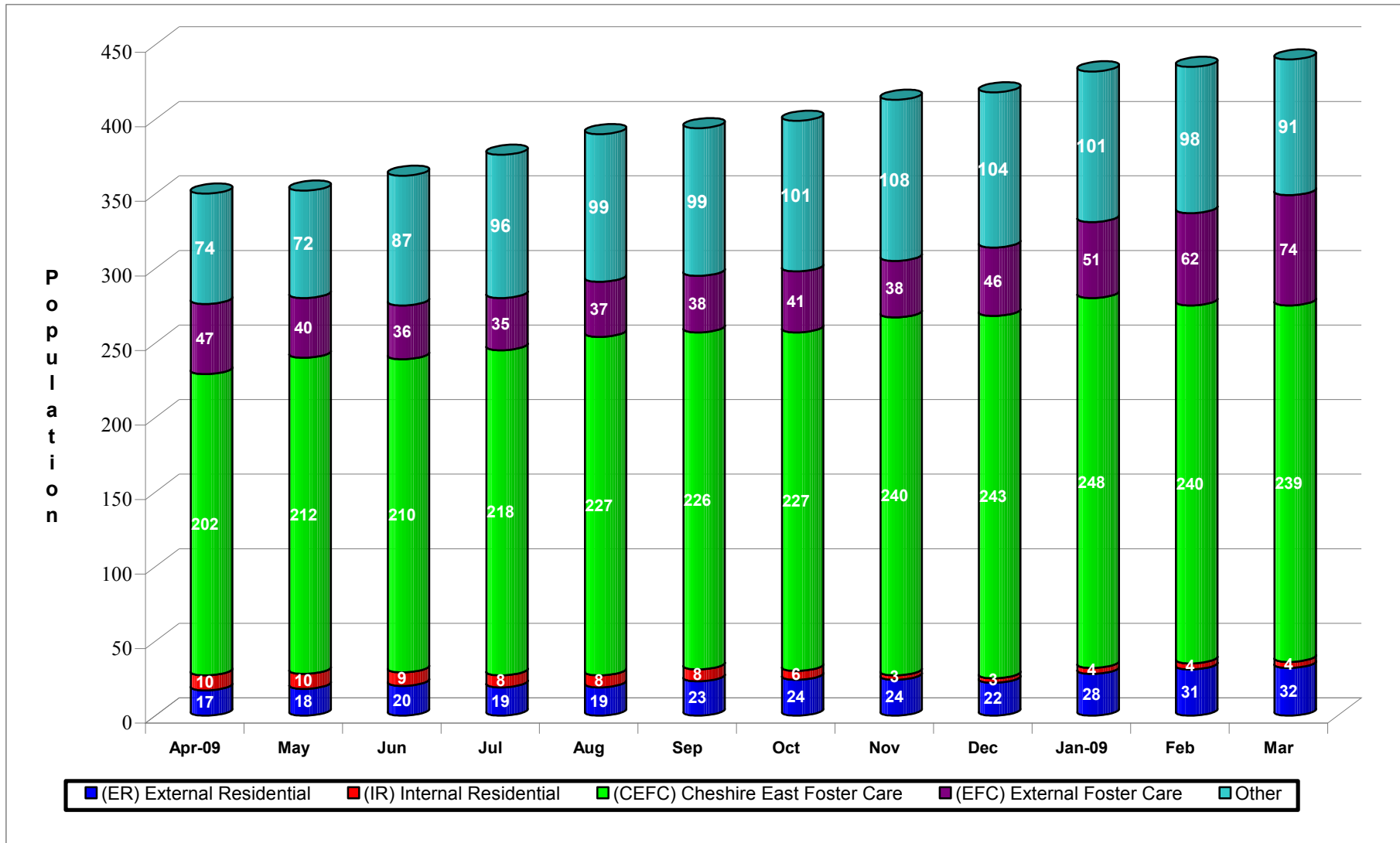
Name: Lorraine Butcher
Designation: Director of Children Services
Tel No: 01270 6 86021
Email: lorraine.butcher@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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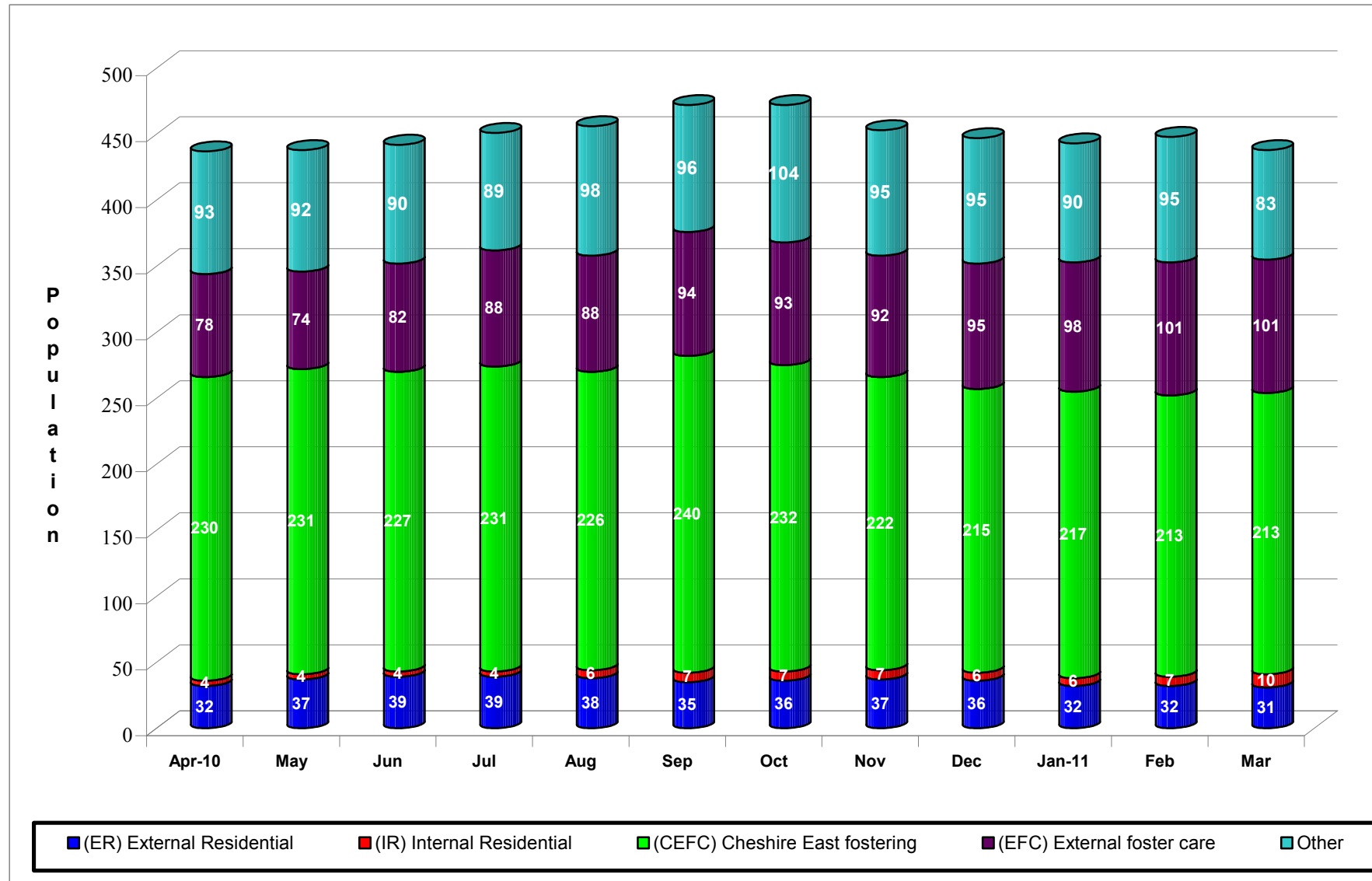
Cared for children Monitoring Report April to March 2011

