

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date:	Monday, 26th September, 2016
Time:	2.00 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. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2017

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

4. **Whipping Declarations**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda

5. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

For requests for further information

Contact Katie Small

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E-Mail: katie.small@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

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 contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

6. **Children and Families Performance Scorecard - Quarter 1, 2016-17** (Pages 11 - 18)

To give consideration to an overview of performance across the Children and Families Service for Quarter 1

7. **Local Safeguarding Children Board - Annual Report 2015-16** (Pages 19 - 66)

To give consideration to the Annual Report for 2015-16 and Business Plan Priorities for 2016-2018.

8. **Care Leavers Update** (Pages 67 - 76)

To receive an update on national and local developments in relation to Cheshire East care leavers.

9. **Work Programme** (Pages 77 - 86)

To give consideration to the work programme

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

held on Tuesday, 19th July, 2016 at The Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AX

PRESENT

Councillor Rhoda Bailey (Chairman)
Councillor S Pochin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors B Dooley, D Flude, G Merry, A Moran, J Saunders and
S Corcoran(substitute)

Apologies

Councillor L Jeuda and Kelly

12 ALSO PRESENTAlso Present

Councillor Liz Durham – Children and Families Portfolio Holder
Councillor George Hayes – Deputy Cabinet Member
Kath O'Dwyer - Executive Director of People & Deputy Chief Executive
Jacky Forster - Director of Education and 14-19 Skills
Bill Norman - Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Janet Mills – Transport Policy Officer
Sarah Tunstall - Business & Projects Manager

Visiting Members

Councillor Michael Jones
Councillor Jon Weston
Councillor Amanda Stott
Councillor Mick Warren

13 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Heidi Reed spoke about the Middlewood Way on route to the Tytherington High school. She had sought advice from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on personal safety which suggested that people who felt isolated and unsafe should seek busy areas near to shops or garages etc. She contended that the Middlewood Way was poorly lit, isolated in many areas with no shops or garages nearby and was therefore unsafe. She raised concerns about how an alarm would be raised in the event of an incident. To highlight potential dangers, she referred to recent reports of a sexual assault against a teenage on a former railway line in Sandbach which was similar in nature to the Middlewood Way. The only alternative available for pupils who did not wish to use the Middlewood Way would be to cross a dual carriageway on the A523 Silk Road. She urged Cabinet to reverse its decision.

Dr Chris Murdoch referred to the personal circumstances of his son who had diabetes and was asthmatic. His concerns related to the difficulties that emergency services would encounter if they needed to gain access to Middlewood Way. He contended that the safety assessment carried out by the Council had ignored Department of Education guidance on safety.

Emanuel Botwe Head teacher at Tytherington High School informed the committee of his fundamental duty as head teacher to ensure the safety of children in his care. He had recently spoken to one 6th former from his school who had refused to use the Middlewood Way to travel to school, and had instead walked along the very busy Silk Road. He contended that the designation of Middlewood Way as an available walking route was not realistic. He stated that on 11 July, many parents had decided to take their children to school by car. This had illustrated potential future congestion difficulties on Badger Road which was adjacent to Tytherington High School, if the decision went ahead.

He questioned the practicality of parents accompanying a child on a daily walking journey covering six miles a day to ensure their safe arrival at school. In support of his assertion, he asked the Council to research a legal case: Regina V Devon County Council ex parte George (1989).

If Middlewood way was to be considered an available route, he asked 3 questions:

Will it make children safe?

Will it increase attendance?

Will it improve life chances of Children in Bollington?

Bollington Town Councillor Ken Edwards referred to a decision taken by Cabinet 3 years ago to reject the designation of Middlewood Way as an available walking route. He contended that the grounds upon which that decision had been taken had not changed in the three years since and should therefore be rejected again as an available walking route. He suggested that Bollington was an attractive place to live with four good primary schools and safe access to secondary schools. He commended the committee for having visited the walking routes but asked Members to imagine the Middlewood way in winter.

Dr Shelly Piasecka was a resident of Williston and referred to legislation relating to available walking routes to school and contended that if a route presented road safety hazards, the Council should declare it unavailable. She referred to the A51 which formed part of the Willaston walking route and informed the Committee that traffic flows were high and in respect of HGVs, 26% higher than the national average. She therefore wished to know how the road safety assessment had been carried out. The route also included a level crossing which had a history of accidents.

Janette Walker Head teacher at Malbank School in Nantwich stated that she aimed as Head teacher to treat every child as if it were her own. She would not allow her own child to walk on the available route to her school because she did not consider it to be safe. She added that many pupils would be carrying books, sports equipment and technology along a route which potentially could take an hour to travel, so they would arrive at school tired and in winter, wet and cold. She concluded that pupils would have to walk along a route with no street lights

in parts and have to negotiate a level crossing. She contended that this presented a safeguarding issue for all children at Malbank school and urged Cabinet to reverse its decision.

Isla Roberts spoke about her concerns regarding the speed at which emergency services would be able to access Middlewood Way in the case of an emergency. In addition, she also raised concerns about the fact that most teenagers carried mobile phones which may make them a target for theft.

Angela Miller, Business Manager at Mallbank School referred to an exercise she had undertaken with students three years ago to trial the available walking route to Mallbank School. She informed the committee that it took an adult fifty seven minutes to complete the full route. She expressed concern about children being distracted on the way which would add to their journey times. Additionally, there was no street lighting in stretches which meant that that it could also be very dark in winter.

Bollington Town Councillor Alan Williamson informed the committee of an incident involving an assault on his son on the Middlewood way some time ago. As a former firefighter he reiterated concerns expressed by other speakers that Middlewood Way provided poor access for emergency services.

Francesca Wharton informed the committee that her husband had recently been killed in a road traffic accident while cycling and had previously been involved in a collision with a vehicle at the roundabout on the Silk Road. She informed the Committee that it would be unthinkable to lose a child because of a road traffic accident at this location.

14 VISITING MEMBERS

Councillor Michael Jones suggested that the recent Cabinet decision was about saving money and suggested that savings could be made elsewhere within the Council's budget. He informed the Committee that he personally had walked one of the routes in January accompanied by parents. He concluded that the route was not safe at that time of year. He suggested that parents would drive to school instead of making use of the available walking route.

Councillor Jon Weston informed the Committee that he had received hundreds of emails about the available route from Bollington which was considered to be unsafe. He suggested that the Council had a moral responsibility to ensure the safety of children and a legal responsibility that could not be ignored. He questioned why a traffic assessment had been carried out at this location when most of the route consisted of a footpath separated from the nearby highway. He also contended that it was impossible to ignore personal safety in relation to availability and that if a route was not safe it should be deemed to be unavailable. Responsible adults considered the route to be unsafe and it had taken him over one hour to walk the route recently. He accepted that this would probably require a policy change.

Councillor Amanda Stott thanked members of the Committee for walking the routes yesterday. However, she felt that some relevant data had not been made available to the Committee, particularly paragraph 20 of the Department of

Education guidance from 2014. She also questioned the wisdom of ignoring guidance from the Suzi Lamplugh trust regarding personal safety.

Councillor Mick Warren, a former police officer in Macclesfield had researched the accessibility of Middlewood Way from the point of view of emergency services. He suggested that if an accident occurred it would be hard to pinpoint the location of the incident exactly because the path extended for about 1½ miles with very few features to aide identification. He had also researched crime statistics since 2012 and reported that there had been over 40 incidents. He speculated that if a major incident were to occur on the route, it would probably lead to the route having to be closed, which would force children to use the Silk Road.

15 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Arthur Moran declared that he was a governor of Brine Leas school.

At this point in the proceedings, The Chairman adjourned the meeting. The meeting resumed at 11.05 am.

17 CALL - IN OF THE 14 JUNE 2016 CABINET DECISION RELATING TO A REVIEW OF AVAILABLE WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Chairman informed the committee that she had been handed a petition containing 412 signatures supporting the retention of the free bus service to Malbank and Brine Lees schools.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal Services relating to the following Cabinet decision taken on 14 June 2016:

“That Cabinet

1. notes the reclassification of routes that have been re-assessed as available walking routes to school and agrees that free school transport for those routes be withdrawn from April 2017; and
2. authorises the Executive Director – People to spend £150,000 from the Local Transport Plan budget allocation for 2016/17 to improve further walking routes to school to bring them up to required standard so that free school transport for those improved routes may be subsequently withdrawn.’

In accordance with Scrutiny procedure rule 12, the decision had been called in.

Appended to the report were:

- A copy of the call in notice containing signatures of six members in accordance with scrutiny procedure rule 12.3 and setting out the grounds for call-in;

- A copy of the report of the Executive Director of People & Deputy Chief Executive considered by Cabinet on 14 June 2016;
- A report of the Executive Director of People & Deputy Chief Executive in response to the issues raised in the Call-in Notice;
- A copy of the Council's Policy on Walking Routes to school;
- A copy of the Route assessments for each of the five locations;
- Two documents containing frequently asked questions.

Councillor Liz Durham, the Children and Families Portfolio Holder outlined the background of the decision taken by Cabinet on 14 June 2016. She reported that the decision related to five routes at:

- Bollington to Tytherington High via Middlewood Way
- Middlewood, Higher Poynton to Poynton High School
- Elton Road Roundabout to Wheelock Primary School
- Willaston to Malbank High
- Willaston to Brine Leas School

She explained that the decision concerned the application of the Council's existing policy which had been approved in 2012, in an equitable and consistent manner across the borough.

Kath O'Dwyer Executive Director of People & Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council's policy was in line with national policy and guidance. The safety assessments carried out in respect of each route, which were appended to the report, related to road safety only. Although other issues had been raised concerning, for instance, personal safety, the Council was required under the relevant legislation to take account of road safety issues only. However, she did acknowledge that safeguarding was taken seriously by the Council and that other actions that had been identified to improve general safety could also be taken on board by the Council.

Jacky Forster explained that as the decisions related to the application of an existing policy dating back to 2012, it had been decided not to undertake a formal consultation exercise in respect of the five routes. Instead, Cabinet had agreed to extend the minimum twelve weeks' statutory notice of the changes to pupil arrangements, to nine months in order to give parents significant advance notice. She acknowledged that there was scope for additional improvements to be made to the routes over and above that which existed at the moment. She also reiterated that parents would be informed of the appeal process in the event that they considered they had grounds of appeal.

The Council's policy was in line with Road Safety UK guidance on walking routes to school which was endorsed by the Department of Education. She also referred to case law which stated that local authorities should only be concerned with issues of road safety when carrying out safety assessments. Local Authorities were not required by law to take account of personal safety. Available routes could include anything from the highway to footpaths and bridleways etc. Guidance also indicated that a valid safety consideration included the possibility of pupils being accompanied by parents.

The committee then questioned the Portfolio Holder, Executive Director People and Deputy Chief Executive and supporting officers on the documents listed above and in relation to matters connected with the decision.

In response to a question about whether the Council had considered data relating to personal safety and security in the Council's own policy in accordance with the Department of Education document 'Home to School Travel and Transport statutory guidance 2014', Jacky Forster stated that the Department of Education guidance 2014 related to home to school transport in its widest sense and that this wider guidance was reflected in the Local Transport Plan.

In response to a question regarding the feasibility of secondary school pupils being accompanied to school by parents, Kath O'Dwyer stated that the Department of Education guidance was clear – it was the responsibility of parents to get their children to school regardless of age. She also stated that being accompanied could also include groups of pupils walking together. Whether or not children were accompanied was matter for parents to decide.

In response to a question as to whether the Council had in its possession data relating to criminal activity which had taken place on the Middlewood Way and had subsequently rejected, Kath O'Dwyer informed the Committee that there was no requirement for the Council to take account of such data in the assessment on walking routes to schools. And by way of example cited Regina V Essex County Council ex parte Rogers.

In clarification of whether an impact assessment which was referred to in the Cabinet report had been made available prior to the decision being made, the Committee was informed that as the decision related to the application of an existing policy, there had been no need to present an impact assessment to Cabinet.

In clarification of a point raised regarding Capital monies set aside to make improvements to routes Jacky Forster informed the Committee that the figure of £150,000 related to schemes identified in the Local Transport Plan to improve walking routes in phase 2 of the proposal, not to the five before the Committee today.

In connection with a further question about why there had not been any consultation undertaken by Cabinet prior to its decision, Councillor Liz Durham informed the committee the matter had not been referred to this Committee because the decision did not involve a change in policy.

Members of the Committee made the following general points about the manner in which the decision had been taken by Cabinet:

- That it was disappointing that Primary Schools had not been advised of these proposals, especially in light of the fact that many parents of current year 6 pupils would have already made a decision regarding the choice of secondary school, which may have been influenced by the availability of a free bus at the time that they had made their decision;
- The Committee remained to be convinced that all the available relevant Government Guidelines had been considered;
- The Committee felt that the Cabinet did not have enough relevant information to make the decision on 14 June 2016 and therefore the decision was taken prematurely;

- As Members of the Committee had benefitted greatly from undertaking a tour of the routes before the meeting, Members were disappointed to discover that neither the Portfolio Holder nor senior officers within the Children and Families Directorate had done likewise.

The Committee then looked at each route individually and made the following comments:

Elton Road Roundabout to Wheelock Primary School

The Committee raised concerns about a hedge and partly unlit section of highway on Hind Heath Road, which was considered not to be safe. Members questioned the fairness of withdrawing a free bus for pupils travelling from Ettiley Heath and suggested the Council should consider phasing the withdrawal of a free bus in line with paragraph 53 of the Department of Education guidance 2014, which was contended to be applicable to the June 14th Cabinet decision as the original policy approved in 2012 had not been applied across the borough in 2012.

At this point in the proceedings, the meeting adjourned and resumed at 1.24pm.

Bollington to Tytherington High via Middlewood Way

On behalf of Councillor Laura Jeuda, Councillor Sam Corcoran presented a written submission expressing her safety concerns about the Middlewood Way.

The Committee expressed the view that having walked the majority of this route, they considered it to be unsafe on the grounds that the route was isolated and hidden from view from the highway and residential areas for large parts. Anecdotal evidence presented to the committee on the number of police incidents that had been reported in the past 3 years reinforced this view. Although the Committee acknowledged the Council's policy had taken account of road safety matters, the committee contended that these were not relevant to the Middlewood Way on the grounds that it was not a highway. Members also contended that personal safety should be an integral part of the assessment process and that safeguarding of children should be of paramount importance to the Council. There were also specific concerns about lack of street lighting on Grimshaw Lane and that consideration had not been given at this stage to allocating a capital budget to address these necessary improvements at Middlewood Way and at other locations. The committee also wished to receive assurance that ANSA would be able to effectively manage the over grown bushes along various parts of the route.

In summary, the Committee concluded that Middlewood Way should be declared unavailable on the grounds of personal safety.

Middlewood, Higher Poynton to Poynton High School

Members concluded that many of the issues relating Tytherington were also relevant as far as Poynton was concerned. The surface of the stretch of Middlewood way near to Poynton School was poor and during the Committee's site visit which was conducted on a warm July day, there were several puddles and muddy areas.

Willaston to Malbank High and Willaston to Brine Leas School (taken together)

Members expressed serious concerns about the safety of children in the vicinity of the roundabout at the A500 onto the A51. Anecdotally, there had been reports of many collisions involving vehicles at this location but the Committee felt that they would like to see the official figures for this junction. To alleviate some of those concerns the Committee expressed a view that signs should be erected on the highway to warn motorists that there was a pedestrian crossing ahead.

It was also considered essential that any street lights that had been switched off should be turned back on, and the Council should seek assurances from ANSA regarding its hedge cutting programme.

In respect of the level crossing on Newcastle Road, this was considered to be hazardous by local people especially as it currently had single barriers and therefore that Network Rail should be requested to install double barriers at this location before April 2017.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Cabinet be informed that this Committee recommends that the decision relating to available walking routes to schools taken on the 14 June 2016 should be reviewed along the following lines:
 - (1) That the walking route from Bollington to Tytherington High via Middlewood Way be declared unavailable on the grounds that there are serious concerns about the personal safety of pupils on considerable stretches of the Middlewood Way which is isolated and hidden from view of the nearby Silk Road. In addition, there are concerns about access to emergency services to the whole of the Middlewood Way and significant road safety concerns relating to the only alternative route in the vicinity, the Silk Road which would have to be used as an alternative walking route in the event that the Middlewood Way was closed for any reason. The committee therefore is of the opinion that it would not be possible to make the Middlewood Way safe, irrespective of any improvements that may be proposed;
 - (2) That in respect of the northern section of the Middlewood Way near to Poynton, improvements be made to the lighting and footpath surfacing which are currently uneven in places and prone to flooding thereby creating puddles and significant muddy patches;
 - (3) That in connection with the walking routes from Willaston to Malbank High and Willaston to Brine Leas School, the Committee believes that as they currently stand, these waking routes are not safe and would therefore ask the Executive Director Place to:

- Bring back to this Committee data regarding the collision rates at the roundabout on the A500/A51;
- Install signage on the A500/A51 to indicate to motorists that they are approaching a pedestrian crossing
- Request Network Rail to make improvements to the level crossing at Nantwich Road Willaston to install double barriers in the interests of pedestrian safety;
- Ensure that street lighting is switched back on those sections of London Road that have been part of the Council's experimental scheme;
- Review the speed limit on London Road with a view to it being reduced;
- Carry out repairs to the footpath on London Road which has collapsed in places and to create a footpath where currently none exists.