JA Hall

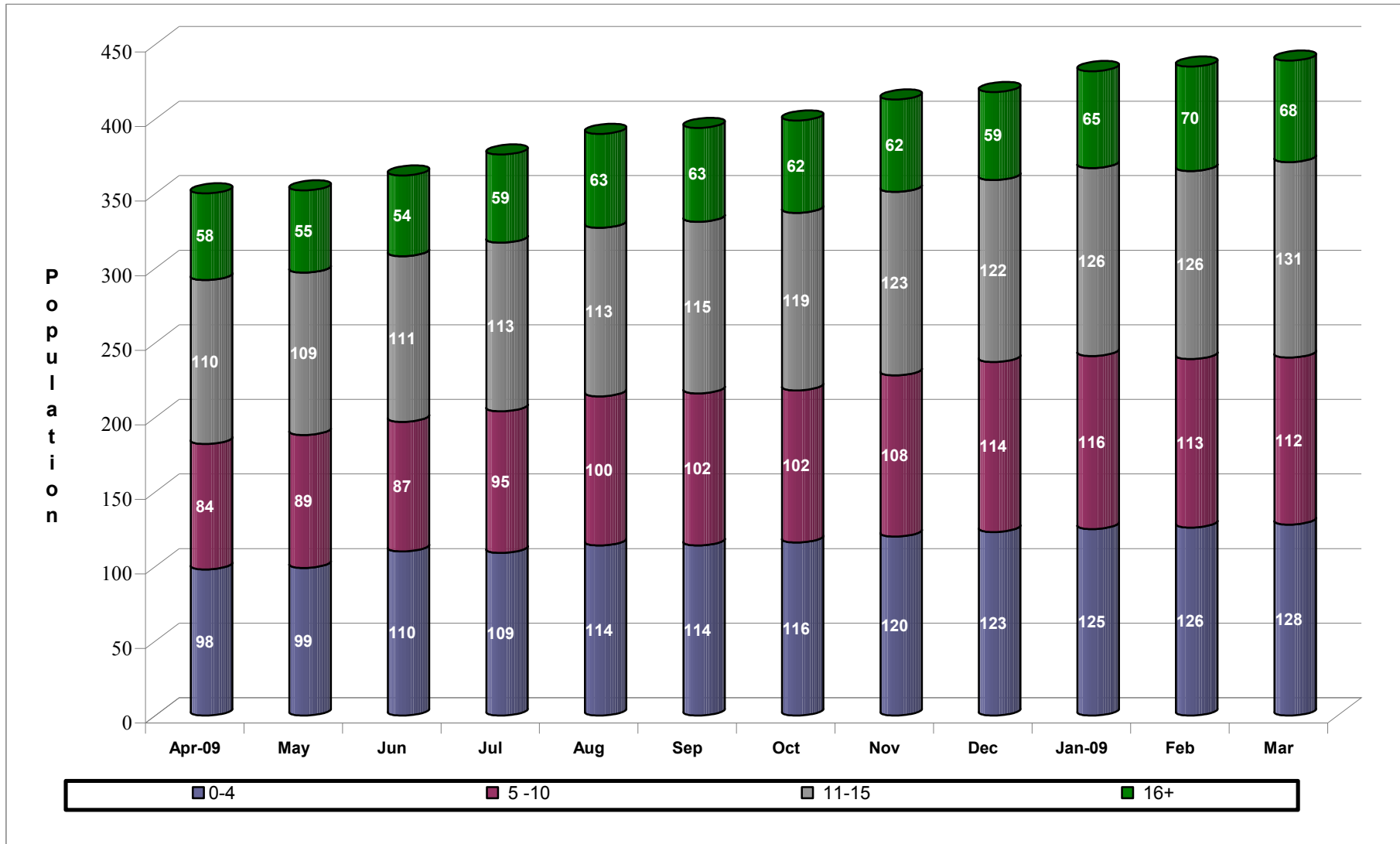
1 Cared for Children Population by placement type 2009-2010



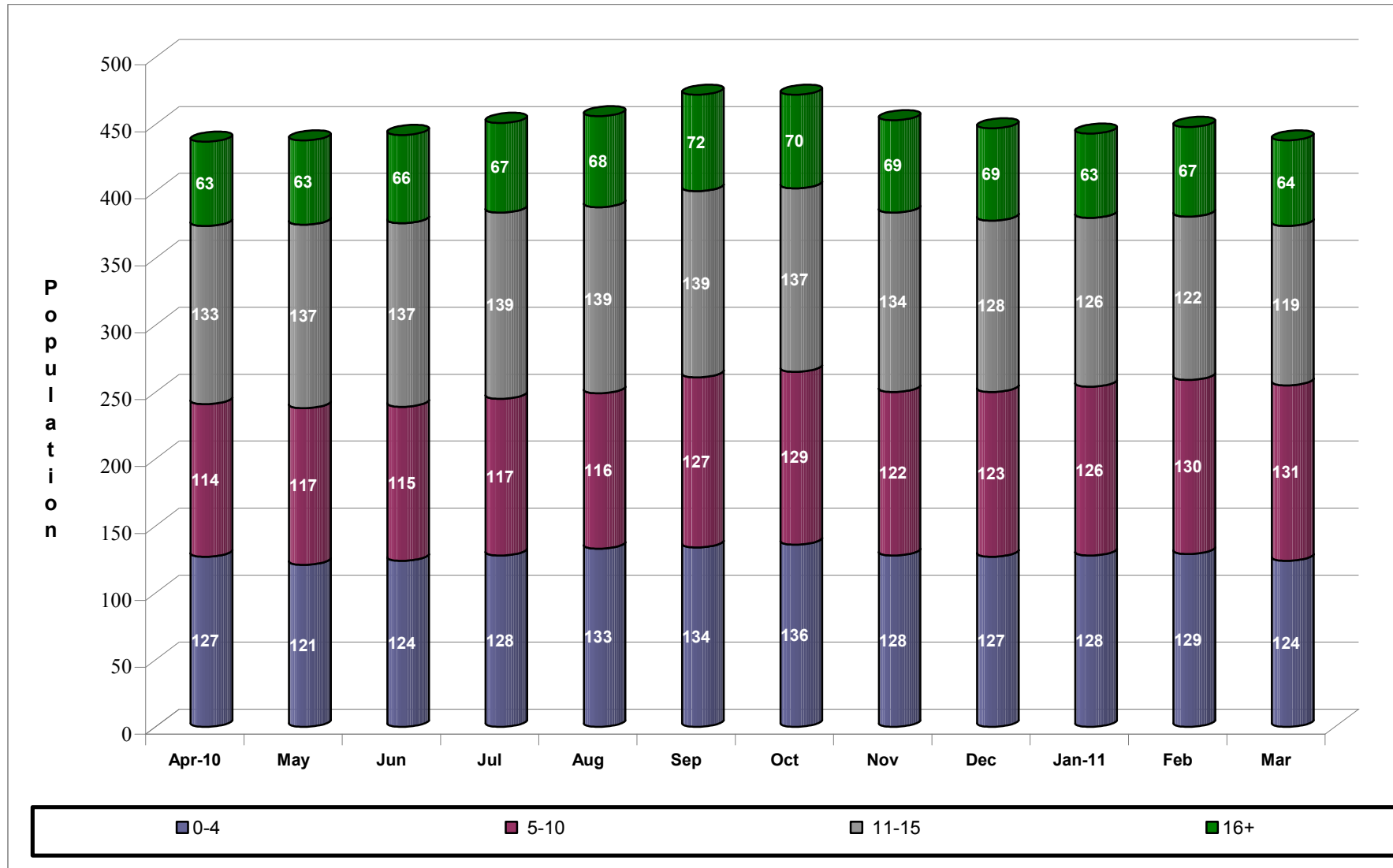
2 Cared for Children Population by Placement type April 2010 to March 2011



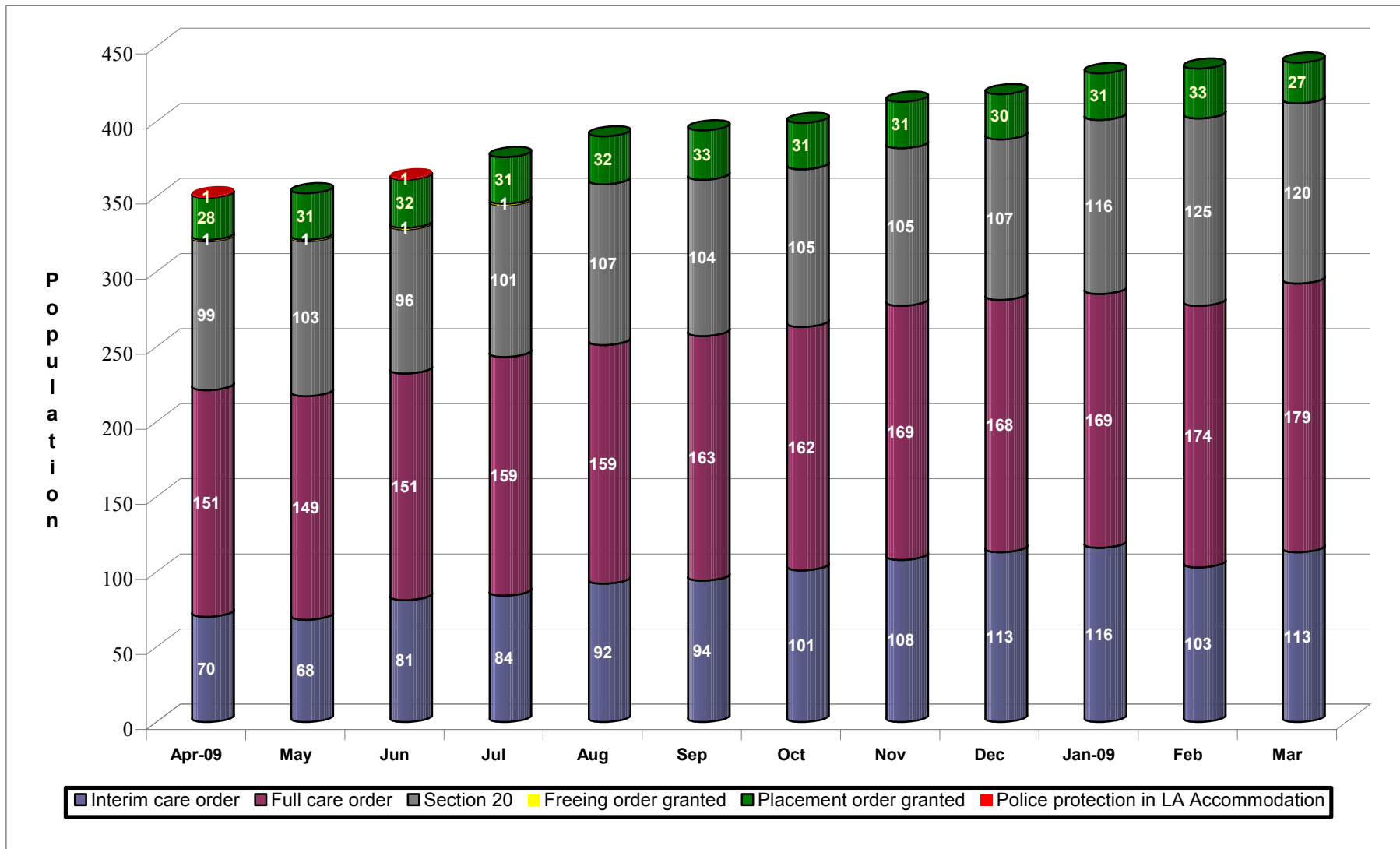
3 Cared for Children Population by Age April 2009 to March 2010