(4) That in respect of the Elton Road Roundabout to Wheelock Primary School, The Executive Director of Place be requested install street lighting to the footway/cycle path which is located behind the hedge on Hind Heath Road;

- (b) The Director of Education be requested to provide safety information on any future proposals relating to the availability of walking routes to school;
- (c) That whilst the Council's current policy on available walking routes to school complies with national guidance in respect of road safety, the Committee believes that its failure to address issues of personal safety indicates that the policy is detached from modern life and the Committee therefore requests Cabinet to review the policy with a view to including specific reference to the need to take account of personal safety;
- (d) That in respect of the five sites involved in this call-in and any future sites, decisions to withdraw free bus travel be undertaken on a phased basis in accordance with paragraph 53 of the Department of Education guidance 2014 so that no child currently in receipt of a bus pass will be disadvantaged by the decision;
- (e) That the Committee's disappointment be placed on record regarding the fact that this matter was not brought to it for consultation by Cabinet before a decision was taken.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 2.50 pm

Councillor Rhoda Bailey (Chairman)

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26 September 2016

Report of: Kath O'Dwyer,
Executive Director – People & Deputy Chief Executive.

Subject/Title: Children & Families Performance Scorecard – Quarter 1, 2016-17

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Liz Durham

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report and the attached performance scorecard provide an overview of performance across the Children and Families Service for Quarter 1, 2016-17.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Scrutiny is recommended to:

- a) Note the contents of the report and scorecard; and
- b) Scrutinise areas where expected levels of performance are not being met.

3. Other Options Considered

3.1. Scrutiny may want to consider the performance of the Service more or less frequently.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 One of the key areas of focus for the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to highlight areas of poor performance and to scrutinise the effectiveness of plans in place to improve services. Overview and Scrutiny has an important role to play in the performance management systems of the local authority.

4.2 The Children and Families performance scorecard provides essential data, along with qualitative information, to measure the effectiveness of services within children's services. This report and scorecard will be provided to Scrutiny on a quarterly basis to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of performance across the Service.

5. Background

5.1. This report and scorecard sets out the performance against the agreed measures across the Children and Families Directorate for quarter 1 (1st April – 31st June 2016).

5.2. The performance scorecard details the following:

- Measure – details of each performance measure
- Polarity – whether it is good to have the measure high or low
- Statistical neighbour average – gives a comparator against local authorities with similar characteristics to Cheshire East. Cheshire East's statistical neighbours in rank order are:
 - Cheshire West and Chester
 - Warwickshire
 - Central Bedfordshire
 - Warrington
 - Hampshire
 - North Yorkshire
 - East Riding of Yorkshire
 - Solihull
 - North Somerset
 - West Berkshire
- National average – gives a national comparator figure
- Target – this is either a national target, eg, adoption timeliness, or a local one set by the service to provide a 'good/outstanding' service
- Year end 2014-15 – enables Members to compare existing performance to that in the previous year
- Quarterly performance – enables Members to compare performance from quarter to quarter
- Year end 2015-16 – as this is a quarter 4 report, this provides a year end figure
- RAG – this is a rating of red, amber, green based on current performance against the expected level of performance
- Direction of travel – this provides the direction of travel this quarter and whether this is positively or negatively in an upward/downward trajectory or static
- Comments – this provides a general commentary on the information presented
- C&YP Plan Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Children and Young People's Plan
- Corporate Priority – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Council's Corporate Plan

5.3. A number of changes have been made since quarter 4 to make the measures around prevention and early intervention more appropriate. This explains the increase in measures from the previous quarter. Further amendments will be made to the scorecard for quarter 2, including incorporating more information around targets.

6. Performance Overview

6.1. The performance scorecard at Appendix 1 includes 70 separate measures covering all areas of the service. Some of these measures are non-performance related, eg those that relate to population cohorts. In total, 53 of

these measures relate to performance and have been RAG rated. A breakdown summary is set out follows:

Performance Measures	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	6	20	27	17	70
Previous quarter	10	16	25	18	69

- 6.2. The above table shows that there has been some improvement in Children and Families performance from the previous quarter; there has been an increase in those measures judged green or amber and a reduction in red rag rated measures. Of the 6 red RAG rated measures, actions are underway to address all of these. Two measures relate to the health of cared for children; whilst needing further improvement, the percentage of initial health assessments completed by paediatricians within 20 days is showing significant improvement from 24% in April 2016 to 57% in June 2016. A new Cared for Nurse has been in post since July 2016 to drive the improvements around the health of cared for young people.
- 6.3. Whilst it is important to look at the current performance around particular measures, it is equally important to look at the direction of travel and to RAG rate this in relation to performance, ie, whether this is improving (green), staying broadly the same (amber) or getting worse (red). A summary of the direction of travel of performance across the service is detailed below.

Direction of Travel	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	5	17	44	4	70
Previous quarter	7	19	39	4	69

- 6.4. The direction of travel shows broadly that most measures of performance are on a positive trajectory, and this trajectory has improved from the previous quarter. In 5 areas under-performance has not improved or dipped. In all of these areas, work is underway to improve, for example, one of these links to the appointment of the Cared for Nurse; two measures relate to engagement with children's centres, which is low in part due to the high take up of free childcare. In terms of the percentage of new education, health and care plans (EHCP) completed with 20 weeks, additional staff are being recruited to the team to ensure that demand can be met and timeliness improved.

7. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 7.1. The performance measures relate to all ward areas.

8. Implications of Recommendation

8.1. Policy Implications

- 7.1.1 There are no direct policy implications, although low or high performance in a certain area may lead to suggest changes in policy to address them.

8.2. Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 There are a no direct legal implications.

8.3. Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 Although there are no direct financial implications related to this report, performance measures may be used as an indicator of where more or less funding is needed at a service level.

7.4 Equality Implications

- 7.4.1 Members may want to use the performance scorecard to ensure that services are targeted at more vulnerable children and young people.

9. Access to Information

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

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Designation: Head of Service, Children's Development & Partnerships
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Email: gill.betton@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Children's Services Scorecard - Quarter 1, 2016-17

PI Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 3	Qu 4	Qu 1 16-17	Yr. end 16-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
Safeguarding															
1.1	Number of contacts					9842	2707	2710	2713			➡	This is the 3rd quarter that the number of contacts have remained static, which suggests that this is the number we would reasonably expect. This represents a rate of approximately 361 referrals per 10,000 children in any given quarter. It is difficult to compare this with other local authorities due to the differing front door arrangements.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.2	Number of referrals					3749	895	970	940			⬇	This is a slight reduction on the previous quarter, but not of significant note. Cheshire East rate of referral per 10,000 remains comparable with our closest statistical neighbour, Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC).	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.3	% contacts to referrals					38%	33%	36%	35%			➡	This remains static at approximately 1 in 3 contacts resulting in a social care assessment.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.4	Number of repeat referrals					829	194	225	239			⬆	Whilst there is a small increase in the number of re-referrals, the rate remains fairly constant. This continues to illustrate the need to develop better early help for families with complex needs and to support agencies in continuing their lead role with the family.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.5	% repeat referrals	Low is good	22.5%	24.0%	<20%	22%	22%	23%	25%			⬆	The small increase in the percentage rate still ranks Cheshire East within statistical neighbours' performance based on 2014-15 published benchmarking data and slightly lower than the NW average. The latest regional comparable data from Q3 showed repeat referrals ranged from 10.8% in Halton to 28.2% in Knowsley and highlighted 14 of 23 areas seeing an increase between Q2 and Q3.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.6	Number of children that went missing 5 times or more from home (quarterly figure is 5 or more times in any month in that quarter)	Low is good				13	supressed	supressed	supressed			⬇	In the first quarter of 2016-17 the figure has been suppressed because it is so low. This is a positive picture as it indicates that where there are issues, the appropriate multi agency plan is in place and that individuals are not at risk from the dangers associated with going missing from home.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.7	% of assessments completed within 45 days	High is good	81%	81%	85%	87%	89%	85%	85%			➡	In addition to this figure remaining at a consistently high level we have seen an increased percentage of assessments being completed within 15 days, which suggests that where cases are more straightforward, the service is either signposting to early help services quicker or putting in focused packages of support at the child in need (CIN) level in a more timely fashion. Likewise, where risk is great, the service is escalating quickly therefore mitigating risk.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.8	Number of children in need (CIN) - local definition					1133	1215	1133	1133			➡	The local position has remained consistent across the last 12 months and is broadly in line with the expected levels of CIN based on Cheshire East's demographic profile.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.9	Rate of children in need (CIN) per 10,000 - local definition					150.9	161.8	150.9	150.9			➡	Rate of children in need is calculated using the population figure of 75,100. The local position has remained consistent across the last 12 months and is broadly in line with the expected levels of CIN based on Cheshire East's demographic profile.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.10	% initial child protection conference (ICPC) within 15 days of Section 47 enquiry (S47)	High is good	81%	61%	100%	65.0%	89%	67%	75%			⬆	Whilst lower than our statistical neighbour average, Cheshire East's performance is much better than the national average and a substantial improvement on the 2015-16 outturn. Over the last 3 quarters our performance has seen on average 77% of cases moved on within 15 working days. This suggests that the action plan around timely notification to the Safeguarding Unit is working. Any cases not meeting the 15 day target are closely scrutinised through audit for lessons learnt.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.11	Number of children subject to child protection (CP) plan [includes child sex exploitation (CSE) Plans]					273	271	273	268			➡	Whilst at the lower end of our statistical neighbour cohort, audits suggest that the right individuals are on a plan and that this is a number reflective of our demographic profile.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.12	Rate of children subject to child protection (CP) plan per 10,000		38.7	42.9		36.3	36.1	36.3	35.7			➡	Whilst at the lower end of our statistical neighbour cohort, audits suggest that the right individuals are on a plan and that this is a number reflective of our demographic profile.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.13	% children becoming subject to a child protection (CP) plan for 2 nd / subsequent time	Low is good	18.7%	16.6%	<15%	19%	11.1%	22.4%	23.3%			⬆	Whilst this is showing a continued upward trend our most recent comparison data in the NW (from quarter 3) indicated that the majority of authorities were reporting rates higher than the national average for 2014-15, with percentages ranging from 5.9% to 30.3%. Repeat plans for Q1 represent a small number of families with multiple siblings.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.14	Number of child protection (CP) plans over 2yrs	Low is good	supressed	2.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			➡	All children subject of a plan for 12 months+ are actively tracked. This current performance is positive and indicates that these vulnerable children do not experience drift.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.15	Number of children on a child sexual exploitation (CSE) plan					8	6	8	6			⬇	This number represents the individuals who are on a specific child sexual exploitation (CSE) plan. There are other individuals we are supporting where CSE actions form a part of an overarching CIN/CP/LAC plan. In addition, where any agency has concerns around individuals they are brought to the multi-agency CSE group for discussion and possible tracking.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
1.16	% child protection (CP) children reviewed in timescales (year to date fig)	High is good	93%	94%	100%	92%	90%	100%	99%			➡	The improvement on the performance in this area has been maintained for 2 quarters and is ahead of statistical neighbour and national average. This is reflective of improved practice around timely notification and arrangement of review conferences. It is important to note that there were always be the occasional unforeseen circumstance that will prevent performance being 100% continually.	1 Having A Voice	Outcome 5
Cared for Children															

PI Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 3	Qu 4	Qu 1 16-17	Yr. end 16-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
2.1	Number of cared for children				350-400	387	394	387	400			⬆	It is being reported nationally and locally that numbers of cared for children are increasing. Cheshire East remains at the lower end of our statistical neighbour group, with latest figures from CWAC and Warrington showing much higher rates. We have amended our target to reflect a range in which we consider our cared for population to be appropriate.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.2	Rate per 10,000 cared for children		59.8	60	46.6 - 53.3	51.5	52.5	51.5	53.3			⬆	It is being reported nationally and locally that numbers of cared for children are increasing. Cheshire East remains at the lower end of our statistical neighbour group, with latest figures from CWAC and Warrington showing much higher rates. We have amended our target to reflect a range in which we consider our Cared 4 population to be appropriate.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.3	% cared for children with 3 or more placements in year	Low is good	data not yet released		<10%	12.2%	13.9%	12.2%	13.8%			⬇	This figure is a rolling year to date position and relates to 56 individuals.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.4	% cared for children in long term stability placement	High is good	data not yet released		80%	66.7%	73.0%	66.7%	70.2%			⬆	This small but significant improvement demonstrates continued proactive approach to pre-disruption work to prevent placement and effective matching of placements from the outset.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.5	% cared for children reviews in timescales	High is good				96%	97%	97%	97%			➡	Whilst every effort is made to review individuals in good time, there will always be the occasional delay due to unforeseen circumstances. In Q1 of those that weren't reviewed in timescales 62% were seen within 3 weeks of the target review date and 100% within 4 weeks of the target review date.	1 Having A Voice	Outcome 5
2.6	Number of cared for children in internal foster care (including friends and family placements)	High is good				210	199	210	191			⬇	Whilst there appears to be a small drop in the percentage of cared for children in internal foster care placements, of the 66 beds not in use there were only 20 vacant beds. The rest were unavailable primarily due to respite provision.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.7	Number of cared for children in external foster care	Low is good				89	88	89	97			➡	This growth is as a result of increased demand and the targeted move of children from residential care.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.8	Number cared for children placed over 20 miles from home address (Cheshire East and out of borough)	Low is good				69	74	69	77			➡	Although there is a slight increase in this figure, it is important to note that almost 20% of these are placed either with family/ relatives or in adoption placements.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.9	Number of cared for children that went missing 5 times or more (quarterly figure is 5 or more times in any month in that quarter)	Low is good				16	7	8	5			⬇	In Q1 there was a total of 5 individuals who have had more than 5 missing episodes in any given single month All individuals are offered interviews following missing episodes and the information is used to inform the cared for plan to manage and reduce the risk associated with going missing.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
2.10	% of initial health assessments requested within 48 hours of coming into care	High is good				11%	4%	20%	69%			⬆	During the first quarter of 2016-2017 there were 57 children who entered the care system, 55 of which required the Initial Health Assessment (IHA) Part A completing within 48 hours of entering care. The number of IHA Part A being completed within timescale has increased each month from 42% in April 2016 to 88% by the end of June 2016 with a total of 69% for Quarter 1. This is due to a review and change in process to enable operational efficiency.	4 Being Healthy	Outcome 5
2.11	% of initial health assessments completed by paediatricians within 20 days	High is good				34%	29%	12%	36%			⬆	During the first quarter of 2016-2017 there were 57 children who entered the care system, 50 of which required an IHA completing within 20 working days. There were 7 that did not require completion due to one transferring from another local authority with a completed IHA and six returned home within 20 days of entering care. The percentage of IHAs completed within timescale has increased each month from 24% in April 2016 to 57% in June 2016, with a total of 36% for Quarter 1.	4 Being Healthy	Outcome 5
2.12	% of children in care over 12 months with a health check in the last year	High is good	84%	90%		73.9%	73.7%	73.9%	71.2%			➡	There is ongoing work to ensure that all cared for children and young people get sufficient support and advice around their health and wellbeing. A new Cared for Nurse took up post in July 2016 to drive this.	4 Being Healthy	Outcome 5
Care Leavers															
3.1	Number of care leavers					225	219	225	201			⬇	All care leavers are supported with access to a Personal Assistant (PA) to offer help and guidance as they move to independence together with financial support as appropriate to individual needs.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
3.2	% not In education, employment or training (EET)	Low is good				42%	43%	42%	47%			➡	Of the 64 individuals not in education employment or training (NEET), over 39% are engaged in positive activities that are developing skills for the work place. Excluding those pregnant/ with parenting responsibilities and those unavailable to the workplace due to illness/ disability/custody there are only 14 individuals that are NEET and able to work. Active support is in place via Personal Assistants for these individuals.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
3.3	% in suitable accommodation	High is good				96%	66%	95%	95%			➡	There are 6 care leavers aged 18-21 known to be in unsuitable accommodation. This includes individuals currently in custody. Improved tracking in the care leavers service means that these young people are known and work continues to engage them where possible to improve their accommodation and support.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Adoption															
4.1	% of children ceased to be looked after due to adoption - year to date fig	High is good				12.8%	10.6%	12.8%	21.0%			⬆	This figure reflects 9 individuals out of 43 who have left care since 1/4/2016.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
4.2	% of children ceased to be looked after due to granting of special guardianship order (SGO) - year to date fig	High is good				18.4%	17.3%	18.4%	11.6%			➡	Whilst less than the previous quarter, it is important to note that this only reflects one quarter of the year and that the % rate should increase as the year progresses.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
4.3	Number of children adopted in period	High is good			30	18	supressed	7	9			⬆	In addition to the 9 adoptions in the first quarter, we have 29 individuals with an adoption plan, 20 of which are living with their adoptive family.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
4.4	% children who wait less than 16 months between entering care and moving in with adoptive family	High is good				83%	79%	78%	84%			⬆	This is an improving picture from last year and reflects timely decision making to ensure children and young people are in a permanent placement as quickly as possible.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5

PI Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 3	Qu 4	Qu 1 16-17	Yr. end 16-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
4.5	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family (A1 national indicator)	Low is good			426	545	592	545	936			↑	Although this has been RAG rated red, the story behind the data is very positive. This is due to the extremely positive outcome of children and young people being adopted by foster carers after a number of years due to a freestanding application. This is reflected in the reduced figure at 4.7 below.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
4.6	Average number of days between placement order and match with adoptive family (A2 national indicator)	Low is good			121	99	97	99	49			↓	This demonstrates the robust activity around timely decision making and activity around quickly matching individuals to adopters once a placement order has been granted.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
4.7	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family/ foster carer who becomes adoptive family	Low is good			426	477	592	477	243			↓	This should continue to improve as more fostering to adopt applications are approved.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5

Education and 14-19 Skills

Virtual School															
5.1	% attendance of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared for children rather than those in care for 12mths which are published figs)	High is good	95.9%	96.1%	95%	94%	94%	94%	89%			→	The attendance figure includes the Year 11 cohort who were taking exams. If this is taken into account, actual attendance for quarter 1 is 95% and in line with the target.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
5.2	% persistent absence of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared 4 rather than those in care for 12mths which are published figs)	Low is good				15%	14%	15%	18%			→	This equates to 55 children. The rate of persistent absence of cared for children is similar to that of all children (ref 6.8). Excluding year 11 whose attendance was low due to study leave during exam period, the number of children with attendance below 90% fell during the quarter. Good attendance is promoted by monthly monitoring, liaison with Education Welfare Officers and contact with carers.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
5.3	% personal education plans (PEPs) less than 6 months old	High is good				88.4%	52.2%	88.4%	89.2%			↑	This includes all children known to the Virtual School. Some young people over 16 do not wish to continue their PEP meetings, but the Virtual School continues to offer support via the Social Worker and pathway plan. This includes young people over the age of 18 who are still accessing Virtual School support. The rate of completion and return is improving due to the allocation of an Apprentice to chase PEPs from schools and Social Workers for PEPs for children under 2 years old.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3