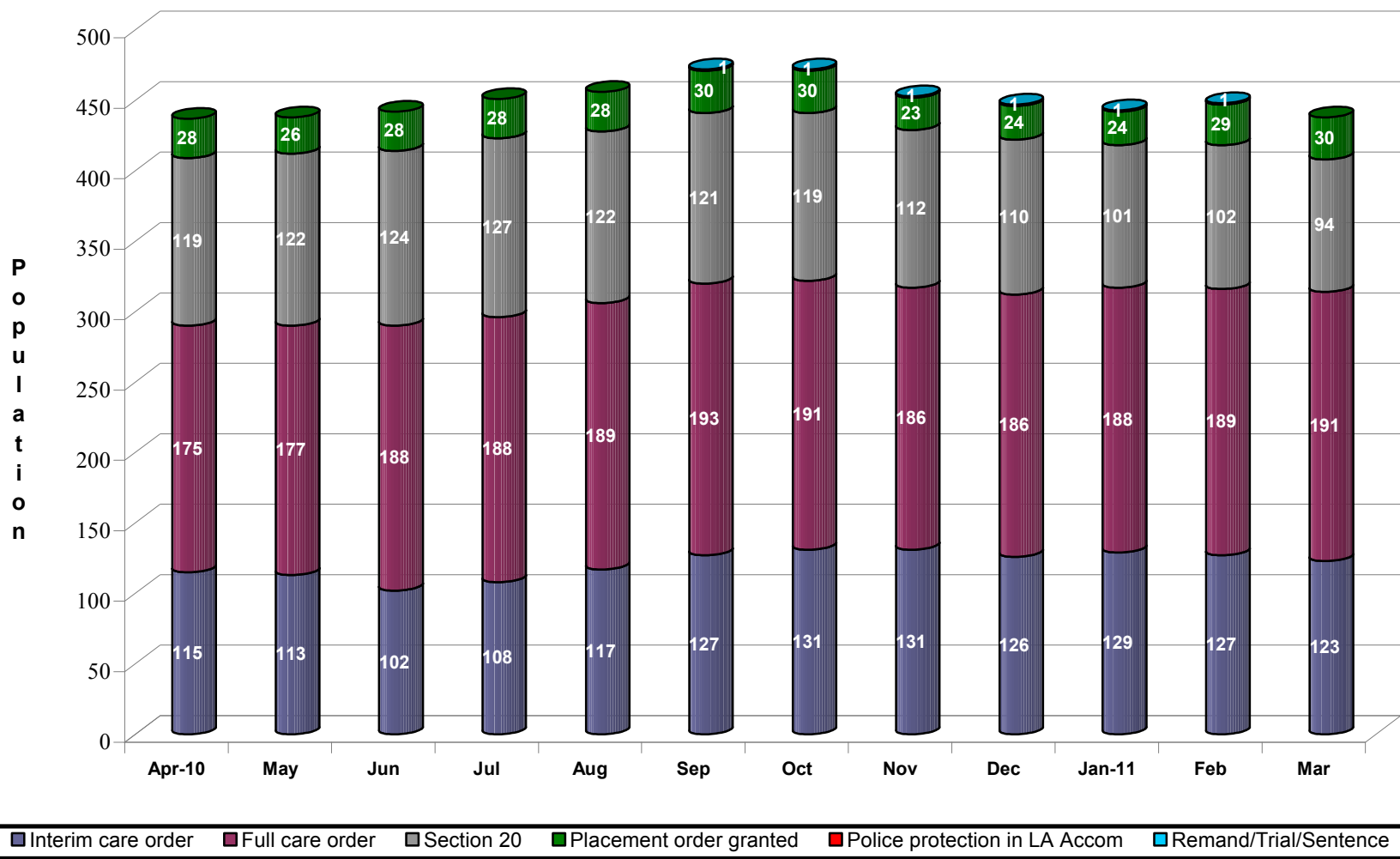
4 Cared for Children Population by Age April 2010 to March 2011



5 Cared for Children Population by legal status April 2009 to March 2010



6 Cared for Children Population by legal status April 2010 to March 2011



Total cared for population Breakdown of Other placements

Placement Type	Average 10 / 11	February 11	March 11
ER	35	32	31
IR	6	7	10
CEFC	225	213	213
EFC	90	101	101
Other	93	95	83
All	449	448	438

	Feb 11	Mar 11	Mar 11 %
Family Centre Mother & Baby Unit	7	0	0.0%
Independent Living	7	7	1.6%
Missing – Whereabouts Unknown	0	0	0.0%
NHS/Health/medical/nursing care	2	1	0.2%
Other Placement	0	0	0.0%
Placed for Adoption	16	17	3.9%
Placed With parents	63	58	13%
Residential Accom. Not Reg. Home	0	0	0.0%
Secure unit outside LA Boundary	0	0	0.0%
YOI or Prison	0	0	0.0%
Total	95	83	19%

Ratio of Fostering-Residential Placements

Placement Type	Average 10 / 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Fostering	88.5%	89%	88.5%
Residential	11.5%	11%	11.5%

Placed with parents information

Gender	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
Male	14	10	6	0	30
Female	6	17	3	2	28
Total	20	27	9	2	58

Ratio of Internal-External Placements

Placement Type	Average 10 / 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Internal	65%	62%	63%
External	35%	38%	37%

Ratio of Internal- External Residential Placements

Placement Type	Average 10 / 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Internal Res.	15%	18%	24%
External Res.	85%	82%	76%

Ratio of Internal Foster Care – External Foster Care Placement

Placement Type	Average 10 / 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Internal foster	71%	68%	68%
External foster	29%	32%	32%

Cheshire East Foster Carer Approvals

	Respite	Family and Friends	Mainstream	Total
Apr 10	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	2 (2)
May 10	0	2 (3)	0	2 (3)
Jun 10	0	3 (4)	0	3 (4)
Jul 10	0	4 (6)	0	4 (6)
Aug 10	0	2 (5)	0	2 (5)
Sep 10	0	0	3 (5)	3 (5)
Oct 10	0	0	0	0
Nov 10	(1)	2 (2)	0	2 (3)
Dec 10	2 (2)	1 (3)	1 (1)	4 (6)
Jan 11	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	2 (2)
Feb 11	0	2 (2)	0	2 (2)
Mar 11	0	0	0	0
Total	4 (5)	18 (27)	4 (6)	26 (38)

Cheshire East Foster Carer Resignation and De-registration

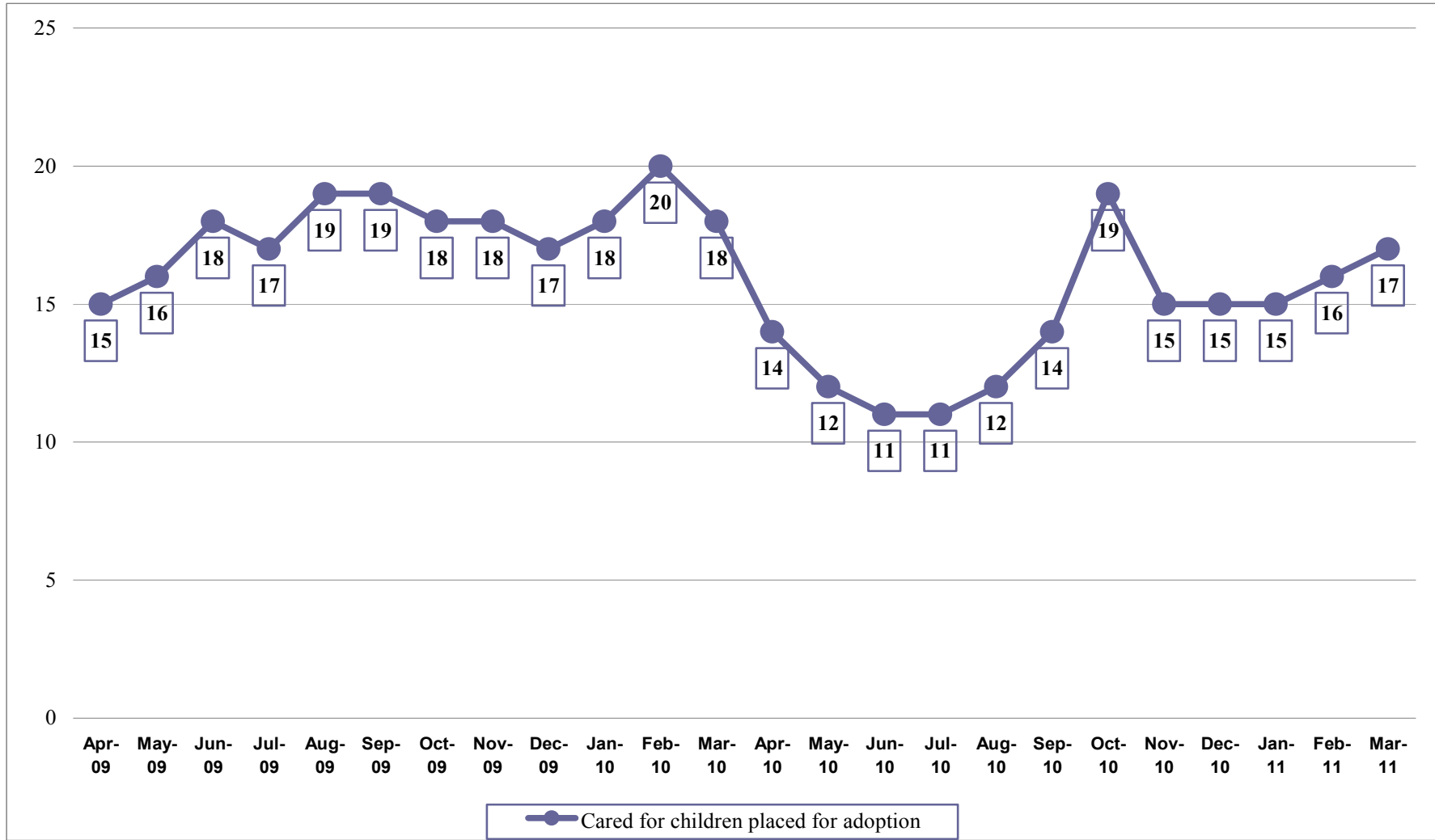
	Respite	Family and Friends	Mainstream	Total
Apr 10	0	0	0	0
May 10	0	1 (-1)	1 (-3)	2 (-4)
Jun 10	0	0	5 (-15)	5 (-15)
Jul 10	0	2 (-2)	1 (-2)	3 (-4)
Aug 10	0	0	1 (-2)	1 (-2)
Sep 10	1 (-3)	3 (-3)	1 (-1)	5 (-7)
Oct 10	0	1 (-2)	1 (-1)	2 (-3)
Nov 10	(-1)	0	1 (-3)	1 (-4)
Dec 10	0	0	2 (-4)	2 (-4)
Jan 11	0	1 (-2)	2 (-5)	3 (-7)
Feb 11	1 (-1)	2 (-5)	2 (-4)	5 (-10)
Mar 11	0	1 (-1)	3 (-4)	4 (-5)
Total	2 (-5)	11 (-16)	20(-44)	33(-65)

Carer approved in Nov 10 was approved as F&F carer for 1 and respite for 1 Carer resigned in November was Mainstream carer 3 children and respite 1 child

Cheshire East Foster Carer Reasons for Resignation and De-registration

	Ill Health	Deceased	Retirement	Personal reasons	Change of circumstances	Adopted cared for children	Safeguarding issues	Total
Apr 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 10	1 (-3)	0	0	0	1 (-1)	0	0	2 (-4)
Jun 10	0	0	3 (-10)	2 (-5)	0	0	0	5 (-15)
Jul 10	0	0	0	3 (-4)	0	0	0	3 (-4)
Aug 10	0	0	0	1 (-2)	0	0	0	1 (-2)
Sep 10	0	0	1 (-3)	1 (-1)	3 (-3)	0	0	5 (-7)
Oct 10	0	0	0	1 (-1)	1 (-2)	0	0	2 (-3)
Nov 10	0	0	0	1 (-4)	0	0	0	1 (-4)
Dec 10	0	1 (-2)	1 (-2)	0	0	0	0	2 (-4)
Jan 11	0	0	0	2 (-5)	0	1 (-2)	0	3 (-7)
Feb 11	0	0	0	2 (-3)	2 (-5)	1 (-2)	0	5 (-10)
Mar 11	0	0	2 (-3)	1 (-1)	1 (-1)	0	0	4 (-5)
Total	1 (-3)	1 (-2)	7 (-18)	14 (-26)	8 (-12)	2 (-4)	0	33 (-65)

7 Cared for children placed for adoption, April 2009 to March 2011



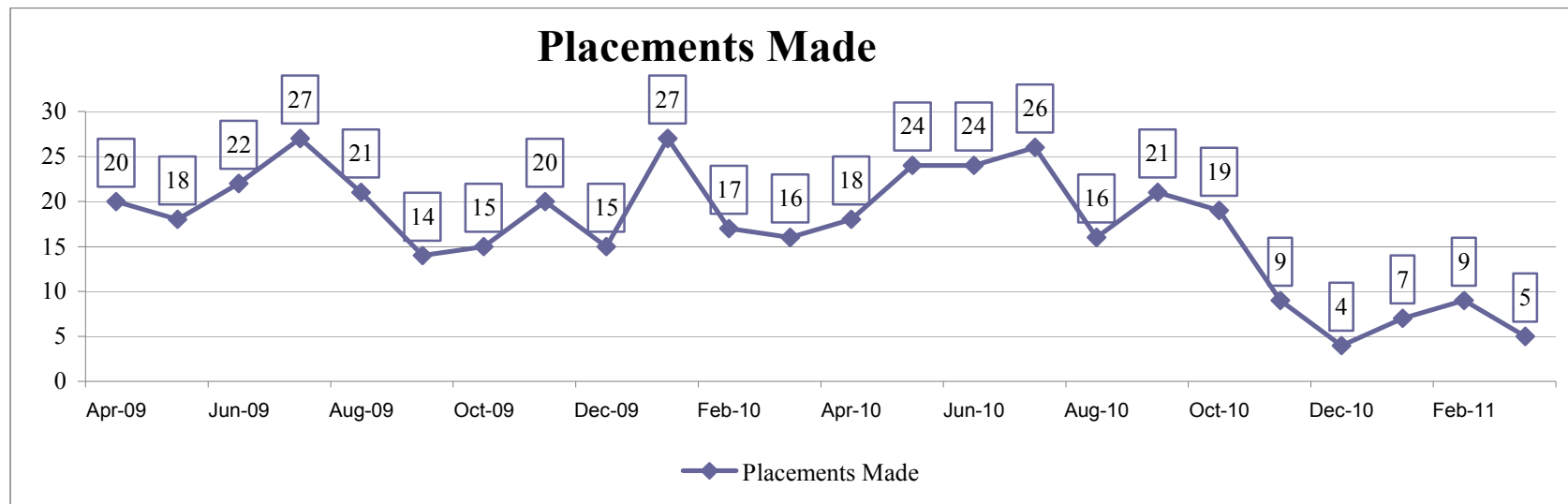
8 Placements made April 2010 to March 2011 (New cared for children mainstream only)

	External Residential (13)	Internal Residential (0)	External Foster Care (36)	Internal Foster Care (92)	Other (41)
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Gender					
Female	3	0	17	35	17
Male	10	0	19	57	24
Age					
0-4 years	0	0	16	43	21
5-10 years	1	0	7	24	14
11-15 years	6	0	13	19	4
16+ years	6	0	0	6	2
Ethnicity					
Afghan	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	5	0
Black – African	0	0	0	0	0
Black – Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0
Other Asian	0	0	1	3	2
Moroccan	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0
White – British	10	0	31	80	38
White Asian	0	0	0	0	1
White & Black African	2	0	0	0	0
White & Black Caribbean	0	0	3	2	0
Other mixed background	0	0	1	0	0
White – Other	0	0	0	1	0
Other ethnic group	1	0	0	1	0
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0
Sibling Groups					
2 Children	0	0	8 (16)	5 (10)	7 (14)
3+ Children	0	0	0	7 (26)	2 (6)

9 New Cared for Children placements Made, April 2010 to March 2011 (Mainstream only)

Month	Placement Type					ALL
	ER	IR	EFC	CEFC	Other	
Apr 10	2	0	5	7	4	18
May 10	1	0	2	18	3	24
Jun 10	2	0	5	15	2	24
Jul 10	2	0	9	3	12	26
Aug 10	1	0	4	6	5	16
Sep 10	0	0	2	18	1	21
Oct 10	2	0	1	12	4	19
Nov 10	2	0	2	3	2	9
Dec 10	0	0	1	3	0	4
Jan 11	0	0	2	1	4	7
Feb 11	1	0	3	1	4	9
Mar 11	0	0	0	5	0	5
Total	13	0	36	92	41	182

10 Placements Made April 2009 to March 2011 (Mainstream only)



11 Reason for admission into care April 2010 – March 2011 (mainstream only)

Admission reason	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
Abuse or neglect	56	27	19	5	107
Disability	0	3	1	1	5
Parental illness/disability	6	1	3	0	10
Family in acute stress	7	8	9	5	29
Family dysfunctional	10	6	8	1	25
Socially unacceptable	0	0	1	1	2
Absent parenting	1	1	1	1	4
Total	80	46	42	14	182

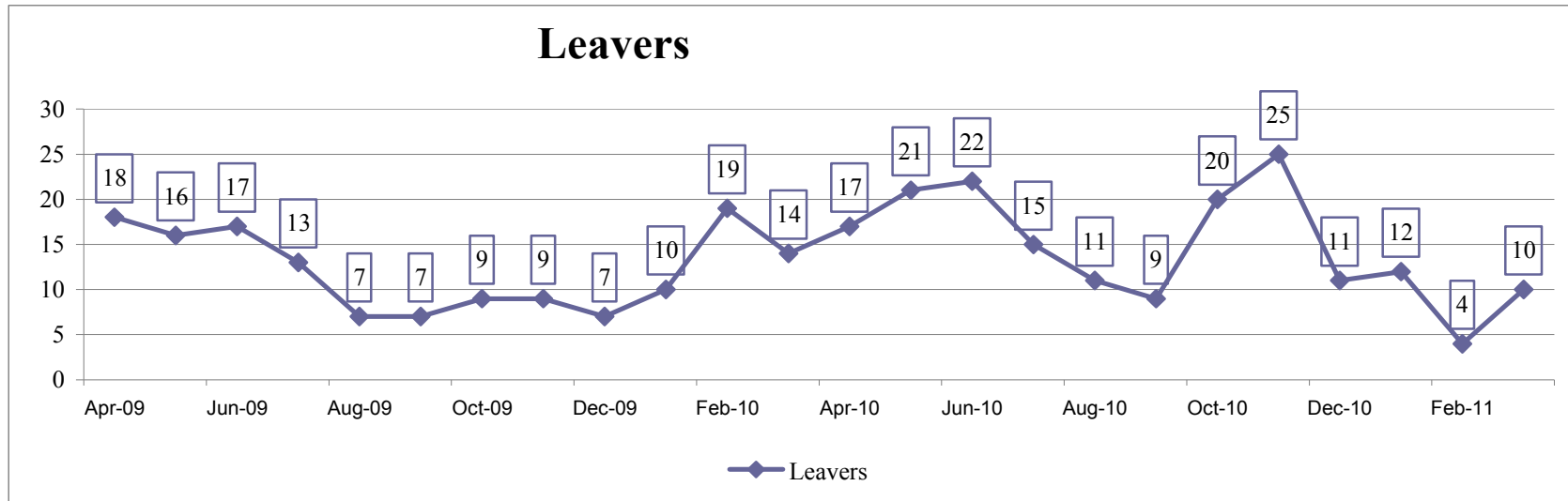
12 Locality of admission into care April 2010 – March 2011 (mainstream only)