Schools															
6.1	% good or outstanding secondary schools	High is good		76%		86.4%	86.3%	86.4%	86.4%			→	The profile for secondary school Ofsted outcomes remains strong. Over the last 12 months there has been a reduction in schools judged inadequate, as well as an increase in outstanding schools.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.2	% good or outstanding primary schools	High is good		87%		92.7%	93.6%	92.7%	92.7%			→	The profile for primary schools remains very strong, which is positive considering the high number of primary schools across the borough.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.3	% good or outstanding special school	High is good				80%	80%	80%	80%			→	The only reason that the data shows a reduction from 100% is due to the additional special school at Church Lawton which has not yet been inspected.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.4	Number of fixed term exclusions starting in month	Low is good				1889	593	441	432			↓	Q1 represent the summer term figures to date. As many of the Year 11 pupils will have left during May/ June it is likely that this figure will remain unchanged.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.5	Number of permanent exclusions starting in month	Low is good				37	12	13	12			↓	Q3 and Q4 represent the 7 months from September 2015 to March 2016, ie two terms. Statistically the summer term figures tend to be smaller due to Year 11 only being in for a short time.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.6	Number of fixed penalty notices issued	Low is good				1056	421	298	189				Since 13th May Cheshire East has stopped issuing penalty notices for leave of absence, requesting that schools to not send through any further paperwork. Regular absence penalty notices have continued to be issued. This is reflected in the substantial reduction in Q4.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.7	Number of prosecutions	Low is good				118	26	55	29				Q4 represents the summer term. Prosecutions follow where parents do not pay the fine. The same ruling as detailed in 6.6 above applies. Leave of absence prosecutions are on hold which is reflected in the reduced number seen.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.8	% of pupils with less than 90% attendance in the quarter	Low is good				19%	12%	12%	13%			↓	This is an indicative figure based on the data loaded into schools education databases to date and reflects the combined attendance for April - June 2016. We would expect this figure to be slightly higher in Q1 (April - June) due to the number of Year 11 recorded as absent during exam period	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.9	% of pupils with less than 90% attendance year to date	Low is good				19%	9%	11%	13%			↓	This is an indicative figure based on the data loaded into schools education databases to date and reflects the combined attendance for April - June 2016. We would expect this figure to be slightly higher in Q1 (April - June) due to the number of Year 11 recorded as absent during exam period.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
6.10	Current number of pupils being educated at home (year fig is total number of unique individuals)					286	252	276	267			↓	There has been a small reduction in the number of individuals educated at home. This may be reflective of the Year 11 cohort that will no longer be in education.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3

Prevention and Support

Prevention and Early Intervention															
7.1	% of all 0-4 children registered at children's centre	High is good				82%	82%	82%	82%			→	Registration is being maintained due to the collaborative approach with health colleagues and children's centre managers ensuring that individuals are informed of the support and offer available at the centres during their antenatal care.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
7.2	% of all 0-4 children engaged at children's centre	High is good					27%	24%	22%			→	Due to the extremely high take up of the 2,3 and 4 year old offer it is inevitable that engagement at children's centres will be lower. The crucial point is that these individuals are accessing appropriate provision to give them the best start in life.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
7.3	% 0-4 engaged at children centres (most vulnerable i.e CIN/CP/LAC that have attended 3 or more times in the last 12 months)	High is good				56%	58%	56%	57%			→	This is a slight improvement from last year. Work continues to ensure that Social Workers highlight the advantages of the children's centre offer to all vulnerable families.		
7.4	% eligible children taking up 2 year old offer (termly figure only)	High is good		72%		77%	77%	77%	75%			→	Despite a very small reduction, the take up of the 2 year old offer in Cheshire East continues to out-perform the national average.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3

PI Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 3	Qu 4	Qu 1 16-17	Yr. end 16-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
7.5	% children taking up 3 and 4 year old offer (termly figure only)	High is good					97%	99%	97%			➡	This is an approximation based on known data. We know the number of Cheshire East children taking up the offer at settings in the borough, but we are not aware of all those attending settings in other authorities. The population figures are estimates taken from two years ago and the term in which a child becomes eligible depends on when their birthday falls as they are eligible the term following their 3rd birthday. The figures given assume no children go out of authority to claim their 3 and 4 year old funding, that the population estimates are accurate and birthdays are distributed evenly through the year. This is therefore a minimum figure and it is likely uptake is in excess of 97%.		
7.6	Number of families turned around (family focus) - claims made at agreed points in the year	High is good				21	supressed	19	9			➡	The quarter 1 figure of 9 families is the number of claims made at the end of March 2016 in Phase 2. The current claims window for DCLG closes in early September and we are able to add claims to the list for submission at any point during that time. As at July 2016, there are a further 17 claims bringing the total to 28, however other cases are being tracked and we expect to have more by the time the next claim is submitted.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 6
Youth Support															
8.1	Number of young people accessing the youth support service								1298			↕	The Youth Support Service works with young people aged 13-19 or 13-25 (with additional needs) providing youth work and targeted support. The total number of individuals who accessed the service in quarter 1 was 1,298.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 2
8.2	Number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) individuals [yr. 12-14]	Low is good				323	310	323	328			➡	Of this cohort 116 are not currently available to the labour market. The primary reasons for this are illness which account for 46% and teenage parents/ pregnancy which accounts for 52%.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 2
8.3	% of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) individuals [yr. 12-14]	Low is good				2.8%	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%			➡	We continue to have outstanding performance in this area compared to our statistical neighbours due to our proactive approach.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 2
8.4	Number of individuals where education, employment or training (EET) status not known	Low is good				45	65	45	30			↕	Every effort is undertaken to ensure that we know the status of all individuals. It is extremely positive that the number we are not in contact with continues to reduce each quarter. There will always be a small cohort who we will be unable to contact as they reach age 18/19 and are travelling overseas etc.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 2
Youth Engagement Service															
9.1	Number of young people sentenced to custody (quarterly fig)	Low is good				7	supressed	supressed					Quarter 1 data not yet available	4 Being Healthy & Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
9.2	Number of young people remanded to custody (quarterly fig)	Low is good				supressed	0	supressed		supressed			Quarter 1 data not yet available	4 Being Healthy & Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
9.3	Number of first time entrants - rolling 12 month figure (data from police national computer)	Low is good				94	111	94					Quarter 1 data not yet available	4 Being Healthy & Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
9.4	Rate of first time entrants - rolling 12 month figure (data from police national computer)	Low is good		369		281	331	281					Quarter 1 data not yet available	4 Being Healthy & Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
Special Educational Need (SEN)															
10.1	Number of new education, health and care needs assessments requests in month					268	74	79	77				The number of new education, health and care needs assessments in quarter 1 is broadly in line with previous quarters, which suggests an annual figure of around 300 new requests each year.	6 Additional Needs Additional Chances	Outcome 3
10.2	% of new education, health and care plans (EHCP) completed with 20 weeks	High is good				44.8%	49.7%	61.2%	21.7%			↓	Of the 23 new EHCP plans completed in quarter 1, only 5 were completed within 20 weeks. In addition there were 83 transfers completed 57% of which were completed within 16/20 weeks. Additional staff are being recruited to the team to ensure that demand can be met and timeliness improved.	6 Additional Needs Additional Chances	Outcome 3
10.3	Number of ongoing transfers from statements of educational need/learning difficulty assessments (LDA) to education, health and care plans (EHCP)					184	273	184	301			↑	An additional 4 staff have been recruited to the SEND team dedicated to transfer work and this is clearly evident in the increased number of transfers in progress.	6 Additional Needs Additional Chances	Outcome 3
10.4	Total number with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) [accumulative]					794	554	794	880			↑	This is a steadily improving picture which should begin to increase at a greater percentage due to the additional staff now in place to support transfers.	6 Additional Needs Additional Chances	Outcome 3
10.5	Total number with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or statement of educational need					1775	1689	1775	1784				This is an indicative figure as there are a small number of individuals where the SEN has been closed within the system before the EHCP has been finalised.	6 Additional Needs Additional Chances	Outcome 3

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Agenda Item 7

Annual Report 2015-16 & Business Plan Priorities 2016-2018

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Foreword from the Independent Chair

This is Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board (CESCB) annual report. You will find comprehensive information about our work for the year 2015-16. We have broken this down into each of our key strategic objectives, set at the beginning of the year, and have commented on the progress we think we have made against each. This report isn't just looking back though; it identifies the key challenges we face in the coming year and beyond.

Cheshire East local authority was inspected by Ofsted last July; at the same time, Inspectors reviewed CESCB. The inspection lasted one month and was the most intensive ever experienced by either the local authority or the board. The outcome of both was that the grading of inadequate awarded by Ofsted in the previous inspection (2013) were changed to 'requires improvement'. As a consequence of this, the children's minister at the Department for Education removed the Statutory Notice of Improvement on Cheshire East Council and its partners in January 2016. These developments recognised the significant progress made in improving safeguarding in Cheshire East since 2013.

Ofsted commented on the progress made by the board in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE), our work in consulting and taking account of the views of children and young people in our area, and a renewed commitment to tackle neglect. Inspectors also made recommendations in

areas where they felt the board needed to continue their progress made to date. These included a better focus on early help (something we had identified ourselves, in our previous annual report) and providing regular scrutiny of services for looked after children and young people, particularly regarding their safety. We encourage you to read the [Inspection report](#) on Ofsted's website.

Whilst we were pleased to receive such formal acknowledgement about our efforts to make progress and improve, we are still not yet "good", and all members of the board felt that overall Ofsted's judgement was accurate and in line with our own self-assessment. So we cannot in any way be complacent and need to continue to prioritise safeguarding in all partner agencies if we are to become, and remain, a good LSCB.

As we look to the forthcoming year, we will continue to focus on CSE (and sexual assault of all kinds to children and young people) and neglect remain the overarching twin priorities of the board. But there are several others which we feel we have made progress on the last 12 months; these include the risks posed to children and young people living in the digital age, our "Prevent" strategy to identify young people who may be at risk of radicalisation in Cheshire East, young people at risk of forced marriage or honour based violence, and children at risk of female genital mutilation. You can read details about our work in all of the above areas, and a number of others, in the main body of the report.

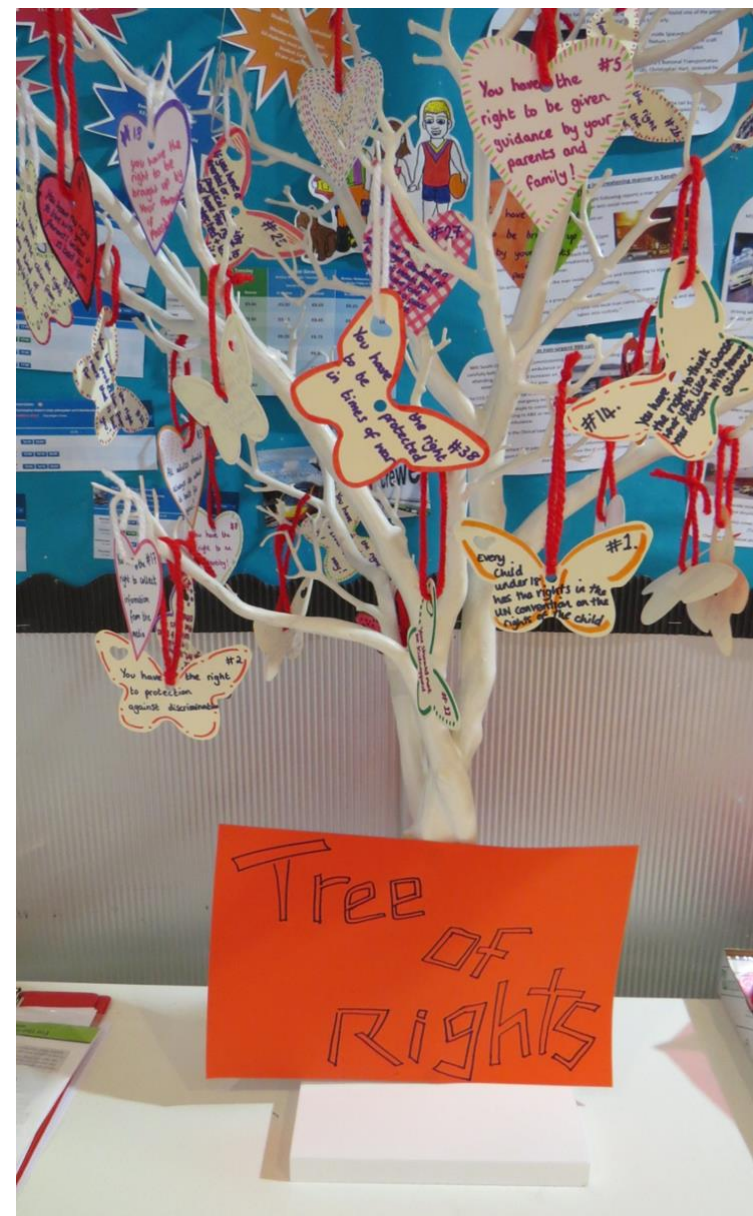
This is a lengthy report, necessarily so because we strongly believe that transparency in the board's work and activities is paramount. There is a summary, or 'youth proofed', version of this report specifically for young people.

Acknowledgements to a very talented pupil from Scholar Green Primary School, whose award winning poster from the primary safeguarding conference is featured on our front page.

I hope you find this report informative; I also hope it makes you think about the role we all have to play in protecting and ensuring good futures for all children and young people, so that together we can make sure that Cheshire East is a great place to be young.

If you have any questions about the report or the information contained in it, please contact me at LSCBEast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Ian Rush,
Independent Chair, Cheshire East Safeguarding Board



A. Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board

Background

[Working Together, 2015](#) (WT15), the statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), requires each area to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. This report sets out what we have done over the past year and also what we plan to do next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

This report is aimed at everyone involved in safeguarding children, including members of the local community as well as professionals and volunteers who work with children, young people and families.

A copy of this Annual Report will be sent to senior leaders and stakeholders in our area, including the Chief Executive of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director of Children's Services. The report will also be sent to the Health and Well-being Board, Children and Young People's Trust Board, Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board and the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny and Overview Committee. Individual agencies will also be encouraged to present this report through their internal Boards and scrutiny arrangements.

The Board

Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board (CESCB) is made up of senior representatives from agencies who work with children and young people from the local authority, schools, health, the police and others. The Board members work together to keep children and young people safe from harm.

CESCB is responsible for scrutinising the work of its partners to ensure that services provided to children and young people actually make a difference.

In order to provide effective scrutiny, CESCB is independent from other local structures and has an independent chair that can hold all agencies to account. The main roles for the CESCB are set out in its constitution and are:

To co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Cheshire East.

Governance

CESCB has three tiers of activity (see Appendix 1):

Main Board – this is made up of representatives of the partner agencies as set out in WT15. Board members must be sufficiently senior to ensure they are able to speak confidently and have the authority to sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency.

Executive – is made up of representatives from key statutory member agencies and has strategic oversight of all Board activity. The Executive takes the lead on developing and driving the implementation of the CESCB's Business Plan. It is also responsible for holding to account the work of the sub groups and their chairs.

Sub groups (Cheshire East) – the sub groups work on the various areas of concern to the CESCB on a more targeted and thematic basis. They report to the Executive and are ultimately accountable to the Main Board. The main subgroups operating at March 2016 were:

- Quality and Outcomes
- Audit and Case Review
- Learning and Improvement
- Neglect
- Safeguarding Children Operational Group
- Policy & Procedures
- Private Fostering

- Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing from Home & Care and Trafficking
- Early Help

The Communication and Engagement group was dissolved in Autumn 2015 to ensure that communications became a priority for each sub group; as a result, this is now a standing agenda item for each of the sub groups.

Sub groups (Pan-Cheshire) – Cheshire East works closely with the other Cheshire LSCBs on certain areas to maximise impact.

The following pan-Cheshire sub-groups are currently in operation:

- Pan-Cheshire Child Death Overview Panel
- Pan-Cheshire Policies and Procedures
- Pan-Cheshire CSE, Missing from Home and Care and Trafficking

Key Roles

Independent Chair – The Independent Chair for Cheshire East is Ian Rush.

The Independent Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the local authority and in Cheshire East this is **Mike Suarez**. The Chair meets regularly with the **Chief Executive** through the Safeguarding Review Meeting to raise safeguarding concerns and be challenged on the performance of the Board.

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services – Kath O'Dwyer joined Cheshire East in 2015. The Executive Director of Children's Services is a Member of the main Board and has responsibility to ensure that the CESC B functions effectively and liaises closely with the Independent Chair who keeps her updated on progress.

Lead Member – the Lead member for Children's Services has responsibility for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal duties to safeguard children and young people. For most of 2015-16 this was **Councillor Rachel Bailey**. Her successor, **Councillor Liz Durham** currently holds this role. The Lead Member contributes to the CESC B as a 'participating observer', i.e. she takes part in the discussion, but is not part of the decision making process.

Lay Members – **Sam Haworth** and **Alana Eden** are lay members and support the LSCB voluntary and community members to promote and raise awareness of safeguarding.

Children and Young People's Challenge Champions – the Board has a commitment to ensure that the voice of children and young people is a key focus of the Board. **Jodie Morris** and **Liam Hill** from **Voice for Children** are care leavers who are members of the Board and work with young people in Cheshire to represent their voices on the Board.

Key Relationships

CESC B has a number of key relationships with other Boards. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place that sets out safeguarding arrangements between these key strategic partnerships in Cheshire East.

Children and Young People's Trust Board (CYPT) – this is a partnership Board that aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East. The Children and Young People's Plan is a key mechanism to provide strategic leadership, determining joint priorities, joint planning, and ensuring integrated working. Priority 2 of the plan, 'Children and young people feel and are safe', is largely delivered by CESC B. The Chair of CESC B is also a member of the Trust.



Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) – When children and young people are brought into the care of the Local Authority, Cheshire East Council becomes their 'Corporate Parent'. To ensure that the Council and its partners effectively discharge its role as Corporate Parent for all their Children in Care, key officers from the Council and partner agencies are brought together in the Corporate Parenting Board. In Cheshire East this is co-led by children in care.

Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) – The CESC links with the Health & Wellbeing Board and is held to account for key safeguarding issues for children in Cheshire East. Priorities within the Health and Wellbeing strategy are delivered by CESC and this annual report and business plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.



Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) - The CESAB carries out the safeguarding functions in relation to adults 18 years and over. A number of members of the LSCB also sit on CESAB.

Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) – SCEP is responsible for the commissioning of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), which are undertaken on its behalf by the CESAB. It receives reports on domestic abuse and sexual violence. SCEP is the lead partnership for 'Prevent' (the approach to tackling extremism and radicalisation) in Cheshire East and works with the other partnership boards to ensure that the Prevent strategy is being implemented across all agencies and in the community.

Member Agency Management Boards – CESC members are senior officers within their own agencies providing a direct link between the CESC and their own single agency management boards to ensure that high quality multi-agency practice is embedded.

Police and Crime Commissioner – The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provides support to vulnerable young people at risk.

The Participation Network is a multi-agency group that brings together engagement and participation workers across the partnership to share and develop good practice and to join up services in engaging with children and young people. The CESC is represented on this Network.

Partnership Key Lead areas

Key partnerships agreed the following leads for shared priority areas.

Shared priority area	Strategic governance lead
Domestic Abuse	Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP)
Prevent	SCEP
Reducing Offending	SCEP
Anti-social Behaviour	SCEP
Organised crime	SCEP
Hate Crime	SCEP
Child Sexual exploitation (CSE)	CESCB
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	Local Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)
'Mate crime'	CESAB
Substance misuse	Health & Wellbeing board (HWBB)
Mental Health	HWBB
Improving outcomes for children and young people	Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)

Board Membership and Attendance

A summary of Board membership and attendance for 2015-16 is in Appendix 2.

Financial Arrangements 2015-16

The finances of the Board for 2015-16, including member contributions are at Appendix 3.



B. Children and Young People in Cheshire East

Our Child Population

Cheshire East is a generally affluent area and, for the vast majority of children and young people, it is a good place to grow up. However, there are pockets of deprivation in Cheshire East where we know that children and young people do not enjoy the same outcomes, and the gap in attainment between more vulnerable groups and their peers, although reducing, remains too great.

- There are approximately 75,100 children and young people under the age of 18 in Cheshire East, 51% are male and 49% are female. Children and young people make up approximately 20% of the total population. This is the same as last year. This is slightly lower than the England average of 21% and a reflection of the aging demographic profile across the local authority.
- 9% of primary pupils are entitled to free school meals (an indicator of deprivation), compared to 16% nationally and 7% of

secondary pupils compared to 14% nationally.

- Overall 92% of individuals are of British ethnicity. The biggest minority groups in Cheshire East are 'white other' (2.5%), Asian/ Asian British (2%), and mixed/ multiple ethnicities (2.6%).
- The vast majority of pupils' ethnic background are reported to be White British (88% of primary pupils and 91% of secondary pupils).
- There are just under 100 different first languages recorded for primary and secondary pupils, although only 6% of primary pupils and 4% of secondary pupils have a first language other than English, compared to national figs of 19% and 15%, respectively.
- At the end of March 2016, 2220 children and young people were identified as being in need of a specialist children's service which is line with 2015.
- The number on a child protection plan has reduced from 308 to 273; an 11% reduction.
- 387 children and young people were cared for by Cheshire East; 39.5% of these live outside Cheshire East. The majority of cared for children and young people, 288 or 74%, live with foster families. 28 live in residential children's homes and 22 live with their parent. 18 children and young people were adopted in 2015.



C. The Child's Journey in Cheshire East

Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS)

ChECS is the 'front door' to access services, support and advice for children, young people and their families; from early help and support through to safeguarding and child protection. All services are required to have a telephone discussion with a qualified social worker (consultation) and are advised on the level of need for the child and family and the appropriate next steps. Co-location of the police, the missing from home service and voluntary domestic abuse services with the ChECS 'front door' team has been achieved through close collaboration, and is improving multi-agency responses.

	Consultation activity	No. converted to referral
2013-14	6788	2444 (36%)
2014-15	7493	2783 (37%)
2015-16	9843	3687 (37%)

Table 1: Number of consultations over the past three years and the percentage that resulted in a referral to children's social care

There has been a 45% increase in consultation activity in the last 2 years and a 31% increase from last year. However, conversion to referral has remained static; suggesting that overall the volume of need is rising.

There has been an average of 820 consultations and 307 referrals a month over the past year. There were 728 individuals that were the subject of more than 2 consultations in the year. Cheshire East LSCB will be looking in more detail at consultation and referrals at

the front door in 2016-17 as Cheshire East's 'demand strategy' develops.

Early Help

Early help is about getting additional, timely and effective support to children, young people and their families to help them as early as possible before issues become more serious. Over the past year there has been an improved understanding and support from agencies in providing children and families with early help. This is also better coordinated, mainly through the use of the common assessment framework (CAF). However, Ofsted found that some contacts that were identified for early help were not progressed as quickly as they could be at ChECS as cases for referral to social care were prioritised. Work is underway to address this through the set up of the Early Help Brokerage service (EHB).

The Early Help Brokerage Service went live in October 2015. This service is a dedicated team, with increased capacity, to ensure the swift allocation of early help cases. This ensures timely referrals to early help, and identifies the best service to meet the needs of the child or young person and their family.

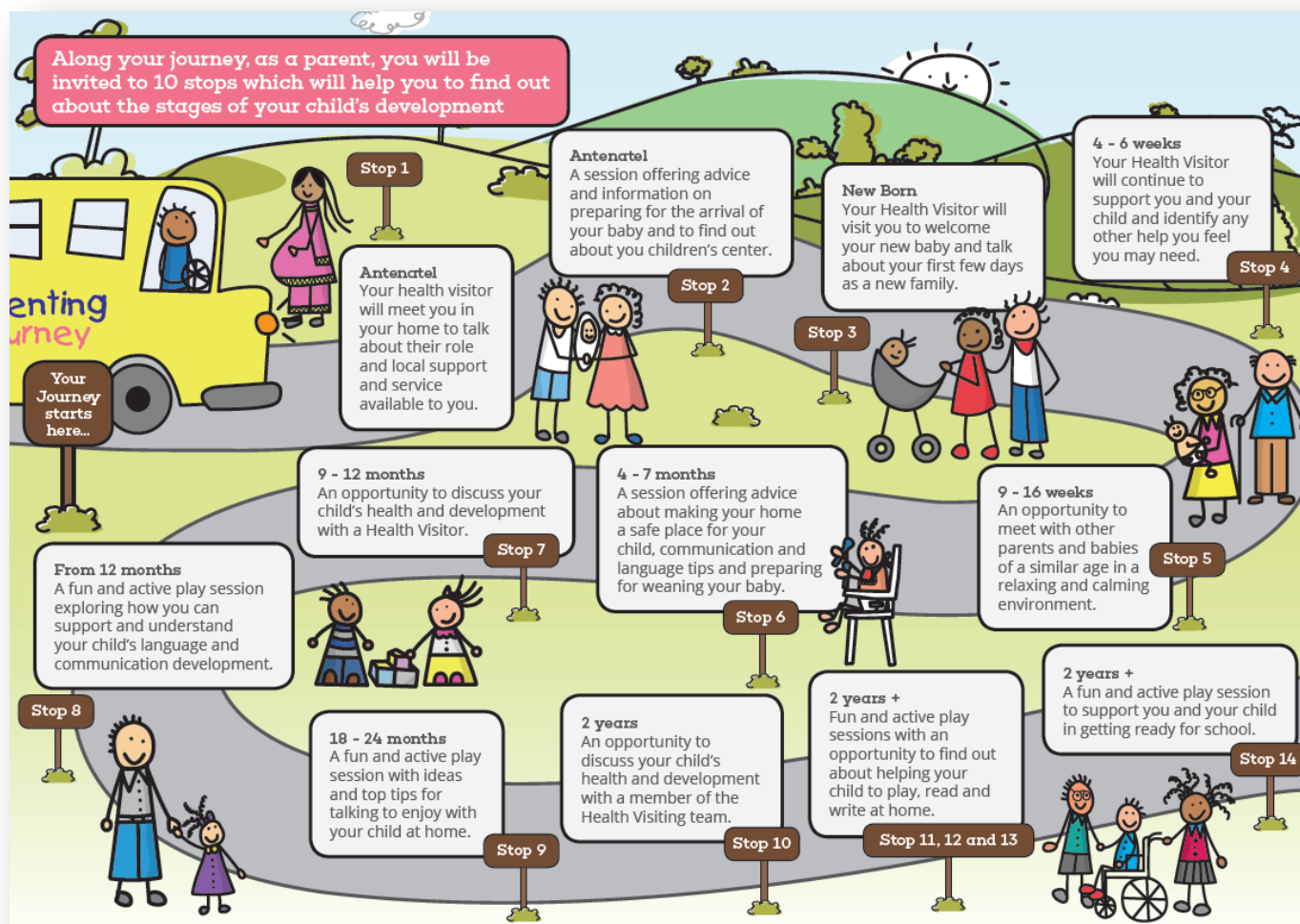
For 2015-16, a total of 2,061 cases were passed from ChECS to the EHB, 1,107 alone in quarter 4. Initially, these accounted for approximately 30% of ChECS outcomes, but some months have shown this to be nearer to between 45% and 49%. A business analysis of the front door process has shown that this requires further investigation when comprehensive figures about outcomes from EHB are available.

CESCB will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of the front door and responses to early help in 2016-17.

Parenting Journey

Work on the Parenting Journey took place in 2015-16 for a planned launch in April 2016. This is part of a phased roll out which will be completed by April 2017. The Parenting Journey is a universal offer of parenting support from pre-birth to starting school based on best practice and research. It is delivered by Family Support Workers, Health Visitors and Health Visiting Skill Mix, members of the

Early Years and Childcare team and other health partners. It embeds the Healthy Child programme and the Cheshire East 8 stages of assessment, culminating in 14 parenting stops supporting every child to have the best possible start in life.



Emotionally Healthy Schools Programme

The Emotionally Healthy Schools Programme has been in development for approximately 18 months. It is a whole school approach to improving children and young people's mental health.

A pilot in six secondary schools started in January 2016. Support has been commissioned from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) and Visyon (in partnership with Just Drop In and The Children's Society). They have supported the six schools to develop plans and test out different activities and interventions. A strategy group is learning from this pilot and developing plans to roll the programme out to primary schools, the remaining secondary schools, colleges and private schools.

These developments allowed us to successfully be part of the national Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) School Link pilot. 20 Cheshire East schools (the six pilot secondary schools and 14 primary schools) engaged in two workshops with CAMHS colleagues, school nurses and educational psychologists to improve understanding of each other's roles and to develop ideas to improve the system.



Children in Need and Child Protection

Assessment timescales

4,224 social care assessments were completed in 2015–16. As at 31st March 2016, 2,220 of these were identified as being formally in need of ongoing specialist support after the assessment period ended.

2015-16 saw improvements in the timeliness of assessments at both 35 days (the Cheshire East standard) and 45 days (the national standard). As at March 2016, 74% of assessments were completed within 35 days and 88% within 45 days, compared to 63% and 72%, respectively, in the previous year. This indicates a reduction in risk and delay for some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

Improvements in timeliness in Cheshire East means that we now compare well nationally and with our statistical neighbours (see Table 2 overleaf).



Local authority	2014 -15 Completed in 45 days	2015-16 Completed in 45 days
England	81%	
North West	82%	
Cheshire East	72%	88%
Cheshire West & Chester	84%	
Warrington	88%	
East Riding of Yorkshire	78%	
North Yorkshire	91%	
Solihull	57%	
Warwickshire	85%	
Central Bedfordshire	97%	
Hampshire	79%	
West Berkshire	71%	
North Somerset	56%	

Table 2: Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days nationally, regionally and for our statistical neighbours

Children in Need

A child in need (CIN) is defined¹ as; a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development or whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without provision of services from the local authority or he/she has a disability. The number of CIN in Cheshire East was 1133 at the end of 2015-16, compared to 1184 the previous year, however, this figure has fluctuated throughout the year between 1050 and 1215 -

¹ Children Act 1989

likely reasons for this include large families and/or a delay in assessment. The number of children in need in Cheshire East is in line with our statistical neighbours.

Project Crewe

Project Crewe was established in August 2015 as a result of a successful Innovation Bid by Cheshire East to the Department of Education (DfE). This service aims to achieve positive sustainable outcomes for families with children in need aged 0 to 19 years old. Catch 22 delivers this service in partnership with Cheshire East Council. CESCIB continues to monitor and challenge the impact of this service on vulnerable children and young people.

Child Protection

The number of children and young people who are on a child protection (CP) plan has reduced by 11% over the last 12 months, following a significant increase the previous year. This remains comparable with statistical neighbours and audit findings suggest this level is appropriate. Table 3 shows CP numbers from 2013-16:

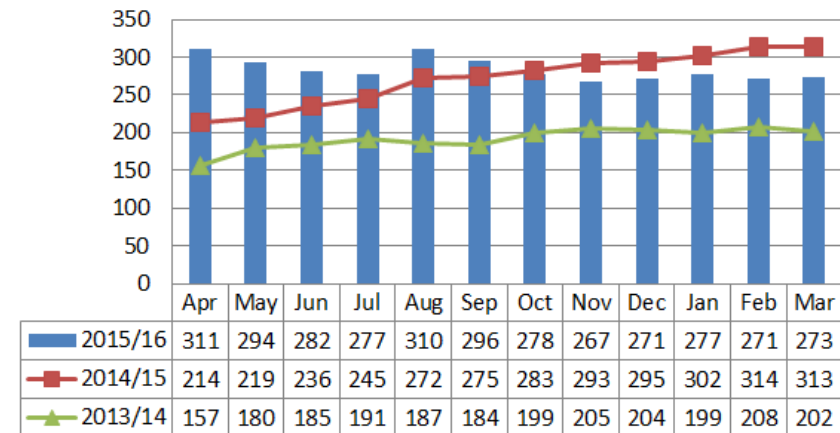


Table 3: Child protection numbers 2013-16

Those who are subject to a plan for over 15 months has also reduced from a position of 11.9% of the CP cohort at the start of 2015-16 to 5.9% as at 31st March 2016. The focus on this is around appropriate and timely intervention and ensuring plans have SMART objectives which are making a difference.

Over the last year, there has been challenge over the most appropriate category of abuse. Neglect continues to be the highest category. Table 4 below shows CP categories since 2014:

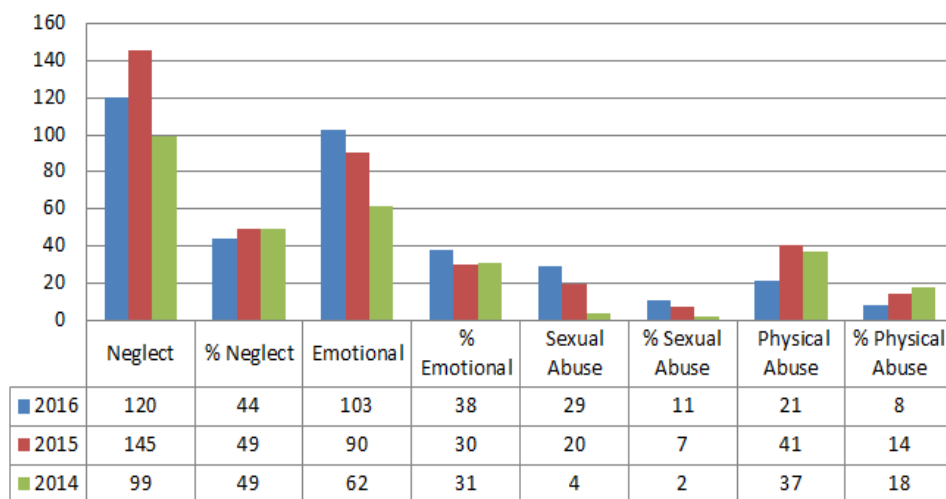


Table 4: Child protection categories 2014-16

A recent audit on cases where the category was emotional abuse highlighted a number of issues around categorisation and these will be scrutinised by CESC B over the coming year.

Cared for Children

Cared for children are those that are looked after by the local authority either voluntarily or through a statutory order. As at 31st March 2016, 387 children and young people were being cared for by the local authority, an increase of 8.4% from the previous year. Of this number:

- 153 (39.5%) live outside the local authority area
- 28 live in residential children's homes; of whom 53.5% live outside of the local authority area
- 6 live in residential specialist schools; of whom 83% live outside of the local authority area
- 288 children and young people in foster placements; of these 113 (39%) live out of the local authority area.
- Fewer than 5 children are unaccompanied asylum seekers

The figures show a high number of young people live out of the area, in reality they may actually live nearby but across Cheshire East's border.

Extensive work is underway to ensure there are enough local foster carers in Cheshire East to ensure where possible local placements are made and that children stay in the area.

In the last 12 months a total of 141 children have ceased to be cared for by the Local Authority. Of these, there have been 18 adoptions, 26 children became subject of special guardianship orders and 32 returned home. 39 individuals have left care due to turning 18 and a total of 16 individuals are in a range of 'staying put' arrangements (where they are 18 or older but have chosen to stay in the care of the Local Authority).