Locality	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
Crewe	47	23	20	1	91
Congleton	11	9	7	4	31
Macclesfield	19	8	13	6	46
Disability	0	3	1	3	7
Access	2	3	1	0	6
Adoption	1	0	0	0	1
Total	80	46	42	14	182

13 Leavers April 2010 to March 2011 (Mainstream only)

Month	Placement Type					ALL
	ER	IR	EFC	CEFC	Other	
Apr 10	1	0	4	6	6	17
May 10	0	0	1	17	3	21
Jun 10	3	0	2	13	4	22
Jul 10	2	0	2	5	6	15
Aug 10	1	0	2	5	3	11
Sep 10	1	0	3	3	2	9
Oct 10	1	0	2	8	9	20
Nov 10	1	0	4	15	5	25
Dec 10	2	0	2	6	1	11
Jan 11	5	0	1	2	4	12
Feb 11	0	0	0	1	3	4
Mar 11	1	0	2	3	4	10
Total	18	0	25	84	50	177

14 Leavers April 2009 to March 2011 (Mainstream only)



15 Reason for young people leaving care April 2010 – March 2011 (mainstream only)

Reason ceased	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
Returned Home	25	20	20	3	68
Supervision order	7	1	0	0	8
Residence order	8	10	4	0	22
Adoption	13	4	0	0	17
Independent	0	0	0	10	10
Mum and baby unit	1	0	0	1	2
Reached 18 years	0	0	0	39	39
Care order expired	0	0	0	1	1
Returned to family/friends	0	0	2	1	3
Sentenced	0	0	2	1	3
Special Guardianship Order	2	0	0	0	2
Care order discharged	1	1	0	0	2
Total	57	36	28	56	177

16 Locality of leavers from care April – March 2011 (mainstream only)

Locality	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+	Total
Crewe	34	19	15	13	81
Congleton	8	7	5	26	46
Macclesfield	10	6	8	13	37
Disability	3	1	0	4	8
Adoption	1	0	0	0	1
Access	1	3	0	0	4
Total	57	36	28	56	177

17 Children in care for 3 years or more as at 31st March 2011

	External Residential (7)	Internal Residential (5)	External Foster Care (23)	Internal Foster Care (89)	Other (32)
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Gender					
Female	2	0	13	43	20
Male	5	5	10	46	12
Age					
0-4 years	0	0	1	5	2
5-10 years	0	1	5	25	21
11-15 years	5	2	12	41	4
16+years	2	2	5	18	5
Ethnicity					
Afghan	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	0
Black – African	0	0	0	0	0
Black – Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0
Gypsy Roma Traveller	0	0	0	1	0
Other ethnic group	0	0	0	3	1
Other mixed background	0	0	1	0	0
Moroccan	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0
White – British	7	5	22	82	31
White& Asian	0	0	0	0	0
White & Black African	0	0	0	0	0
White & Black Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0
White other	0	0	0	3	0
Other Asian background	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	5	23	89	32

18 Total Cost of cared for placements April 2010 – March 2011

	ER (31)	IR (10)	CEFC (213)	EFC (101)	Other (83)	Adoption & residence order Allowances (73)
Apr 10	230,988			281,419	40,414	
May 10	317,429		854,104	273,686	64,709	127,962
Jun 10	273,637		365,124	263,971	106,770	45,293
Jul 10	333,796		356,460	299,666	102,666	49,442
Aug 10	351,342		341,312	319,650	128,492	51,563
Sep 10	266,111	301,064	494,881	313,669	151,864	66,983
Oct 10	363,953		335,646	339,803	130,087	47,020
Nov 10	352,998	-150,527	358,185	322,891	108,823	51,493
Dec 10	313,194		316,853	316,252	49,936	53,458
Jan 11	312,794	301,054	308,122	336,544	56,945	52,100
Feb 11	292,517	-150,527	321,459	335,157	51,117	52,951
Mar 11	372,018		323,962	360,254	28,748	55,583
TOTAL	3,780,777	301,064	4,376,108	3,762,962	1,020,571	653,848
10/11 Monthly Average	315,065	25,089	364,676	313,580	85,048	54,487
Average unit cost	10,163	100,355	1,712	3,105	1,025	746

Costs of placements are based on invoices paid, not all invoices have been received for residential and agency placements therefore the figures above will change in the next report.

Internal residential costs are for Wilkinson House. Full year costs charged to Cheshire East in September and January who invoiced Cheshire West and Chester for their 3 beds in November and February, average unit cost calculated using 3 beds allocated to Cheshire East at Wilkinson House

Cheshire East Children in Care Council - Minutes – 31st March 2011

Present

JB, DF, SC, EW, CB,

Rob Harrison (Barnardo's), Clare Ruggier (Barnardo's), Sarah Gaskell (Connexions) and Lorraine Butcher (Cheshire East),

Apologies

RC, CH, Amy Smythe (Barnardo's),

Agenda

Welcomes, apologies and ground rules

Minutes and actions from last meeting

Feedback from Corporate Parenting Board

Planning for April team day

Name

Finalising logo, pledge and newsletter

Action plan for the year

Request for input into Independent Safeguarding Chairs Annual Report

Request for representative for FCA's celebration event in September

Review of Complaints for young people

Attendance requests

AOB

Welcomes, Apologies and Ground Rules

JB agreed to chair the meeting, and Rob talked through the apologies for the meeting.

Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Rob explained that Phil Mellen would like to attend the CICC in May to discuss how the council can use the website to develop consultations.

The pledge has been passed to Sarah (administrator) at Barnardo's and she is going to put the pledge onto a scroll.

New members – CB's first meeting is tonight, but the CICC still needs a few more members for representation. Rob explained that a flyer should have gone to all Social work staff in Cheshire East to advertise the CICC to people they work with. Clare is also following up some enquiries.

Dan talked about a website that was designed for Children in Care by Eric with content from the CICC. This has features where young people can talk to each other, put on information and ask questions. He explained that it is a little bit like facebook and is only open to group members. This should complement the CICC website through the Virtual school as this is for the public and enables consultations with cared for children who are not CICC members.

Action: Rob to meet with Dan and Eric to look at the website and look at connecting with the virtual schools website

Feedback from Corporate Parenting Board

Lorraine talked about what the Corporate Parenting Board is, and she explained that the purpose of the board is to work with other agencies and identify barriers to young people who live in Cheshire East. They make sure that the council are accountable to all these young people, and they want to make sure that they are providing enough support for young people so that they can get on in life and have the support they need.

At the last meeting, they discussed:

- Do the right people attend the meetings?
- Support for schools
- Support for post 16 and young people going into further education or work
- The numbers of young people in care (445 young people that they are directly responsible for)
- What support they require from the councillors

Lorraine explained that they need to think about the times of future meetings, so that members of the CICC can attend and it does not interrupt school/college. Lorraine said that at the meeting they thought that it would be good for 2 members of the CICC to attend.

JB went to the last meeting and said that he really enjoyed the meeting and he learned a lot about section 20, which is about parents voluntary letting a child go into care. JB said that the CICC will get an agenda item at the meetings.

The next meeting at the board is in May. DF would like to go.

Action: Decide at the Away Day who will be going to the next meeting. Rob to inform Lorraine of the best times for the CICC to attend.

Planning for April Team Day

The group came up with some ideas for the Team Day, which included:

- Blackpool – Waxworks and Pleasure Beach
- Treasure Hunt
- Trafford Centre – Laserquest and Chill Factor
- Manley Mere
- Applejacks – maze & trampolines

The group voted Blackpool for the team day and it will be on Tuesday 19th April.

CB suggested that they do a sponsored car wash to get named t-shirts for the group with the logo. Group thought this was a great idea and to do in summer. The idea of fundraising for a CICC laptop was also shared.

CB also asked about how they will be informed about the trip.

Action: Clare to inform group nearer to the date the details for the trip.

Name

The CICC could have a name aside from “Children In Care Council” to show the work it does, and members have researched what other areas call their CICC. The members thought of some ideas for the group name and came up with:

- Speak up
- Speak out
- Click with us
- Transformation
- Speak your voice
- We care

- Be heard

SC also has a list that the group came up with at a previous meeting.

Action: Bring all names to the away day to decide

Finalising logo, pledge and newsletter

Sarah from Barnardo's is putting the pledge into a scroll.

SC to finish logo and post this back

The newsletter is being finalised – waiting for feedback on the Who Cares newsletter to agree the best way of this going out.

Action Plan for the year

Rob explained went through the idea of a CICC action plan for the year. He explained that people request to come to the CICC, but maybe we should invite them back after a few months for feedback. He also explained that there may be people the CICC want to request to invite to talk through things that matter to young people in care. The group came up with a list of things that matter to them:

- Inviting young people who are fostered or in residential to find out their views
- Events – awards/celebrations
- Independent living support – help with decorating, what they are entitled to at different stages (ages), help with curtains, washing machines, etc
- Hearing younger children's voices
- Independent Reviewing Officers – changes of officer, accuracy of notes, choices for the young person they are reviewing about their level of involvement, their role, the format of the review.
- Fundraising
- Entitlements and rights and the right to see your file
- What age can you see your information?
- Pets issue
- Changing social workers
- Sofa surfing
- Knowing how to get hold of your social worker

ACTIONS: Rob to write up into a plan, and CICC to decide priorities/ who to invite each month.