The table below is a comparison of cared for children based on the 2014-15 statutory returns (which is the latest data available for all comparators).

Cheshire East's proportion of cared for children is lower than the England average, North West average and our statistical neighbour average, and although we have increased slightly to 51.5, our performance is still at the lower end of our comparator group.

	As at 31st March 2015, Rate of Cared for Children per 10,000
England	60
North West	82
Statistical neighbour Average	59.8
Cheshire West & Chester	75
Solihull	74
Warrington	67
Warwickshire	61
North Somerset	55
Cheshire East	49.4
Hampshire	48
Central Bedfordshire	47
West Berkshire	47
East Riding of Yorkshire	46
North Yorkshire	38

Table 5: Rate of Cared for Children per 10,000 at the end of 2015

The LSCB has increased its scrutiny and challenge around cared for children in 2015-16 and will continue to do so in 2016-17.

"Corporate Parenting Board is passionate and committed – they know the borough and their children well"

Cared for Children and Care Leavers Peer Challenge May 2015

Care Leavers

As at 31st March 2016 there were 225 care leavers in Cheshire East. This has remained static over the last 12 months and is marginally lower than the 232 in March 2015. 16 young people are being supported in 'staying put' arrangements post-18.

There are some positive outcomes for care leavers - they have access to a wide range of helpful advice and support for their health needs. A recent benefit has been introduced where they do not have to pay council tax. CESCIB is working with the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure these young people are receiving the support they need.

Care leavers produced the Easy Pleasy cookbook to support others and provide tips on what makes a tasty meal.



Child Death Overview Panel

The death of any child is a tragedy. It is vital that all child deaths are carefully reviewed. The death of any child under the age of 18 is reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The pan-Cheshire Child Death Overview Panel is made up of a group of professionals who meet several times a year to review all the child deaths in their area. There were a total of 63 child deaths across Cheshire during 2015-2016 notified to the panel; of these 20 were from Cheshire East.

The Panel has a role to identify any trend or themes and to make recommendations to the LSCB on learning from the reviews and how to prevent and reduce child deaths. The panel has an independent chair who provides regular updates to the LSCB and produces an [annual report](#) that summarises the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year.



D. Review of Priorities for 2015-16

The following three partnership objectives underpin the key plans for children and young people; the children and young people's plan, the children and young people's improvement plan and the LSCB business plan:

- **Frontline Practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused**
- **Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people**
- **The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East.**

CESCB agreed the following priorities to deliver these objectives in 2015-17:

We will improve frontline multi-agency practice through:

- Improving Board engagement direct with frontline staff
- Continuing to drive developments around key safeguarding areas including children at risk of CSE, missing from home, female genital mutilation, radicalisation and extremism, forced marriage/honour based abuse and privately fostered children and young people
- Embedding strengthening families
- Implementing our neglect strategy
- Implementing changes around the integrated front door
- Improving safeguarding arrangements for disabled children
- Improving identification and response around children and young people with mental health issues, including self-harming

We will continue to improve the participation of young people in LSCB business through:

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is central to LSCB business
- Establishing a Challenge and Evidence Panel of children and young people
- Engaging children and young people in co-producing information and support relevant to them
- Ensuring that the LSCB celebrates children's rights and participation and the contribution of children and young people to safeguarding
- Ensuring the voice of children and young people is central to the LSCB's training programme

We will strengthen the partnerships through:

- Engaging the community through links with voluntary and faith sector
- Improving the board's role and traction in relation to developing early help



Summary of Improvements against the Priorities

Improve Frontline Practice

Improving CESC's engagement with frontline staff

The establishment of the Safeguarding Children Operational Group (SCOG), a multi-agency group of first line managers, provides an opportunity to disseminate key messages to frontline staff, discuss implementation of new policies, and agree good practice models. SCOG has carried out a number of pieces of work in 2015-16, including the development of multi-agency practice standards. Regular frontline newsletters provide information direct to the frontline. Frontline visits also provide a forum to hear first-hand any issues around communication. All the LSCB audits have involved workshops with frontline practitioners to triangulate findings.

Continuing to drive developments around CSE

During the year there were 10 individuals made subject of a CSE child protection plan; 70% of whom were female. There were a further 6 individuals made subject to a child protection plan under a separate category, but where a CSE specific plan was also considered. The youngest was 12 and the eldest was 16.

The LSCB's CSE Operational group is multi-agency and considers all children for whom there are concerns in respect of CSE who fall below the threshold for a CSE child protection plan. The group also considers persons of interest and potential locations that present a CSE risk. The CSE screening tool informs referral into the group and the completing professional is invited to attend the multi-agency forum to share information and agree a plan of intervention that will safeguard, manage and minimise the risk, promote welfare and prevent future harm.

During 2015-2016 the CSE operational group held 12 meetings, and considered 93 referrals (up from 22 in 2014-15); 73 of which were concerning young people at risk, and 20 concerning potential perpetrators or persons of interest. Referrals were received from the Police, Cheshire East Council (ChECS, Social Workers, Family Support Workers, Youth Engagement Service), schools, commissioned services, and Sexual Health Workers. The increased number of referrals in 2015-2016 indicates that practitioners generally have a good understanding of CSE and are recognising and responding to the indicators, supported by the CSE risk screening tool. Four locations where children and young people are thought to be particularly at risk were identified. Two of these are in Crewe.

Positively, 73% of those flagged in 2015-2016 have been closed to the group as they are satisfied and reassured that the young person is being protected by the plans in place. 10% of cases were escalated as requiring consideration for a child protection plan, which demonstrates that the group is effectively safeguarding young people and ensuring the risks are responded to appropriately, and 4% were considered for a CSE child protection plan.

Work in these key areas is regularly reported into the LSCB to ensure focus. Significant work has been completed over the last 12 months with regards to the individuals who go missing from home and care who are also presenting with risk associated with CSE.



Continuing to drive developments around children missing from home

Most children who go missing in Cheshire East go missing once and go missing from their home. Some children go missing many times and this includes children who have moved between care and home/semi-independent living and those who are cared for.

In 2015-16 Cheshire East received 270 missing notifications, which equated to 123 Individuals. This compares to 253 notifications and 96 individuals this time last year, or a 12% reduction.

Continuing to drive developments around children in home with domestic abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant safeguarding issue for children and young people in Cheshire East who are harmed through exposure to parent/carer abuse, directly hurt by the same perpetrator and/or develop teenage relationships which are abusive. The impacts on their safety, health, wellbeing and achievement are multiple and can be long lasting. Domestic abuse is often linked to substance misuse and mental ill health resulting in a degree of complexity and interrelated harm which makes safeguarding and co-ordination both challenging and vital across a range of agencies and Boards. Strategy and delivery of responses to domestic abuse and sexual violence are the responsibility of Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Partnership.

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) continue to provide an effective process for information sharing and action planning in high risk cases. The number of cases has risen again in the last year to 574 adults with 782 children which means we have almost reached our estimated in need population of 600+. This continued upward trend reflects the success of efforts to ease access to services and is largely a result of the secondary risk assessment at 'the Hub' of victims identified by police who have seen domestic abuse incidents almost double. The Hub itself had



around 1,300 referrals and increased their contact rate steadily throughout the year. This is evidence that the co-location of police, children's services and the Domestic Abuse Hub has improved our response to domestic abuse.

The Hub is jointly staffed by a lead member of the IDVA service and commissioned service providers. Not only does this support continuity for service users on their journey to recovery but enables the capture of all domestic abuse specialist data in one place. The service has used this data at end of year to send to agencies along with client feedback posing some key questions regarding referral levels and user experience. This provides an increased means of holding one another to account for the effectiveness of individual and multi-agency intervention

There have been four key further developments in the year:

- The set up of www.actonitnow.co.uk which is a young person's 'Teen Relationship Abuse' website providing information, stories and resources to support young people and those who care about and work with them. This website was developed in partnership with young people and responds in part to concerns raised by the LSCB's Challenge and Evidence Panel about simplifying access to support for relationship issues. The challenge was made following a young person's survey which, together with work done by the Youth Council, highlighted domestic abuse as a serious and substantial concern.
- Operation Encompass, whereby schools are informed of incidents in the previous 24 hours in the homes of pupils, has gone live across the whole borough. This has been pioneered by Police and our Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCIES) team who have been able to prepare schools for calls and follow up.

- In partnership with the Youth Engagement Service the service have trialled a new programme 'Tandem' addressing child to parent violence. This is intensive work involving parallel and joint child and parent work. While the number of completers is small at four families the early results are significant, especially as these families had attempted change work previously which had resolved their difficulties
- Responding to the LSCB's Domestic Abuse Audit and to the Improvement Plan, the service have also developed a Domestic Abuse Risk and Needs Identification Tool for children which is part of Guidance on the co-presentation of Domestic Abuse, Mental Ill Health and Substance Misuse (Toxic Trio)

CEDAP continues to support LSCB workforce development through the provision or contribution to three of its core programmes which account for almost one third of the LSCB training offer. Evaluations continue to be very positive. In addition the service has delivered Teen Relationship Abuse programmes as well as MARAC/Risk Assessment workshops and Adult Safeguarding workshops where the safety and wellbeing of children is also addressed as part of a 'family response'.

Finally, the service have re-commissioned non IDVA services – refuge, outreach, recovery and change programmes, peer support groups and easy access 'clinics' in Crewe and Macclesfield. Procurement delays have meant the service will be fully operational in July 16. This delay has led to a regrettable gap in programme delivery for some children and young people which is expected will be regularised by September.

[illegible]

Continuing to drive developments around Female genital mutilation (FGM)

It is illegal in the UK to subject a child to FGM or to take a child abroad to undergo FGM. WT15 states that each LSCB should agree with the local authority and its partners the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered. This should include services for children who have been or may be sexually exploited, children who have undergone or may undergo FGM and children who have been or may be radicalised. Policies and procedures are in place and work has taken place to raise awareness of FGM with practitioners through the LSCB website and workshops.

In April 2016 new statutory guidance was produced, it sets out clearly the expectations for practitioners and named professionals. This guidance has been sent to all partners and work is nearly complete on the pan-Cheshire practitioner guidance which makes clear the pathways for referrals.

Partners in health, police and the local authority are working together to ensure that data is now collected and reported so the LSCB is clear on action taken in relation to FGM and prevalence of this across Cheshire East. As part of our awareness-raising, over 100 people attended a multi-agency event on FGM organised by NHS England to learn more about FGM and to be reminded of the reporting process.

A pan-Cheshire Strategy for tackling FGM is being developed in line with statutory guidance that sets out requirements for organisations around reporting, recognition and training.

Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism

The Prevent agenda is a national initiative. Recent high profile cases nationally have highlighted the risks to children and young people from radicalisation and extremism. The 'grooming' process used by extremist groups is similar to that used in other forms of child abuse and exploits the same vulnerabilities. The LSCB has a key role to play in ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded against this form of exploitation. During the last year, significant work has taken place to raise awareness amongst professionals of the risk associated with radicalisation and extremism.

Prevent' has been a focus on the LSCB board meeting agenda, the police channel panel coordinator and prevent officer have attended a board meeting to raise awareness amongst all partners. Following this all organisations who are part of the LSCB were asked to confirm the Prevent Lead within their organisation.

The Prevent Lead for the LSCB is Lisa Cooper of NHS England. Her role as strategic lead is to ensure all agencies are kept up to date with latest developments and to monitor that the Cheshire East Prevent action plan is completed. Partner agencies been asked to ensure they follow the Prevent training strategy by ensuring their staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. The Home Office has a variety of resources and e-learning materials that LSCB members have been asked to disseminate. Several LSCB members who are Chanel Panel members will be undertaking workshops to raise awareness of prevent (WRAP) training to increase their knowledge of this subject.

The LSCB website has been updated with a [Prevent page](#) where information on resources and training is available.

A Channel Panel was established in 2015-16 to safeguard individuals at risk from being radicalised or being groomed into becoming involved in acts of violent extremism. Channel is a cross-Cheshire initiative, led by Cheshire Police through community safety. The multi-agency Channel Panel manages risks on a 'case by case' basis through meetings. The panel is chaired by a senior manager from the Safer Communities Partnership. They have developed clear terms of reference and will be regularly reporting into the LSCB.

Continuing to drive developments around forced marriage/ honour based abuse

The Police are leading a multi-agency group to develop an action plan around harmful practices; these include honour based violence and forced marriage. To support this, a two day event is planned to look at the demographics and prevalence across Cheshire; key strategic leaders will be invited to identify gaps and agree the action plan and how to raise awareness across all agencies.

Continuing to drive developments around privately fostered children and young people

CESCB has continued to raise awareness of private fostering over 2015-16 through its active private fostering subgroup. Awareness raising is now routinely carried out and recorded. Materials and posters have been used to support a publicity campaign and are included in a pack which is provided to all social work teams.

In 2015-16, the number of privately fostered children and young people we are aware of in Cheshire East has almost doubled; from 6 to 11 new arrangements and 3 carried forward from 2014-2015. We can attribute this to the awareness raising efforts of the LSCB Private Fostering Sub Group who have ensured that private fostering recognition is on the agenda in Cheshire East. In particular, we have seen an increase in education referrals regarding private fostering.

Data on compliance with DBS Checks has been compiled to inform the LSCB, which revealed that there are still significant delays in obtaining DBS checks. The lead for Private Fostering is developing a process for obtaining timely Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and management sign off, which will be formalised in the Private Fostering policy and procedure.





The LSCB Private Fostering Sub Group has sought previously privately fostered young people's views on service to inform service evaluation and development. The three young people interviewed were very positive about the support they had received from their social workers, "They wanted to know what was going on for me, I felt listened to", and reported that they felt cared about and safe. They were all visited very quickly following the initial referral; however the first visit was not used to full effect in that a lot of

information sharing and gathering at that point was missed out. All three young people felt this was important they wanted to know they could stay as quickly as possible. Two of the young people expressed concerns about the financial implications their care had on their carers, and said that they didn't like to ask for things like toiletries and make-up and this caused them stress. The young people felt that process for receiving additional monetary support needed to be dealt with far quicker and advice in this area should be improved. An action plan to improve services based on this feedback has been developed to address these areas.

Performance on Private Fostering is monitored through the LSCB scorecard and a progress report from the Chair of the Sub Group is received by the LSCB Executive. A private fostering stocktake is planned for June 2016.

Embedding strengthening families

One of the priorities in the 2015-16 business plan was to embed the strengthening families model of child protection conferences. Following further work this year, a decision was made instead to adapt the 'three houses model' for use in Cheshire East. The new model called 'Making Children Safer' provides a way to include the family in planning, and focuses on the strengths of the family as well as the areas that need to improve, which helps to engage children, young people and families in the planning process. It also helps families to understand why the plan is in place and what needs to happen to achieve it. Improved understanding and engagement with the plan and agencies delivering it should lead to improved outcomes for children, young people and families. A mid-point review of the model is currently underway but, anecdotally, it appears that the model has been well received as an improvement in addressing the issue of drift and improving planning.

Implementing changes around the integrated front door

The multi-agency integrated team at the front door has continued to develop in 2015-16. The establishment of the Early Help Brokerage service has strengthened the team's response to early help. A robust front door is an essential part of a good safeguarding service; changes to improve in this area will continue to be a focus for 2016-18.

Improving safeguarding arrangements for disabled children

Significant progress has been made in this area. There is now information available on the LSCB website. A children with disabilities social work team has been established to provide greater focus and expertise. A 0-25 special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) partnership board is planned for 2016-17 to develop an integrated 0-25 SEND service. The number of disabled children on a plan has risen steadily in 2015-16.

Implementing our neglect strategy

CESCB's neglect strategy was launched in January 2015, however, during the Ofsted inspection in July 2015, Inspectors felt that more could be done by the Board to evidence impact of the strategy. During 2015-16, a neglect task and finish group has been re-established to drive implementation of the strategy and to measure its impact.

A neglect scorecard has been developed that contains the key measures set out in the strategy and is being used to inform the LSCB on impact of the strategy. Graded care profile training is now a mandatory training course for all ASYEs (Social Workers in their assisted and supported year of employment).

A new LSCB multi-agency training programme on neglect was launched in January 2015, and 235 practitioners have received the training so far. This is not yet having sufficient impact on practice,

as graded care profiles are still not being used routinely to assess and evaluate the extent of neglect. Neglect will continue to be a focus for the Board in 2016-18.



Improving identification and response around children and young people with mental health issues, including self harming

The priority around mental health arose following a thematic review of a number of teenage suicides in Cheshire East in 2014-15. A suicide and self harm prevention group is now well established and has worked on developing a prevention strategy, identifying resources and training. The group received input from the CAMHS Young Advisers to ensure the voice of the child is considered when developing the strategy.

Listening to Children and Young People

The LSCB sponsored a conference with young people from primary schools in November 2015.

The day involved a number of activities based around safeguarding and children's rights. As part of the day, Children also wrote post cards to the Prime Minister, David Cameron asking how he intends



to protect children's rights. Primary schools produced a poster designed around staying safe.

The voice of the child has continued to influence the work of the board in 2015-16; each board meeting starts with a representative from Voice for Children to keep the meeting child centred. Representatives from the Children's Society and the NSPCC are members of the board and influence our work through feedback from children and young people. The annual Act Now conference is a good example where young people organise, plan and lead the conference to ensure the work of our partners is young people led.

In 2015-16, CESC made presentations regionally and nationally on its work around involving children and young people in its work. CESC has also submitted an application to be awarded 'Investors in Children'; the outcome from this is imminent.

Annual Survey of Safeguarding

In 2015-16 the LSCB piloted an annual survey with a small group of young people based on the findings from audits and engagement sessions with young people. This identified some of the areas where young people had concerns and wanted more to be done by the LSCB. This led to the challenge and evidence panel (see below).

Establish a “Scrutiny” Panel of young people

Young people decided that they wanted to call the scrutiny panel a 'challenge and evidence' panel and the first meeting took place on 12th October 2015.

The young people put a number of questions to board members, based on the issues that came up in the annual survey. CESCOB has worked closely with the Safeguarding Children in Education and Settings (SCIES) Team to feed back to these young people.

A 'you said, we did' approach has been adopted and the LSCB is tracking an action plan to address the areas for development agreed with the young people. The key areas challenged were:

- Wider participation with cared for children, e.g. foster carer recruitment
- Confusion between CSE and sexual abuse
- Domestic abuse – more info for young people
- Legal highs – lack of understanding
- Young people's access to safeguarding advice
- Availability of school based policing in Cheshire East



Annual celebration of children & young people's contribution to safeguarding

CESCB agreed to fund and help coordinate an annual safeguarding conference for professionals, co-produced by young people with the SCIES Team. In July 2015 this was called 'Act Now' and showcased and celebrated the peer led work in schools around safeguarding.

The young people presented on key safeguarding issues relevant to them to an audience of social workers, health, police, voluntary sector, and councillors. The outcomes from the young people have been used to raise awareness and promote issues across partner agencies via email, the website and key documents. More information on the conference is available on the LSCB website, including the presentations and a [video of the day](#).

CESCB arranged a follow up event with the young people to thank them for their involvement and to present them with a poster of the day.

Strengthen Partnerships

We will engage the community through links with voluntary and faith sector;

A regular meeting between lay members, the voluntary sector, including faith has been facilitated to ensure we are aware of the safeguarding work carried out by this sector. Through improving communication, a regular update on the LSCB meetings is reported on in the CVS newsletter. These meetings share good practice and identify where there are knowledge gaps.

We will strengthen relationships with other key partnerships to improve the reporting, accountability and sharing of good practice

Considerable work has been undertaken looking at reporting lines to partnerships boards to ensure improved communication. One of Ofsted's recommendations was for CESC B to improve its influence in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that safeguarding is embedded within its priorities. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is the accountable body for the Children and Young People's Improvement Plan and have received a number of reports on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection and the improvement plan. They also received a presentation on the LSCB Annual report 2014-15 and business plan for 2015-16.

Key updates from Children's services have been scheduled on the forward plan for the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure they have strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being refreshed, and this will align with the areas of the Cheshire East Children and

Young People's Plan, which is already aligned with the LSCB Business Plan.

The memorandum of understanding between the partnerships is currently under review and will be considered by a new Partnership Chairs Group that will be established from June 2016.

Performance, Scrutiny and Challenge

CESC B has a comprehensive quality assurance framework, which can be found on our website. In 2015-16 this has provided CESC B with a range of quantitative and qualitative information in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Cheshire East.

Performance Monitoring

Following a recommendation from Ofsted, the LSCB scorecard has been further developed and strengthened; it covers a range of measures from all partners and has been aligned with the areas of focus for the LSCB and the partnership from the Ofsted Inspection Report. It now gives a robust oversight of safeguarding practice across the partnership. The LSCB Quality and Outcomes Sub Group is effectively scrutinising and challenging partnership performance, and is driving improvements to partnership working. This includes identifying risks to improving outcomes across the partnership that are subsequently added to the LSCB's risk register where they are monitored and challenged until progress is made.

A range of quality assurance activity supports performance monitoring. Arrangements for this are robust, and support and supplement partnership performance monitoring. This includes the LSCB multi-agency audit programme, LSCB frontline visits, and the annual LSCB Children and Young People's Challenge and Evidence Panel. The Challenge and Evidence Panel is run by



young people, who challenge LSCB members on the key safeguarding issues that are important to children and young people in Cheshire East. This is informed by the themes highlighted in the Children and Young People's Safeguarding Survey.

LSCB audits have shown that further work is needed to improve SMART planning, and ensuring that the progress against plans is evaluated and tracked in meetings. In the last LSCB thematic audit on parental mental health, 60% plans were considered to be clear, but all other indicators of a SMART plan were considerably lower with 54% considered to be outcome focussed, 58% focussed on risk and need, 56% clear about professional roles, and with contingency arrangements outlined in just 37%. In response to this, all LSCB multi-agency training now includes references to SMART planning, and the Safeguarding Children Operational Group (SCOG) are reviewing and updating the one minute guide on SMART planning so this can be communicated widely across the

partnership to support good practice. Improvements to SMART planning and the quality of plans are also being driven through Children's Social Care which is discussed in detail in section 9.

Findings from LSCB audits are driving improvements to practice. The need to improve communication between GPs and the safeguarding unit so that GPs are aware of the concerns and inform child protection planning was a recurring theme from the last two LSCB audits. The named GP has visited the majority of GP practices in Cheshire East completing direct work with the practice managers to improve their processes and arrangements. Work has been completed between the safeguarding unit and the named GP which has resulted in strengthened data reporting. Quarterly reporting has now been established to monitor the impact of the work to improve communications. As a result of this work, the percentage of initial case conferences informed by GP reports has improved from 35% in quarter 2 to 62% in quarter 3. This still needs to improve and further work is being carried out to ensure progress in this area continues to be made. Quarterly updates are received and scrutinised by the LSCB Quality and Outcomes Group to drive and monitor the progress in this area. Work is underway within Children's Social Care to ensure GPs are notified of children in need (CIN).

LSCB frontline visits have shown that there is commitment to engage children and young people in service planning across the partnership, and some good examples of this were found such as children and young people's participation in developing the new child protection conference model. Frontline staff welcomed the feedback from LSCB audits through the staff newsletter and said they used this to improve their practice. Most organisations provided examples of how they have learned from SCRs and this was cascaded well throughout the teams via team meetings and bulletins. Most staff felt confident in raising a challenge and some have experienced their service challenging another agency or

partner agency challenging them. However, staff were unclear on the policy and procedure for resolving professional disagreements. This policy and procedure has now been reviewed and strengthened, and the resolution process has been incorporated within the child's record system. Awareness raising of the new policy and procedure has been completed with frontline managers through the Safeguarding Children Operational Group (SCOG) and through the Multi-agency Practice Standards.

Areas of continued challenge in 2015-16 include:

- **GP input to CP conferences** – this has improved significantly through the work of the Designated GP, but will remain a focus in 2016-17
- **Initial health assessments** for cared for children – again, whilst this has improved over the year, it remains an areas for further improvement and scrutiny by CESC
- **45% increase in consultations** (over 2 years) but **conversions to referral** remain static at approx 1 in 3
- **Increase in no. of cared for children** (16% increase 2yr)
- **No. of disabled children on a plan** – (5 in Q4)
- **Repeat CP plans**
- **Neglect** – high percentage of plans (clarity of appropriate category re audit of emotional abuse)

Multi-agency Audits

In the last year we have conducted 3 multi-agency thematic audits, covering the following themes:

- Step Down – May 2015
- Domestic abuse – July 2015
- Mental health – December 2015

The analysis of the audits was carried out by an independent auditor and triangulated through engagement with children, young people and their families, multi-agency practitioner workshops and telephone calls to strategic leads. Each audit resulted in recommendations and a subsequent action plan that is tracked and signed off by the Audit and Case Review Subgroup.

Overall the audits showed the following areas of improvement:

- We see our children
- We collect information from across agencies (excluding GP's)
- Parenting is assessed
- The views of children and young people are being sought



Areas for improvement include:

- The quality of practice re core groups/reports/case conferences/step up and step down decisions/early multi-agency planning:
- The analysis and assessment of risk - move from seeing child to understanding their experience
- More SMART plans that are child focused
- Contingencies for when the plan is not effective
- Challenge/escalate where the practice is not good enough (from s.47 to step down)
- Recognise disguised compliance
- Understand the cycle of change
- Demonstrate better collective responsibility, collective action and independent challenge

From the audits, children young people and their families told us that the positives were:

- It is good that we are involved and seek views
- Relationships are key
- Need to explain and make sure they have understood what is needed and what is expected to change

However, they said that:

- They were confused by the number of people involved – plans not cohesive
- We need to be honest and transparent
- We need to share information clearly in a way that they can understand and contribute to

Serious Case Reviews (SCR):

This year we have not conducted any serious case reviews arising from the death or serious injury to a Cheshire East child.

During 2015-16 the Board agreed a finance policy to fund any future SCRs.

Reflective Reviews:

This year we have had 3 children referred to the LSCB case review panel, and from that carried out 1 reflective review including one multi-agency learning forum where we considered that we still had lessons to learn about the way we could work better together to safeguard the children and young people of Cheshire East.

True for Us

CESCB has carried out one 'True for us exercise' where we looked at the recommendations from a serious case review from another LSCB area and considered if we could learn and improve our own practice from.

Early Help Challenge

Services providing early help were asked to take part in an early help challenge, where the LSCB chair and other members of the board asked questions and challenged the current work delivered. This identified some gaps in service. The gaps form the focus of an action plan that is being developed by the Early Help sub group.

Single Agency Audits

The Audit and Case Review sub group has a rolling programme of considering single agency audits and reviews. The audits are presented by the relevant agency and provide additional opportunities to share learning and to scrutinise the work of partners. In the last year audits have been received from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership, the Safeguarding Children in Education and Settings Team and the Safeguarding Unit of the Council. A practice learning review was shared by the East & South CCGs.

Frontline visits

Member visits to frontline services have been agreed as a key part of the LSCB quality assurance framework to ensure a better connection between the Board and frontline practice. Between November and December 2015, nine agencies were asked to host frontline visits by Board members. Each visit was underpinned by a questionnaire on the following key areas:

- Evidencing the voice of the child
- Understanding the agency role in safeguarding
- Audit activity in the agency
- Supervision
- Challenge and escalation
- Learning from SCR's
- Understanding the role of The Board
- Information for The Board
- Forward planning
- Support in each agency

The key themes were:

- A positive commitment to engage and listen to children and young people. Many services also evidenced a proactive approach to engaging and listening to children.
- Clear understating of each agency's role in safeguarding
- Staff confident in challenging/escalating when required

Issues identified include:

- The availability of professionals in other agencies
- Understanding/access to escalation/resolution policy
- Frontline understanding of what the LSCB does
- Understanding of thresholds in some agencies – staff felt they needed more support

Section 11 Audits

Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 requires each person or body to which the duties apply to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Board carried out an effective Section 11 Audit in 2014, this year a follow up pan Cheshire S11 was undertaken involving;

- Cheshire Constabulary
- National Probation Service
- Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company
- NHS England

Members of these agencies attended a Pan Cheshire review panel and were asked to present their section 11 for scrutiny. Cheshire East collaborates with pan-Cheshire for a section 11 scrutiny panel every 12 months. Unlike Cheshire East who has their own self audit toolkit, the other 3 local authorities use the virtual college tool that agencies complete online. The purpose of the Pan Cheshire panel is to scrutinise the virtual college self-audit of each of the agencies. A report on the outcome of these was presented to the LSCB board.



Section 175/157 Audits

Schools complete an annual S175/157 audit, this covers all the key areas of S11; findings from this audit are reported during the Autumn to the LSCB.

Challenge Log

The LSCB has made a number of challenges to single agencies during 2015-2016. These are collated in a challenge log that track and monitor the responses ensuring that issues are addressed.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) oversees investigations into allegations against staff and volunteers who work with children and young people. Cheshire East's LADO sits within the Council's Safeguarding Unit. The Board oversees the work of the LADO through scrutiny of its annual report and activity reports to the Quality and Outcomes sub group.

Learning and Improvement

LSCB Training and Development

[CESCB training](#) continues to develop, deliver and evaluate a robust needs led multi-agency training package.

Key achievements this year have been:

- Increase in delivery from 49 courses in 2014-15 to 62 courses in 2015-16 at no extra cost.
- Increase in overall attendance from 89% in 2014-15 to 94% in 2015-16.
- LSCB training in Cheshire East noted by Ofsted to be good.
- Delivery of "world through our eyes" training by Voice for Children highly acclaimed - outstanding evaluations for each workshop.
- Successful implementation of new evaluation and impact on practice data collection systems.
- Development of e-learning suite of courses, including bespoke CSE e-learning module.

- CSE workshops delivered to children's social care in collaboration with catch 22.
- Quality assurance and validation of 5 single agency training packages.
- Bespoke needs led workshops delivered to meet identified needs in Cheshire East: Graded Care Profile, Advanced CSE, Complex Neglect, safer sleep, RASASCS and SARC.
- Improved communication through LSCB learning and Improvement bulletin.



Suicide and Self-harm in Young People

Following a thematic review in 2014-15, a suicide and self harm prevention group has been set up led by Public Health. This group has identified training for practitioners as an area for development. There is an action plan which the group is working through, the CAMHS young people advisors have met with the group to ensure the voice of the child is evident in the action plan and the service delivery meets the needs of young people.

E. 2015-16 Annual Reports

Each partner agency is expected to meet their safeguarding responsibilities as described in the member compact and under Section 11. All agencies are expected to ensure their staff and volunteers undertake appropriate single and multi-agency training.

Partner agencies are expected to provide an annual update for scrutiny to the board, setting out any key achievements in the previous year.

Extracts are included below from some of the reports on activities that have taken place over the last year by our partners.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) have extended the **Child Exploitation Strategy** introduced in 2014/15 to include trafficking and radicalisation, research (including a study of 54 cases known to Cafcass in which radicalisation was identified as a feature).

Demand on Cafcass services grew substantially in 2015/16 with a 13% increase in care applications and an 11% increase in private law applications.

Cheshire Police has committed a CSE and missing from home (MFH) coordinator to support a multi-agency team at Sandbach house. A police officer chairs the LSCB CSE and Missing from Home and Care Sub Group.

The **National Probation Service NPS** produced its own safeguarding policy with practice guidance in mid-2015, and CSE were areas for Probation to develop confidence.

NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Groups

have developed a set of safeguarding standards included in all provider contracts. These standards relate to Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Prevent, Domestic Abuse and development of multi-agency integrated working in respect of front line staff.

The **Youth Engagement Service** held two workshops for their staff in March for National CSE day, looking at gender and CSE in working with young people.

Wirral Community NHS Trust, providers of the 0-19 service have contributed to the CSE Operational Group, and a CSE nurse specialist supports other health practitioners.

Neglect

Cheshire Police have developed a Safeguarding Action Plan which is driving forward a range of activity including awareness and response to neglect.

The **National Probation Service** has completed work with their staff around neglect and will provide staff with more guidance on home visits. These visits provide an opportunity to identify neglect at an early stage.

Participation

The Children's Society were pleased to have positive feedback on their LSCB Frontline Visit, a member of probation staff visited The Children's Society and felt it was *"Very interesting session that provided a good insight into the work of the Children's Society and the valuable work that they undertake. I fully agree and this brought home to me the need for the voice of the child/young person to be central to developing future practice."*

The participation of children and young people is central to the work of the LSCB and The Children's Society works to ensure the voice of the child is heard.

Prevent

Reaseheath College representing the Further Education Sector have been engaging with the primary and secondary sector to map delivery of the Prevent agenda and to ensure progression of the subject matter.

Training

The Faith Sector continues to provide training to promote safeguarding and share messages from the LSCB.

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) NHS Foundation Trust is a provider of mental health services (for both adults and children and young people), the learning disability services and substance misuse service in East Cheshire.

A nurse specialist from CWP is an active participant of the LSCB training pool, having delivered a number of training sessions on the "toxic trio" course.

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service delivered Youth Mental Health First Aid training to the Prince's Trust and RESPECT staff.



F. Key Priorities for 2016-18

The three overarching objectives remain for 2016-18;

- **Frontline practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused**
- **Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people**
- **The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East**

At a Leadership Summit of the Board, members worked together to agree the following key priorities that will sit under the objectives;

- **Focus on child protection conferences** and how agencies work together to embed and be part of the decision making in the Making Children Safer conference model.
- **Focus on implementing the neglect strategy**, considerable work has been done in this area but there is still a need to ensure all agencies can identify and intervene where neglect is found.
- **Improve the board's role in relation to early help**, by making sure all agencies are engaged in the process.

In addition, the Board will continue to **implement the actions to address the recommendations from Ofsted's Inspection in July 2015**. Individual actions for these priorities can be found in the Business Plan 2016-18.

Challenges for Partners 2016-18

LSCB Members asked that the five key challenges for partners that came out of the Ofsted monitoring sessions should be included in this annual report as a reminder to all:

1. **Own a referral** – responsibility for a child starts, not ends, with a referral to Children's Social Care.
2. **Be child centred** - we need to focus on what is best for children and young people - what children and young people experience every day. What they tell us about their experiences is most important.
3. **Share risk** - we must take a collective responsibility to challenge drift or poor quality practice in all agencies – don't sit back. Speak up, escalate or take up the baton! Good partnership is not just working on the same case, it needs good communication and healthy, constructive mutual challenge.
4. **Inform plans and assessments** - don't wait to be asked - make sure you share what you know about the child or young person and take responsibility for making plans work. Even where your primary activity is with the parent/carer, the interests of the child should be paramount.
5. **Be more outcome-focussed** - core groups need to focus on what has changed for the child or young person and how risks have been reduced, rather than activity or improvements made by parents. Agree at the outset what needs to change and what will happen if these changes aren't made.

Pledges from LSCB Members on what they will change in 2016-17:

I will support the LSCB and other agencies to help embed voice of the child further

Liam Hill, Director of Voice for Children

I will develop work on the integrated front door.

Moira McGrath, East and South CCG

I will commit to improve communication between the LSCB board and front line practitioners

Andy Hodgkinson, Chair of East Cheshire Association of Primary Heads

I will influence the culture of the LSCB to improve challenge between partners and I will simplify and prioritise the business of the LSCB.