Nominations for Planning Team

Rob explained that there is a planning team for the awards in September, there will be 2 events, one for the older young people and one for the younger ones. DF and CB are already on the group and they have decided to use Congleton Town Hall. Rob asked if anyone else would be interested in helping – EW, JB and SC would like to do this.

Attendance Requests

No requests this time – see above re: Phil Mellen attending in May.

Request for input into Independent Safeguarding Chairs Annual Report

Request from GW around this – Rob to share action plan.

Review of Complaints guide for young people

The group looked at the guide for making a complaint, their feedback was:

- Need a younger version
- Needs to be 2 pages
- Pictures
- Too much information
- Go to a social worker
- Electronic version
- Structures wrong and not in order

CB asked if there could be an annual feedback survey from Cheshire East to find out how well young people feel Cheshire East have done in caring for them.

AOB

Sarah Gaskell explained that with the many changes happening within Connexions, that the Youth Participation role is being removed and was not sure what would be happening for the next few months, although it is likely that she will still see the group over the next couple of months.

Rob thanked CB for coming to the meeting and JB for chairing the meeting.

Minutes recorded by Sarah Gaskell, Youth Participation Worker, Connexions

Health Needs of Cared for Children and Care Leavers.**1. Introduction**

This Report will provide information on the health needs of Cared for children & young people. Detailed Health Plans are prepared by the health professionals when Cared for children & young people receive Health Assessments and comprehensive monitoring systems are put in place, whether the child is placed within or outside the Authority. The health needs of individual Cared for children & young people are identified and the recommendations for future actions are developed and monitored by the Independent Safeguarding Chairpersons (ISCs). Health needs can be divided into the following areas: -

- Medical
- Dental
- Developmental / Educational
- Immunisations
- Lifestyle
- Pregnancy

2. Background

The need to be well – both physically and emotionally – is crucial in determining whether a child/young person flourishes socially, psychologically and educationally. Health has an important influence on attainment throughout a child's life and is vital in enabling young people to fulfil their potential as they progress from childhood through the teenage years.

Good physical and emotional health contribute to broader outcomes, enhancing children's self-esteem and resilience, improving their long term prospects and preparing them for adulthood. The health of children & young people in care is often compromised at the time of their becoming cared for by the Local Authority, since it may reflect the impact of poor early life experiences, family influences and environmental risk factors. Cared for children deserve consistency in health messages and enabling health promotion.

The Designated Paediatricians for Cared for Children & Young People (Dr Tina Marinaki and Dr Baljinder Singh), and the Cared for Children's Nurses (Bernice Asbury and Sheila Williams) work closely with the local authority and strive to improve the health of Cheshire East's Cared for children. The fact that Health Assessments are organised and undertaken in a timely and efficient has been due to the consistency of these health professionals working in closely with the Local Authority, and having clear protocols developed between Children's Social Care and Central & East Cheshire PCT. Notwithstanding this there has been observed to be a difficulty in ensuring that Health Assessment recommendations and plans are presented at many Cared for Reviews. This is generally due to the difficulties in processing paperwork rather than the requests for the Health assessment not having been made.

3. Medical Issues Of Cared for Children

Statutory Health Assessments are able to identify health needs and health neglect that might otherwise have gone unrecognised. Nationally, two thirds of cared for children were reported to have at least one physical health complaint (Meltzer et al, 2003).¹

Cared for children are more likely than their peers to experience problems including: speech and language difficulties; coordination difficulties; eye/sight problems; and mental health difficulties.

When medical issues are identified during the Health Assessment, Health Plans are developed between the child/young person (wherever possible), the carer (foster carer, parent, residential staff), the Social Worker for the child/young person, the Cared for Children's Nurse, and the lead Health Professional for the child/young person (be that the School Nurse, Health Visitor etc).

Whilst the statutory responsibility of the Independent Safeguarding Chairperson is to ensure that the Health Plan is reviewed at least biannually, it is important to reiterate that is imperative that the Health Plan is available to the reviewing process, as this working document is crucial to evidencing that the recommendations of this specific plan are acted upon in a timely and appropriate manner.

4. Developmental / Educational

The Health Assessment can help to identify any developmental challenge or disability which may be present, thus prompting an early referral of the child for specialist and comprehensive developmental checks. Consequently, the Health Plan and the Personal Education Plan (PEP) aim to complement each other and deliver improved outcomes for Cared for children. Involvement in play, creative arts, sports and other leisure activities provide opportunities for Cared for children & young people to meet with others and to develop friendships. These social skills can help children and young people develop educationally.

The Cared for Children's Nurse link closely with the Designated Paediatricians, and in a number of circumstances with regard to children and young people who have complex needs in settings outside of the Authority, the willingness and capacity of the Designated Paediatrician to take responsibility for orchestrating the health interventions for a small number of young people with complex health needs has been greatly beneficial to their well-being.

5. Dental Issues.

Many Cared for children and young people may not have benefitted from preventative dental care. All ISCs (who also act as Child Protection Conference Coordinators) commented that in circumstances of neglect, poor attention to dental health by parents of children subject (or who became subject) to a Child Protection plan was one of a number of significant health concerns. Regular care of the teeth and visits to the dentist can be encouraged from a young age and can help a child or a young person develop an understanding of how to maintain their own dental health and make healthy choices.

Oral health is vital to children's social success as well as physical health. This is a matter that is raised at Care for Reviews by the Independent Safeguarding Chairperson and regularly reported upon.

6. Emotional, Behaviour & Mental Health Issues

Cared for children and young people can have emotional, behavioural or mental health challenges. This can be due to the adverse factors impacting on children prior to their being cared for by

¹ Meltzer et al. (2003) *The Mental Health of Young People Looked After by Local Authorities in England* The Stationery Office; London.

Cheshire East. In particular, one might highlight the effect of disrupted early attachments, grief and loss and resulting depression, especially for younger children.

Poor emotional and psychological health and feelings of low self-esteem can lead to ill health, depression and/or the use of escape coping mechanisms such as substance misuse and risk taking behaviours in older Cared for children & young people and conduct disorders in younger Cared for children.² For example, one ISC commented upon the high incidence in her caseload of young people diagnosed as having ADHD, and the challenges that were faced by all involved in identifying suitable and appropriate resources to meet these young people's needs adequately and appropriately.

A screening tool called the Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is available to identify the unmet emotional needs of Cared for children from the ages of 4 to 16 years.

The use of the SDQ is not really a matter for dispute. The responsibilities of Local Authorities in this regard are to be found at para.9.11.2 of the Statutory Guidance that relates to the promotion of the health needs of Cared for Children and Young People.

Local authorities are required to make sure that a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is completed for each of their looked after children aged between 4 and 16 inclusive. The questionnaire should be completed by the main carer, preferably at the time of the child's statutory annual health assessment. The authority will need to distribute and explain how to use the questionnaires to each carer.³

There have been discussions between the Cared for Children's Nurses and the Independent Safeguarding Chairperson with lead responsibility for health matters, and it is clear that not only are there a variety of tools in existence (e.g. the British Association of Fostering & Adoption tool) but there is also a need to undertake a routine screening using *either* the SDQ or the BAAF tool to ensure that the emotional and mental health needs of Cared for children are assessed in a competent way at an early point in the child/young person's time spent in the care of Cheshire East Council.

Whichever mechanism is adopted to screen, assess and promote better emotional and psychological good health, the Independent Safeguarding Chairs are of the view that too few SDQs are completed, and accordingly too little information is available to help those who want to help those who might need help.

All the Independent Safeguarding Chairs consulted were of the view that the Cared for Children's Support Team (C4CST) has been and continues to be an invaluable resource in the promotion of good emotional and behavioural well-being.

Many of the ISC consulted considered that without the expertise and thorough understanding of the needs and circumstances of Cared for children/young people by the C4CST then compromised placement stability would be accelerated.

It is acknowledged that as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams (CAMH) across Cheshire East have implemented clearer and more robust screening for identifiable and treatable mental

² For an overview see Richardson, J & Joughin, C (2000) *The Mental Health Needs of Looked After Children* The Royal College of Psychiatrists/Gaskell; London.

³ Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children (2009) Department for Children, Families & Schools/Department of Health; DCSF Publications, Nottingham page 27.

illness there has been a corresponding need to promote therapeutic services which are relevant to children and young people in a cared for setting - whether those settings are stable or in need of additional support, and the C4CST was seen as a resource which goes some considerable way to meeting the need for this intervention and has a crucial part to play in promoting the well-being of Cared for children.

7. IMMUNISATIONS

The immunisation status of Cared for children can often be poor on entry to care, particularly if they are unaccompanied young people. Immunisations may not have been given or the schedule may have been interrupted. Different countries also have a variety of immunisation programmes and catch-up programmes may need to be decided on an individual basis by the Cared for Children health team. The importance of immunisation is highlighted to social workers, foster carers and residential staff as there can be devastating effects from, for example measles, poliomyelitis or mumps. All ISCs endeavour to provide scrutiny of the immunisation status of the children and young people whose care, pathway, and adoption plans are reviewed.

8. LIFESTYLE ISSUES

Lifestyle issues mainly relate to risk taking behaviour. In real and in statistical terms, Cared for children & young people are a group who can be particularly susceptible to developing substance misuse problems. Work in the field of substance use/misuse can be extremely varied ranging for example, from a comparatively simple intervention of explaining the effects and harm of tobacco, to complex dependent multiple substance misuse, where the user may have many underlying issues. The Independent Safeguarding Chairs have identified the difficulties of procuring drug advice and information as a particular difficulty of late, due mainly to the financial pruning that has affected the service provided by DISC (Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities) - the drugs advice and information service in Cheshire.