Ros Haynes, Project Manager

I will embed practitioners understanding and use of the escalation process, and their confidence to challenge practice

Ruth Tucker, Wirral CT, 0-19 Service, East Cheshire

I will ensure strategy discussions/ meetings are multi-agency and supported by technology (video conferencing)

Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care, Cheshire East Council

I will, through training and supervision embed a culture of shared responsibility for safeguarding children

Mel Barker, East Cheshire Trust

I will ensure that front line practitioners are empowered and use the escalation process (and that we will monitor its use)

Andrea Hughes, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership

I will support, encourage and challenge all agencies to own and proactively participate in effective safeguarding practice both strategically and at the frontline

Kath O'Dwyer, Executive Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council

I will make sure the LSCB focuses on driving improvements against the Children's Improvement Plan

Gill Betton, Head of Service for Children's Service Development and Partnerships, Cheshire East Council

I will work with the LSCB to ensure the LSCB and LASBs are joined up and working together

Robert Templeton, LSAB Chair

I will work to develop a demand reduction strategy

Jonathan Potter, Head of Service for Prevention, Cheshire East Council

I will ensure we use technology to improve strategy discussions and agency engagements

Nigel Wenham, Cheshire Police

I will do my best to remind partners of the shared responsibility of safeguarding and that it's everyone's role to do this not just blaming social care!

Jodie Hill, Director, Voice for Children

I will support the 0-19 service to re-negotiate their offer to the safeguarding process – focussing less on meetings and more on outcomes (particularly children's Mental Health)

Lucy Heath, Public Health Consultant

I will simplify the performance information that comes to CSE/ MFH subgroup so mentors are clearer what it is telling them and what they need to do to improve practice

Kate Rose, Head of Service for Children's Safeguarding, Cheshire East Council

I will encourage my own organisation as well as the voluntary sector to challenge other practitioners if they feel a decision has been made about a child or young person that they don't feel is safe. Also shout if not invited to meetings in regards to a child you are working with.

Sue Preston, The Children's Society

I will forge better links with Children's Social Care

Ian Smith, Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Centre

I will improve communications and links with strategic housing and housing providers

Karen Carsberg, Strategic Housing

I will work to better try to coordinate the response of the voluntary sector with the LSCB

Graham Phillips, CVS/ Cheshire Scouts

I will support the voice of the young person through co-ordinating the Further Education colleges to identify the young people of Cheshire East on register and liaise with Jodie

Dave Kynaston, representing Further Education and Colleges

I will maintain effective communication between the LSCB and frontline practitioners in secondary schools via CEASH

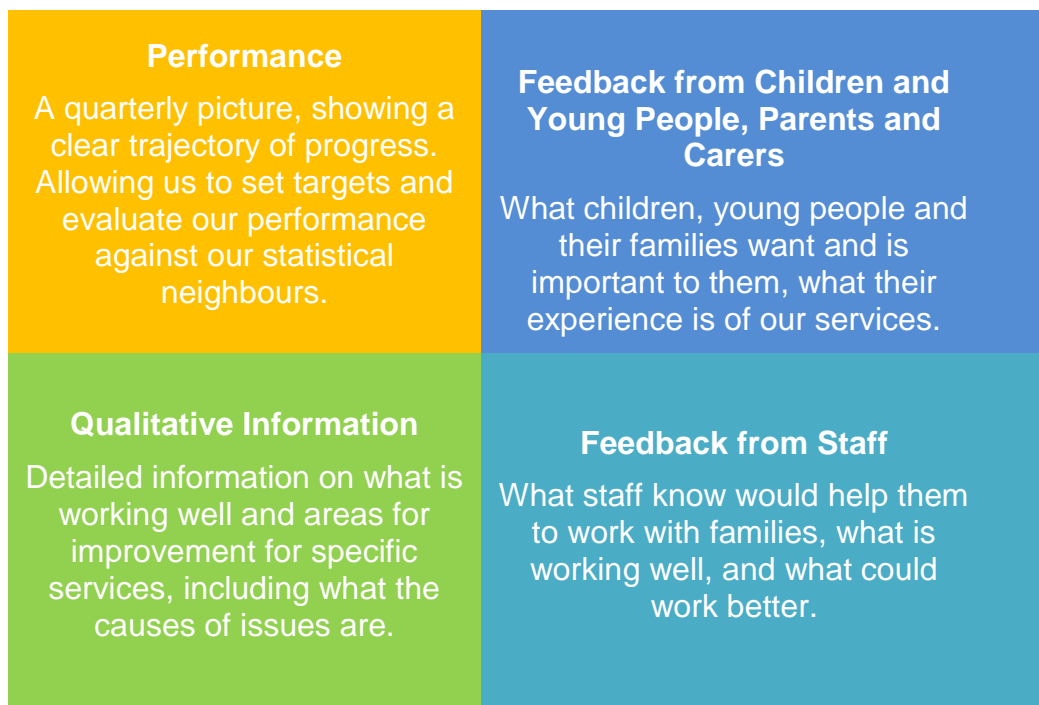
Gill Bremner, Head of Cheshire East Association of Secondary Heads (CEASH)

I will continue to work in partnership and take on personal responsibilities and explore appropriate and consistent health ownership

Judi Thorley, Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

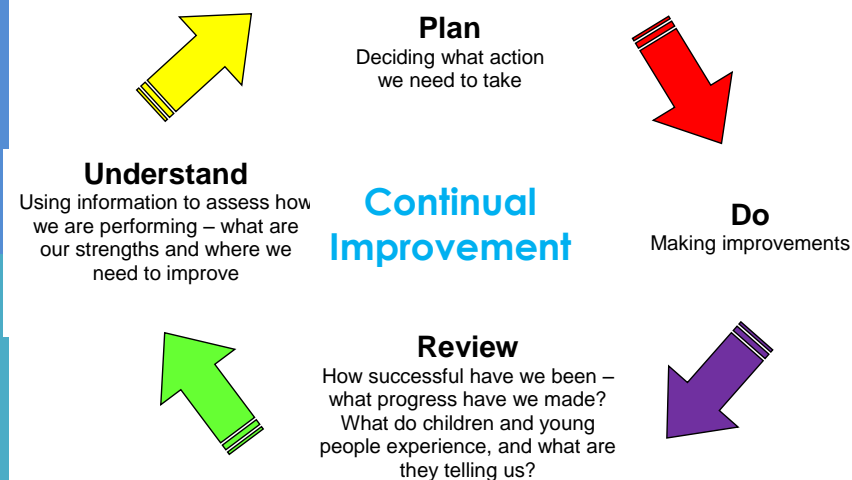
Quality Assurance Framework

CESCB's Quality Assurance Framework outlines how as a partnership we will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by Board Member agencies, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children and young people in Cheshire East. To assess the impact of our improvements on children and young people, we will use information from four different sources.



This will allow us to triangulate the evidence so that we know the impact that multi-agency services are making, what we are doing well, and where we can improve further. The Board will take an outcome focussed approach in its scrutiny arrangements and will ask the following key questions from the above areas:

- **How much did we do (Performance or Quantity)**
- **How well did we do it (Qualitative or Quality)**
- **Is anyone better off? (Outcomes for children, young people, parents and carers)**



We think it is important to have a continual learning and self-improvement culture, and we will use information from these sources to continually evaluate and improve our services throughout the year.

Communication and Engagement

A stakeholder analysis is attached at Appendix 4.

Budget for 2016-17

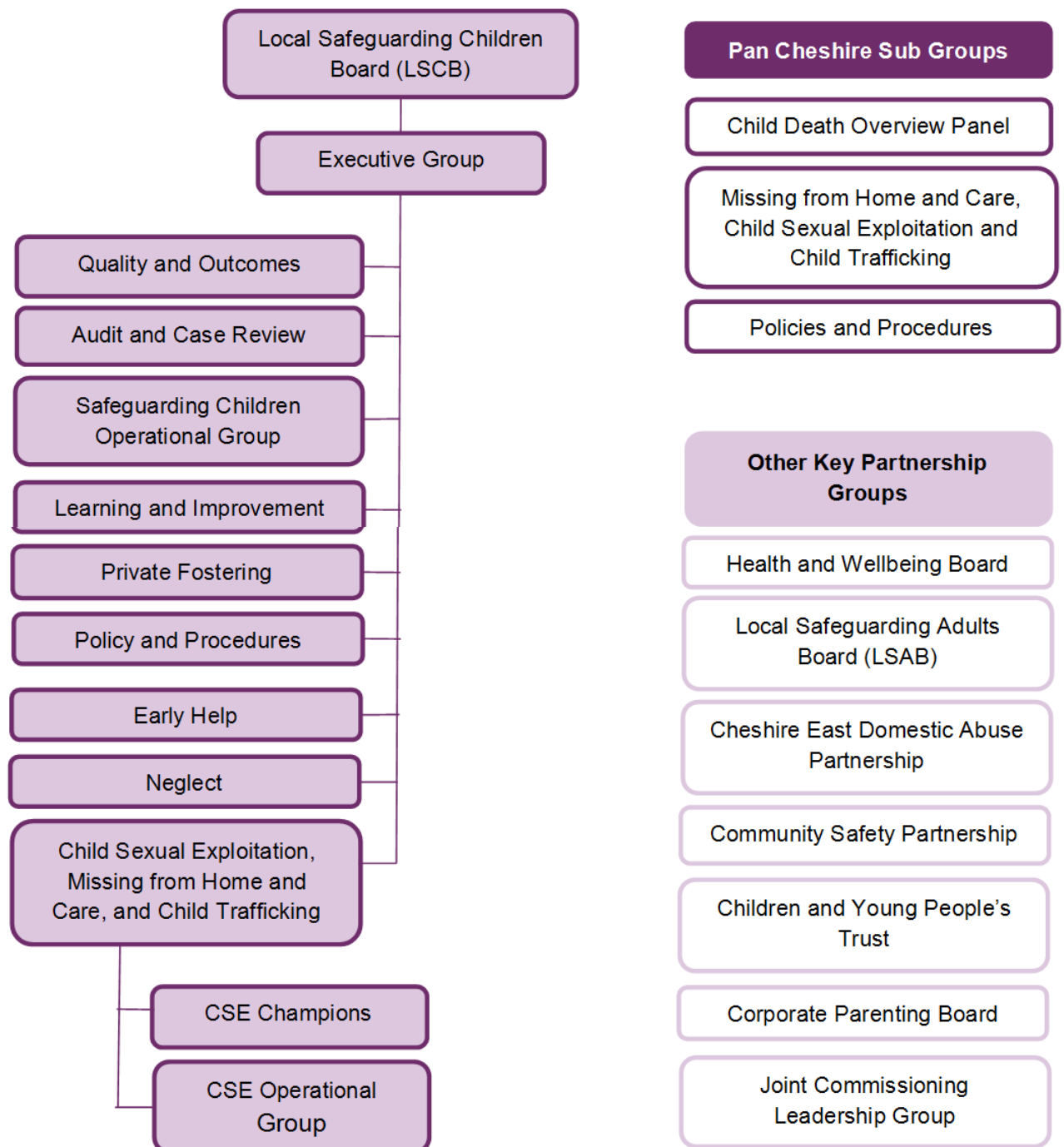
An outline budget for CESCOB's work in 2016-17 is set out at Appendix 5.

Risks and Issues

It is essential to identify, analyse and prioritise risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Board's plans. The Board maintains a risk register which is reviewed and updated bi-monthly at the Executive Group.



Cheshire East Safeguarding Board Structure



Board Membership and Attendance

	12.05.15	16.07.15	17.09.15	12.11.15	14.01.16	24.03.16
Independent Chair						
<i>Representing the voice of children and young people</i>						
Voice for Children						
The Children's Society						
<i>Health</i>						
South Cheshire CCG						
East Cheshire CCG						
South and Eastern Cheshire CCG Designated Nurse						
CWP NHS Foundation Trust						A
East Cheshire NHS Trust						
Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust						
Wirral Community NHS Trust					A	
NHS England						A
Public Health						A
<i>Local Authority</i>						
Director of Children's Services					A	A
Lead Member for Children's Services		A				
Head of Children's Safeguarding						
Head of Early Help & Protection						
Head of Youth Engagement Service				A	A	A
Principle Social Worker for Children's Services						
Principle Manager for Early Help					A	
Representative for Adult Social Care				A	A	
Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Partnership (CEDAP)						
Legal Services Cheshire East Council				A	A	A
<i>Police</i>						
Cheshire Police				A		
<i>Education</i>						
Primary School Heads Representative					A	
Secondary Schools Head Representative					A	
Representative for Colleges and Further Education	A				A	
Independent Schools Representative						
<i>Styal Prison</i>						
HMP Styal Head of Residence and Services				A	A	A
<i>Probation</i>						
Probation - CRC				A		A
Probation - NPS					A	A

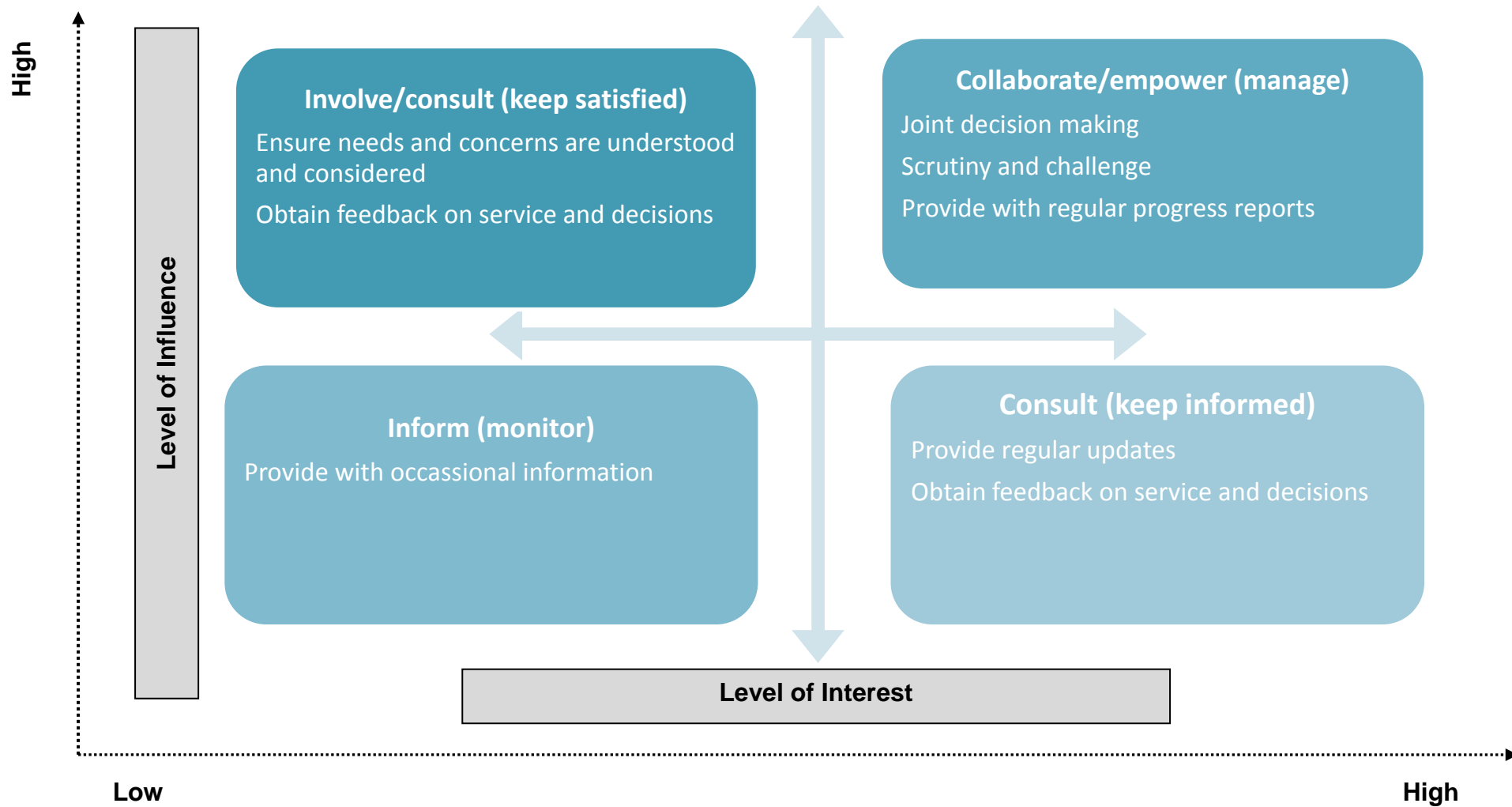
<i>Lay Members</i>						
Lay Member						
Lay Member	A		A	A	A	A
<i>National Organisations and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector</i>						
NSPCC	A			A	A	
Voluntary Sector Representative		A				
Voluntary Sector Representative						
Cheshire CAFCASS						A

Financial Arrangements – 2015-16

The tables below sets out the LSCB's outline budget and outturn expenditure for 2015-16, along with the financial contributions from partners.