Changes in placement can also result in changes in school and this, together with higher likelihood for Cared for children to miss some school, can mean that Cared for children miss out on routine medical checks and health promotion initiatives within the school. This can include informed discussion on healthy lifestyles, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual choices and risk-taking behaviours such as misuse of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.⁴

The research would suggest that fewer changes in placement and more stable placements are factors in promoting the health and wellbeing of Cared for children and young people. The importance of paying attention to and accurate recording of a child's health history, current health and wellbeing in providing a full picture of the child's needs and the supports needed by those who care for them cannot be over emphasised.

9. PREGNANCY

The sexual health and behaviour of young people is a key priority. Young women and young men in and leaving care are more likely than their peers to be teenage parents. However, the Cared for Nurses are not qualified Personal Social and Health Education teachers and cannot therefore provide advanced skills and support to young people around sexual health and their relationship needs. As in the section above, missing any schooling or experiencing

⁴ Ward, H, Jones, H, Lynch, M and Skuse, T (2002) *Issues concerning the Health of Looked After Children*, Adoption & Fostering: vol 26 no 4, pp.8-18.

disrupted schooling may have an impact upon the opportunities of young people to be provided with support, information and advice.

In order to try and address the difficulties in providing timely and relevant sexual health advice to Cared for young people, the 16+ Team are seeking to develop drop-in sessions on a weekly basis which include a Cared for Nurse on occasions where appropriate advice and signposting can be undertaken. In the long term, however, there is no substitute for placement stability providing firm foundations for better outcomes for the sexual health and well-being of young people.

10. CONCLUSION

The health needs which occur most frequently are those relating to emotional/behavioural issues, and for older Cared for young people, the provision of meaningful and relevant health promotion services and advice.

Many of our Cared for children and young people have identifiable health needs that require further support from other health services. Good health for Cared for children is achieved through communication and cooperation between all those responsible for the child's health care and development.

The development of better means of data set interrogation will mean that the ISCs will be better placed and able to examine and report upon the achievement of timely provision of Health Assessments and the availability of information to the reviewing process, which will thereby allow the Authority to measure success in these key areas of health provision for the Cared for children & young people.

Written by Andrew Chisnall, Independent Safeguarding Chair, Safeguarding Unit

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**Report to: Corporate Parenting Board**

Date of meeting: 16th May 2011
Report of: Glynis Williams, Safeguarding Manager (C&R)
Subject/title: Bi Annual Report for Regulation 33 Visits
 Cheshire East Children's Homes
Last report submitted: October 2010 (for period April 2010-September 2010)

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 Regulation 33 (Children's Homes Regulations 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Visits take place every calendar month, unannounced, varying in time and date, taking a minimum of 3 hours. Records are checked and the premises, furniture and fittings, and young people and staff are spoken to. The arrangements for health care and education are looked at. The Visitor will also ensure that any community issues that may have arisen have been dealt with.
- 1.5 A report is completed and sent to me to quality assure and to the Residential Manager who will provide responses to issues raised. A response is made to the Visitor and me in 24 hours. If satisfactory both reports are sent to Ofsted. It is critical that visits are carried out in a timely manner and sent to Ofsted promptly. Visitors in the subsequent month are sent copies of the previous report and response in order that on-going issues can be monitored.

- 1.6 3 Claremont Road and 113 Broad Street are currently receiving Regulation 33 visits and both have recently been rated a 'good' in Ofsted inspections with a note that if progress continues we could in the future receive 'outstanding' for some areas.
- 1.7 Langley Unit, Priors Hill received its final Regulation 33 visit in December prior to it ceasing to operate as a children's home on 31 December 2010.
- 1.8 Wilkinson House is a 6 bed Unit ran on behalf of Cheshire East by Together Trust. They have historically carried out Reg 33 inspections themselves but we have recently agreed a joint visit and shared template. This will allow the Council to have a greater understanding of the service Together Trust provide following some concerns by members of Corporate Parenting Board who visited Wilkinson House late 2010. It was agreed that I would carry out a 'Reg. 33 style' visit to provide the Board with an overview of this current provision. This report was shared with the Board and the following actions were identified:

- Monitoring meetings quarterly are needed with contract manager and other stake holders urgently.
- Annual report / business plan from Together Trust is needed to be submitted to CEC.
- Reg 33 visits need to be completed by CEC staff to ensure they know this setting and can provide consistency with other CEC residential provision.
- Urgent review of IT equipment for young people to access further learning.
- Review of budget allocated to equipment and furniture to ensure physical 'look' of unit is improved regularly.
- Linking all staff into e-mail accounts and liaison with SW's electronically.
- Review of use of everything 'going in' for typing either staff type directly or handwritten documents go straight on files – to avoid files with blank sections awaiting typing.

- 1.9 A meeting took place with Together Trust and this action plan was responded to and all tasks completed. Joint Visits between Together Trust and CEC Reg 33 visitor will start from June 2011.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That this report is shared with Scrutiny Panel Members, Senior managers (Children's Services) and with Regulation 33 visitors.

3 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure the highest standards for our young people resident in Cheshire East Children's homes.

4 Background and options

- 4.1 Rota

The rota is covered by 9 Members, and 2 volunteers external to Cheshire East Council:

- Councillor Darryl Beckford
- Councillor Rhoda Bailey
- Councillor Dorothy Flude
- Councillor John Goddard
- Councillor Andrew Kolker
- Councillor David Neilson
- Councillor Lesley Smetham
- Councillor Diana Thompson
- John Hattersley, volunteer
- Emma Dunkin, volunteer

5 Issues raised in reports between October 2010 and March 2011, and actions taken

Priors Hill – Langley Unit

- Covers for door hinges – steps were initiated to ensure that all doors in the home were safe; however subsequent events resulted in the closure of Langley before this was completed.
- Personalising of a room for a young person who was residing almost full time – as this was a short break service the Disability Social Work Team were contacted questioning if this was the most appropriate placement for the young person concerned. The young person subsequently moved on to receive more suitable support.
- Outside lighting did not seem to be working – this was checked and necessary adjustment made to ensure the lights were focussed on the right area.

Claremont Road

- Personal computers for young people – these have now been set up with all the necessary systems in place to ensure that the young people are using them appropriately and safely.
- Dropped kerb – enquiries were made about getting a dropped kerb for the second driveway installed, however, it was agreed that this will be put on hold and staff will refrain from using the second drive.
- Joint staff training programme needed – details of how training is identified and recorded identified.
- Questioned appropriateness of resident attending school in Macclesfield – it was felt that for a variety of reasons it was advisable not to subject her to a change of schools at that time.
- Accident forms should be completed when the accident is reported and referred to in the log book – staff were reminded about the system for recording accidents and this was followed through in individual supervision sessions.
- Visitors' book – a more suitable book was provided.

- Front door in need of repair – a new front door is on order.

Broad Street

- Personal computers for young people – these have now been set up with all the necessary systems in place to ensure that the young people are using them appropriately and safely.
- Home seemed to be very hot, necessitating some of the windows being opened. In the interests of economy requested that the thermostat be checked – thermostat was checked and working correctly.
- Young person had been waiting some time to be able to decorate his room – young person subsequently chose his own paint and decorated his room to his liking.

6 **Positive comments noted over the review period**

Priors Hill – Langley Unit

“The staff were open and friendly; they appeared willing to discuss any issue raised.”

“Staff were clearly engaged with the children and were very caring.”

“Sense of calm and relaxed atmosphere, young people and staff looked settled and positive.”

Claremont Road

“General atmosphere feels great and positive”.

“Feels like a real home”.

“The young person I saw was very comfortable with the facility”.

“Very positive and a happy atmosphere throughout. Files and records in good order”.

“Home is well run and young people are well”.

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Broad Street

“The home is a pleasant environment for the young people. It is as much like a family home as possible”.

“It felt that both the house and residents had matured since my last visit”.

7 **Training and Development**

Half day training events were held on 10 and 17 January 2011 to provide clarity to visitors about the role and their responsibilities as corporate parents and to answer any questions they had. Everyone who attended agreed that had been a helpful exercise.

8 **Conclusions**

During the past six months 100% of expected visits have taken place, however there are still some issues with ensuring that the visits take place early enough in the month for the reports to be sent in and responded to in time for them to be available for the next visitor. The Visitors are very engaged with what is required of them and I believe we have made significant progress overall in the development of the residential service.

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: 01270 257673
Email: glynis.williams@cheshireeast.gov.uk

One Minute Guide

APPENDIX FIVE

December 2010

Corporate Parenting

What is it?

'Corporate parenting' emphasises the collective responsibility of local authorities to achieve good parenting for children and young people in their care. In broad terms, a corporate parent should do at least what a good parent would do. Once a local authority has taken the profound and difficult decision to remove a child, short-term or long-term, from his or her family, it is the duty of the whole local authority to 'safeguard and promote his welfare'. The 'whole authority' extends beyond the Children and Families Service to include Leisure, Housing, Human Resources, indeed all Departments of the Council.

Additionally, schools have a key role to play. The responsibility of the corporate parent continues at least until the age of 21 and up to the age of 24 if the young person is still being supported in higher education or training.

Why are we doing it?

It is our responsibility as a Local Authority to be the 'parents' for the children in our care, to give them the best opportunities and life chances and to provide them with the support that they need to achieve their potential. These children and young people often have profound needs and less than adequate support networks. Moreover arguably as a parent we have the most resources available to us to offer our young people high quality support and opportunities that they might otherwise lack or miss out on.