Area of Expenditure	2015-16 Actuals (£)
Direct Employee Exps	£149,454
Safeguarding Project Manager (0.50 fte)	
Performance Officer (0.75 fte)	
Training Manager (0.81 fte)	
Training Officer (0.91 fte)	
LSCB Admin (2 fte)	
Indirect Employee Exps	£2,140
Employee training	
Conferences and seminars	
Transport	£3,350
Mileage and car parking	
Premises	£6,607
Hire of rooms for training, LSCB meetings	
Supplies and Services	£87,981
Independent Chair	
Agency staffing to cover Safeguarding Project Manager post prior to appointment	
Training costs - printing, tutor and course costs	
CDOP Pan-Cheshire Chair (CE contribution)	
Peer challenge costs	
Auditor costs	
LADO funding (0.5 fte)	
Phone and mobile phone charges	
Lay member expenses	
Refreshments for meetings	
Competition prizes	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£249,532
Carry forward reserves from 2014-15	£127,999
Income in 2015-16	£209,840
Total available spend 2015-16	£337,839
Expenditure 2015-16	£249,532
Planned spend 2015-16	£298,720
Underspend 2015-16	£49,188
Carry forward to 2016-17	£39,691
Reserve carry forward to 2016-17	£88,307

Stakeholder Communication Analysis



Stakeholder Engagement

	Inform	Consult/Involve	Collaborate/Empower
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire East staff from other departments General public in Cheshire East 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people Parents/carers Children's Services staff Health Police Private, voluntary & independent sector Governors School staff Elected Members Department for Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSCB Children and Young People's Trust Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Senior Managers
Purpose of engagement	To provide stakeholders with a general understanding of what is to be achieved through the improvement plan	To obtain feedback from stakeholders on services and impact to improve practice and to ensure that any concerns /suggestions are acted upon	To drive sustainable improvement across the Children's Services Partnership through scrutiny, challenge and key decision making
Methods of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire East website Press releases E-bulletins Facebook Twitter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Newsletters E- bulletins Intranet Cheshire East and partner websites Press releases Factsheets, one minute and seven guides Progress updates Surveys Focus groups and forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-governance Joint planning Action plans Local governance Reports Progress updates Performance Book Impact reports Presentations Meetings Sub-groups Surveys

Proposed Financial Arrangements – 2016-17

Area of Expenditure	2015-16 Actuals (£)
Direct Employee Exps	£171,710
Safeguarding Project Manager (0.75 fte)	
Performance Officer (0.50 fte)	
Training Manager (0.81 fte)	
Training Officer (0.91 fte)	
LSCB Admin (2 fte)	
Indirect Employee Exps	£1,000
Employee training	
Conferences and seminars	
Transport	£3,000
Mileage and car parking	
Premises	£4,000
Hire of rooms for training, LSCB meetings	
Supplies and Services	£107,212
Independent Chair	
Training costs - printing, tutor and course costs, paper data (training evaluation)	
CDOP Pan-Cheshire Chair (CE contribution)	
CDOP Pan-Cheshire Admin (CE contribution)	
Auditor costs	
LADO funding (0.5 fte)	
Phone and mobile phone charges	
Lay member expenses	
Young Persons conference	
Refreshments for meetings	
Voice for Children	
Animation for child protection conferences	
New policies and procedures website (Signis)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£286,922
Planned Income in 2016-17	£226,000
Reserve carry forward to 2016-17	£88,307
Total available	£314,307
Planned Expenditure 2016-17	£274,492
Planned carry forward to 2017-18	£39,815

Cheshire East Council

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th September 2016

Report of: Pete Lambert, Head of Cared for Children

Subject/Title: Care Leavers Update

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Liz Durham

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee on national and local developments in relation to Cheshire East care leavers.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 2.1.1 Note the contents of the report;
- 2.1.2 Note the proposed future updates around national and local developments.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee should be aware of any national or local issues that are likely to impact on care leavers and be able to scrutinise and challenge performance to improve outcomes.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. None; this is an update report.

5. Background

National Developments

5.1 Children and Social Work Bill

- 5.1.1 The Children and Social Work Bill, published earlier this year, is currently progressing. The main elements of the Bill are:

Looked-after children and care leavers

- Standards for how local authorities should act as a 'corporate parent' to support children in care and as they move into adult life.
- A requirement on local authorities to consult on and publish a 'local offer' to care leavers, setting out the services they are entitled to.
- An extension to the right to a Personal Adviser, someone who will make sure care leavers receive the support they need as they transition into adulthood, to all who want one up to the age of 25.

Regulation of social workers

- A specialist regulator for social work, to enable a clear focus on standards and effective training and development.

5.1.2 The DfE has begun developing draft statutory guidance that will underpin the corporate parenting principles set out in the new Children and Social Work Bill. These principles, once finalised, will be applicable to all LAs in England but will not replace duties that LAs already have under the Children Act 1989. To ensure this guidance is as useful as possible the DfE is seeking examples of what good corporate parenting looks like in local areas in order to inform this work. The Bill has implications for how Cheshire East delivers its services and further updates will be provided to the Corporate Parenting Committee.

5.2 Children's social care reform: a vision for change'

In January 2016, the Department for Education (DfE) published '*Children's social care reform: a vision for change*'. The paper set a vision and reform programme for children's social care, structured around three key areas, known as pillars:

- **People and leadership** - bringing the best people into the profession, equipping them with the right knowledge and skills and developing leaders equipped to nurture practice excellence.
- **Practice and systems** - creating the right environment for excellent practice and innovation to flourish and creating a learning culture, drawing on both best practice and the lessons when things go wrong.
- **Governance and accountability** - making sure that what we are doing is working, using data to show the strengths and weaknesses in the system, and developing innovative new organisational models with the potential to radically improve services.

5.3 Putting Children First

In July 2016, the DfE published '*Putting Children First: delivering our vision for excellent children's social care*'. The paper sets out – against each of the above three pillars – the DfE's programme of reform in children's social care for the next four years, detailing how it will create the conditions to enable Government, local authorities and their local partners, social workers and

other professionals such as foster carers to provide consistently excellent children's social care.

5.4 'Keep On Caring - Supporting Young People from Care to Independence'

Following on from '*Putting Children First*', the government published 'Keep on Caring' in July 2016, which sets out specifically and in more depth what it means to put care leavers first.

Firstly, it sets out how the government will use the Innovation Programme to rethink how services are delivered and what support is provided, with a strong focus on finding new and better ways of helping care leavers develop the social networks that will sustain them not just in the years immediately after leaving care, but throughout their lives. The government will also support new ways of delivering services, for example through Trusts, which have a clear and specific focus on improving care leavers' life chances.

Secondly, it sets out how the government will strengthen the culture of corporate parenting, both locally – through planned legislative measures – and through changes to central government policies, so that they better respond to care leavers' unique status and circumstances.

Finally, it sets out how the government will support and challenge local areas, so that all deliver to the standards of the best.

5.5 Not Seen, Not Heard

The Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England, recently published '*Not Seen, Not Heard*', a report on children's safeguarding and looked after children services in England. The review is the result of two years of research, looking into the quality of care that young people receive with local authority areas. The CQC's summary findings are as follows:

- Two out of every three young people we spoke to told us they didn't feel involved in their care;
- Most areas we visited couldn't prove to us they were making a difference to children and young people;
- Health staff need to improve how they share information with the right people at the right time; and
- When young people are old enough to leave children's care services it can be very difficult for them to move to adult services.

CQC made the following recommendations:

- Children and young people must be actively engaged in their care
- Services must ensure their focus is on outcomes
- More needs to be done to identify children at risk of harm
- Children and young people must have access to the emotional and mental health support they need.

These recommendations are currently being considered by the Corporate Parenting Operational Group and proposed actions will be reported back to the Committee.

Local Developments

5.6 National Transfer Scheme – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Nationally, 2015 saw a significant increase in the volume of unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in the UK, with 3,043 claims being lodged; representing a 56% increase on the previous year. In light of the varying commitments to support unaccompanied minors, the Government have established one national dispersal/transfer scheme, which will deal with all three strands of asylum and refugee children who will ultimately require local authority care provision. This ensures a fair and equitable distribution at a national level, as opposed to only a small number of local authorities, eg, Kent, being overburdened with UASC applicants, as is currently the case.

The Immigration Act 2016 provides a legislative framework with four key provisions to assist in the implementation of a national scheme. These being:

- To make the transfer of legal responsibility from one local authority to another much easier.
- Places a duty on the local authority to provide information about available services.
- Places an obligation on the local authority to set out in writing reasons for not supporting the transfer of children.
- Provides a duty to accept the transfer of relevant children under a mandatory scheme, if sufficient voluntary commitment is not provided by local authorities.

On 4th July a regional event took place, with strong senior officer and political representation to discuss a way forward for the north west. A task and finish group was established to:

- Develop a proposal for a regional approach to standards to work with unaccompanied minors – using evidence of what works/best practice from areas with more experience.
- Develop a proposal for a regional approach to completing age assessments, aimed at reducing the likelihood of judicial review of decisions, if through a consistent approach risks may be mitigated and shared.
- Based on information already known about sufficiency of accommodation – consider and make proposals for local authorities to consider, based on age, vulnerability and need; considering joint opportunities to commission facilities that might reduce cost pressures.
- Using knowledge of resources already in place e.g. regional Fostering Front Door, make recommendations about how this can occur.

- A single approach to development of a marketing and communications strategy to attract interest from specific communities who may offer support and accommodation; with a focus on the development of shared accommodation and supported lodgings options.

It is anticipated that Care leaver status would apply to the majority of young people transferred to Cheshire East. This will subsequently impact on the case loads and capacity of the Care Leavers Team. There is a potential shortfall in the home office grant to fund these additional young people and this is being raised locally and nationally.

5.7 Care Leaver Pledge

Cheshire East care leavers and professionals worked together earlier in the year to decide on the 10 key things that would improve the help and support care leavers receive. Regionally care leavers said that they wanted:

- To feel listened to by everyone who is supporting us
- For our friendships to be valued
- To have accurate information about our rights
- Council tax exemption for care leavers up to 25
- Help to get into work
- To have our life choices respected
- Improved multi-agency working for care leavers
- To be able to remain in care homes until we're 21, if we ask to
- To be encouraged and supported to pursue our interests and form our own identities
- Better mental health provision for care leavers.

5.8 Overview of progress within Cheshire East care leaver services.

Care leavers to be better prepared and supported to live independently

- The Ignition Panel has been established for 16/17 years olds providing greater accommodation option and choice, input and voice of YP
- Care Leaver Entitlements – One minute guide produced and supported by workshop with SWs and PA's
- Revision of existing Care Leavers Financial Policy and consultation process in progress. Aim to launch Care Leavers Offer for January 2017
- Identify champions across CIN/CP teams and training offer to all parts of the service.
- Commissioning arrangements for Housing options post 18s, ring-fenced properties
- Personal Advisor allocated on turning 16 working alongside SW.

- Personal Advisor support is continuing beyond 21 and up to 25 yrs of age. Cheshire East is at the forefront of this work having taken part in New Belongings.
- Pathway Plans analysis and training specifically to look at accommodation needs, transition and preparation.
- Audits and coaching sessions highlighting themes
- Improved communication across agencies and services around need
- Increased use of workshops on independent living, workbooks and tools

5.9 Improved access to education, training and employment

- Since June 2015, we have had a dedicated EET worker (18 hours) per week
- From 1st October 2016 – employment of EET worker secured on a 2 year temporary contract as Work Coach to care leavers from the Innovation Fund. £120,000 has been allocated to develop a virtual support team in the care leavers service to focus on EET.
- ‘A living wage for care leavers’ is currently being researched to test the viability of underpinning a growth in apprenticeships.
- Decrease in NEET figure of young people 18-20 years (46%) (drop from 52%)
- Data testing and cleansing of LL creating greater accuracy in recording
- ‘Care to be Different’, VfC active mentoring
- Proactive working with young people to record their aspirations in their pathway plan

5.10 Experiencing stability and feeling safe and secure

- High compliance with statutory care leaver visits and less than 5% of care leavers are ‘not in touch’ with the service but contact is established via text, email or family member confirming they are safe and well.
- Ignition Panel is assisting with helping care leavers understand the options available in their local housing market and increased choice of options for care leavers
- Increased use of Staying Put arrangement. Currently 19 care leavers have taken up this offer (end of July 2016).
- Revised risk assessment tool for care leavers in Foyer accommodation to ensure young people feel safe, secure and supported in their accommodation

5.11 Improved access to Health Support

- Appointment of the 16+ nurse
- New Senior PA role to support Team Manager and assist with 16/17 year olds and transition work and pregnant/parent care leavers
- Targeted approach to working with young mothers and parents headed by senior PA/deputy manager
- SDQ tool being developed with IRO service and PA Health champion

5.12 Achieving Financial Stability

- Reducing crisis payments to young people by supporting them with budgeting skills and workshop
- Credit Union accounts set up with care leavers who have debt issues and unable to obtain bank accounts
- Cheshire East is one of the first local authorities to provide exemption from Council Tax for care leavers (aged 18-21 years)
- Skills to Foster training now incorporates care leaver input to present on readiness for independence, preparation, skills and moving on and Staying Put arrangement.
- Retaining links with DWP and attendance at service meetings twice yearly to provide updates on impact to care leavers.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. Although the number of Cheshire East cared for children and care leavers is relatively small, they are a vulnerable cohort, who live across Cheshire East and in other local authority areas.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

There are a number of policy implications as a result of local and national developments and these will be reported, as appropriate to the relevant Committee.

7.2. Legal Implications

The national and local developments described in this report are wide ranging and will in many particulars have legal implications. Legal advice will be sought, as appropriate, upon all relevant emerging issues.

7.3. Financial Implications

The continued increase in demand for social care services for cared for children and unaccompanied asylum seekers will have a budgetary impact and these are being reported separately to Cabinet. The Council as a whole is managing a substantial reduction in resources from Government, savings resulting from transformation programmes etc will help, but demand for these services is continuing to increase. Therefore, the allocation of additional resources to this service will require greater reductions elsewhere.

7.4. Human Resources Implications

There are potential staffing implications from the increase in the cared for children population, in particular around unaccompanied asylum seeker children. These are being reported separately to Cabinet.

7.5. Equality Implications

Cared for children and care leavers tend to have poorer outcomes when compared to their peers.

7.6. Rural Community Implications

None.

7.7. Public Health Implications

No specific issues identified at this stage.

8. Risk Management

Managing the increase in demand for social care services is a current risk on the Children and Families risk register. The number of referrals requiring a social work assessment continues to increase and consequently the numbers for children and young people in care and on a child protection plans have increased significantly over the past year. Whilst this is in line with national increases, there is a risk that if the current increase in demand for services continues, this will affect staff's ability to deliver effective social work practice.

9. Background Papers

- *'Children's social care reform: a vision for change'*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-reform-a-vision-for-change>
- *Putting Children First* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care>

- *'Keep on caring: supporting young people from care to independence'*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-on-caring-supporting-young-people-from-care-to-independence>

10. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

Name:	Pete Lambert
Designation:	Head of Cared for Children
Tel. No.:	07870 896895
Email:	pete.lambert@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	26 September 2016
Report of:	Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Report
Subject/Title:	Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the 2016/2017 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

2.0 Recommendations

That the 2016/2017 work programme be reviewed.

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 - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Not known at this stage.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The schedule attached has been updated following the last meeting of the committee.
- 10.2 Members are asked to review the schedule attached to this report, and if appropriate, add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity. When selecting potential topics, Members should have regard to the Council's new three year plan and also to the general criteria listed below, which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate.

The following questions should be asked in respect of each potential work programme item:

- 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;
- 10.3 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 Access to Information

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

Name: Katie Small
Designation: Scrutiny Officer
Tel No: 01270 686465
Email: katie.small@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2016/17 Amended August 2016

Formal meeting	Informal meeting	Formal meeting	Informal Meeting	Formal Meeting	Informal Meeting	Formal Meeting	Informal
Date: 26 September 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 31 October 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 28 November 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 19 December 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 30 January 2017 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 27 February 2017 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 27 March 2017 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields	Date: 24 April 2017 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee suite, Westfields

Essential items

Item	Description/purpose of report/comments	Outcome	Lead Officer/organisation/Portfolio Holder	Suggested by	Current position	Key Dates/Deadlines
Child Sexual Exploitation	Task and Finish group set up in December 2014 which produced Interim report on 10 February 2015 following informal workshop held with partner organisations in Autumn 2014 to ascertain the current situation in Cheshire East.	Our local communities are strong and supportive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee	Task and Finish Group in final stages of the review	Final Report expected October/November
Emotional Health and Wellbeing	To scrutinise the Local Delivery Plan in relation to emotional health and well being.	People live well and for longer	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People , Director of	The Committee	Possible joint item with Health and Adult Social care with CWAC	October / November 2016

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2016/17 Amended August 2016

			Public Health Children and Families Portfolio Holder and Adults health and Leisure Portfolio Holder			
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Monitoring Items

Item	Description/purpose of report/comments	Outcome	Lead Officer/ organisation/ Portfolio Holder	Suggested by	Current position	Key Dates/ Deadlines
Performance Monitoring – C&F Scorecard	Quarterly performance reports	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	Ofsted	Quarterly	Q1 – 26.09.16 Q2 – 28.11.16 Q3 – 27.02.17
Ofsted Inspection/ Safeguarding – update/ Recruitment &	Involvement in the action plan to respond to the 2015 Ofsted report	Our local communities are strong and	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director	Chairman	New arrangements to flow from the inspection report on the July 2015	Update on improvement plan – December 2016

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2016/17 Amended August 2016

retention of Staff. Social Workers/Review of HR Policies		supportive	People Children and Families Portfolio Holder		unannounced inspection	
School Improvement/ School capacity		People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee	Validated results 2016.	30 January 2017
Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB) Annual report	To consider the annual report of the Chair of the LSCB as part of measures in place to strengthen the relationship between the Committee and Board	Our local communities are strong and supportive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee		26 September 2016
Independent Review Officer annual report	To consider the annual report.	Our local communities are strong and supportive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families	Director of Children's Services		September/Octob er 2016

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2016/17 Amended August 2016

			Portfolio Holder			
Public Health – responsibility for 0-19 year olds	Presentation received on 1 December 2014 relating to how the Council implements public health responsibilities and influences children's lifestyles. This came out of Corporate Scrutiny's review of the Ofsted inspection report in March 2013	People live well and for longer	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Further progress report required in 2016	28 November 2016
Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	To review of the work of the Schools Forum working group and national funding formula	People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	Director of Children's Services	Periodic progress reports	19 December 2016
Children's Centres	To review the February 2016 Council decision to de-designate 4 children's centres, following an informal briefing on 23 June 2016	People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee		March 2017

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2016/17 Amended August 2016

Corporate Parenting	To review the annual report of the newly a established Corporate Parenting Committee		Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People , Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee		June 2017
Care Leavers	To receive an update report	People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director People , Children and Families Portfolio Holder	The Committee		26 September 2016

Possible Future/ desirable items

Neglect/Innovation Fund (project Crewe) (Jan 2017) and potential Review of Neglect (possibly through a task and finish group) – April 2017
Update on SEND reforms – possible task and finish

Removed items

Schools becoming academies

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