When is it happening?

All the time! Any interaction a Cared for Child or Young Person has with the Local Authority, via school, leisure services, travel etc is part of our corporate parenting role.

Where is it happening?

Everywhere! See above.

Who are the key players?

Phil Mellen, Head of Virtual School

Philip.Mellen@cheshireeast.gov.uk

01606 271951

07798925902

Julie Lewis, Principal Manager, Cared for Children

Julie.lewis@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Tel 01606 271851

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**Report to: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: 28 June 2011
Report of: Glynis Williams, Safeguarding Manager (C&R)
Subject/title: Bi Annual Report for Regulation 33 Visits
Cheshire East Children's Homes
Last report submitted: October 2010 (for period April 2010-September 2010)

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 Regulation 33 (Children's Homes Regulations 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.
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- Monitoring meetings quarterly are needed with contract manager and other stake holders urgently.
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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: 01270 257673
Email: glynis.williams@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 28 June 2011
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the 2011 Work Programme, to consider the efficacy of existing 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 In reviewing the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

10.2 The schedule attached, has been updated in line with the Committees recommendations on 31 May 2011. Following this meeting the document will be updated so that all the appropriate targets will be included within the schedule.

10.3 In reviewing the work programme, Members must have regard to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items, including Task and Finish reviews, 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

10.4 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
Tel No: 01270 685680
Email: mark.grimshaw@cheshireeast.gov.uk

As of 17/06/2011

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Workplan: April 2011 – September 2011

Portfolio Holder – Hilda Gaddum

Historical Record

Date of Meeting	Agenda Setting Meeting	Topic	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
12 April	17/2/11	Review of Home to School Transport	To consider a report on the consultation process	That a report be brought back to Committee on 31 May 2011
		Children's Centre Programme Re-shaping	To receive a brief on the rationale behind the re-shaping of the Children's centre programme	That a report be brought back to Committee in September 2011 to review the efficacy of the changes.
		Children and Families Compliant Procedures	To inform Members of the data relating to complaints and compliments and to inform them of proposed future changes	Committee noted report
		Fostering Services Review	Members considered the final report of the Task and Finish Group	Members accepted the report and its recommendations which were then referred to Cabinet for consideration.
		Fees and Charges	To inform Members of the proposed changes to fees and charges relating to the Children and Families Committee.	Members received the report.

Date of meeting		Topic	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
31 May 2011		Home to School Transport	To update Members on the emerging issues following the Consultation process	Arrange special meeting
		Children and Families Landscape	To provide Members with an overview of the service and functions of various teams.	Noted.
Date of meeting		Topic	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
20 June 2011 (special meeting)		Home to School Transport	Members to prioritise options following consultation and to recommend to Cabinet.	
Date of meeting		Topic	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
26 July 2011				

Date of meeting		Topic	Purpose/Key issues (including origin)	Comments post meeting
20 September 2011				

Next Agenda Setting Meeting: August 2011

Ongoing items/reviews/Monitoring Papers

Item	Reporting:	Committee Meeting							
		12/4	31/5	28/6	26/7	20/9	18/10	15/11	
PERFORMANCE REPORTING (key exceptions – red/amber and explanations/commentary) to include adoption rates, staffing information and profile of children in Cheshire East	Quarterly (except in instances of a red flag)				X				
INDEPENDENT INSPECTIONS OR REVIEWS	Quarterly			X					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Unannounced Inspection • Children Services Performance Rating • Schools Inspection 									
SAFEGUARDING	When Appropriate								
REGULATION 33	Bi-annual			X					
BUDGET PROCESS	When Appropriate								
REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME	Regular		X						
ACADEMIES	Quarterly								
SEN REVIEW (inc. Green Paper)	When Appropriate								
QUALITY ASSURANCE SOCIAL CARE AUDIT	When Appropriate								

Possible Future Issues / Items (Chronology)

Meeting dates:

28 June 2011
26 July 2011
20 September 2011

18 October 2011
15 November 2011
13 December 2011

Item	Corporate Priority / Targets	Suggested Action	Notes	Due Date and Status
Serious Case Review	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to be briefed on the results of Ofsted Review and what the service plans to do as a result of it.		July 2011 On Track
Children & Families Performance Report – including cross-cutting performance action plan	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To receive an update on the general performance of the service and to pinpoint areas for development	Cross-cutting action plan element suggested by DoCF at agenda setting meeting (17.2.11) for a future item.	July 2011 On Track
Adoption Inspection Result	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to be updated on the result of the Adoption Inspection and on the resulting action plan – also to decide whether a T&F group is required.		July 2011 Deferred
Cheshire East Family Service	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable	Members to be briefed and to consider the CE approach.		July 2011 Deferred

	people in Cheshire East			
Virtual Head	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Phil Mellen to attend To provide a brief on his team's role. Also to provide update on the value for money and appropriateness of Out-of-Borough educational settings.	Requested at Committee in February 2011 Value for money element requested in May 2011	September 2011 On track
Academic Results 2010/11	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to be review the academic results (GCSE, KS2) for Cheshire East schools.	Requested at Committee in May 2011	September 2011 On Track
Disabled Respite Care – including elements of the Aiming Higher Paper	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to be briefed on the future direction of respite care.	Requested at Committee in May 2011	September 2011
Children's Centres – Proposed Changes	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To update Members on how the changes are working	First report came to Committee in April 2011.	October 2011 Deferred
Member Engagement in Social Services Systems	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to discuss form of this – Feb Work scheduled to begin in June	Members agreed approach February 2011.	October 2011 Deferred

Children's Trust	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to be briefed on what issues are important for young people.	Possible invite Cheshire East Youth MP representatives.	October 2011 On track
Obesity and Diabetes Review	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To update the Committee of recommendations and progress against these which relate to children and families.	Update received 16.11.2010 Further updates required in 6 months (May 2011)	TBC Deferred
Member Engagement in Intervention and Inspection options around education support	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Members to discuss the form of this following a report from Mark Bayley.	Diminishing role for LA – wait until policy details become clearer.	TBC Deferred
Fostering Inspection	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	Review Result when available		tbc
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 Taking into consideration the Munroe Review	Briefed by Cath Knowles	tbc
Every Child matters	Supporting and Protecting our young and	Revisit – possible refresher training to be arranged		tbc

	vulnerable people in Cheshire East			
Director of Public Health	Supporting and Protecting our young and vulnerable people in Cheshire East	To attend Committee to explain how they are going to report on children's health issues – particularly teenage pregnancy.		When appointed

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
Children's Centres	26.10.10	Dealt with as part of the Family Support review.
School Status report	26.10.10	Merged with Academies item
Interventions in Schools	26.10.10	To be dealt with in the schools inspection item.
School Admissions Policy / TLC review	14.12.10	Superseded by White Paper item
Redesign of Children's Services	17.02.11	Incorporated into Safeguarding item
Teenage Pregnancy	17.02.11	Superseded by Director of Public Health Item
NEETS	17.02.11	Superseded by Connexions Item
Macclesfield High School Review	04.05.11	Item no longer needing consideration
Transport for Young People	18.05.11	Superseded by Home to School Transport Review
Aiming Higher Report	13.06.11	Superseded by Disabled Respite Care item.

Task Groups – potential/current/completed

Title	Progress Notes/Actions
Managing the Provision of School Places (formerly TLC)	Went to Scrutiny November 2009.
Residential Provision	<p>Recommendations agreed 07.09.10 – went to Cabinet 20.09.10 for consideration.</p> <p>Members to review action plan following Officer's response to recommendations.</p>
Family Support	<p>Reported to Committee 07.12.10.</p> <p>Went to Cabinet 20.12.10</p>
Education attainment	Set up Task and Finish Group to review the work of the multi agency improvement and achievement group
Foster services	Recommendations agreed 04.11. Went to Cabinet 06.11
Health and Looked After Children	Discuss with Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
Cared for Children 16 plus service.	Set up Membership 28/06/2011



FORWARD PLAN 1 JULY 2011 - 31 OCTOBER 2011

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expect to take over the next four months. The Plan is rolled forward every month. It will next be published in mid July and will then contain all key decisions expected to be taken between 1 August and 30 November 2011. Key decisions are defined in the Councils Constitution.

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents may be viewed at any of the Councils Offices/Information Centres 6 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:-

Democratic Services Team
Cheshire East Council ,
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ
Telephone: 01270 686463

However, it is not possible to make available for viewing or to supply copies of reports or documents, the publication of which is restricted due to confidentiality of the information contained.

A decision notice for each key decision is published within 6 days of it having been made. This is open for public inspection on the Council's Website, Council Information Centres and Council Offices.

The law and the Council's Constitution provides for urgent key decisions to be made. A decision notice will be published for these in exactly the same way.

Forward Plan 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Relevant Scrutiny Committee	How to make representation to the decision made
CE11/12-2 Home to School Transport	To consider changes to the current home to school transport policy.	Cabinet	4 Jul 2011	Full public consultation including paper and online questionnaire, public drop in sessions, press releases, website, schools bulletin, e-mail to heads and interested parties.	Children and Families Scrutiny 31 May 2011	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families
CE11/12-13 School Term Dates From 2012/13	To consider recommendations arising from a consultation on school term dates, and to approve principles to be applied to all term dates for community controlled schools from September 2012.	Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services	11 Jul 2011	This has already been carried out and the report will be to consider its results.		Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Relevant Scrutiny Committee	How to make representation to the decision made
CE 11/12-8 SACRE Agreed Syllabus for RE in Schools	In accordance with Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1966 to approve a syllabus for RE in schools which must be revised every five years.	Cabinet	1 Aug 2011	Committees representing the Church of England, other Christian denominations and other faiths, teachers associations and the Schools Agreed Syllabus Working Group.	Children and Families	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families

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