

Corporate Parenting Committee

Agenda

Date:Tuesday, 22nd January, 2019Time:4.00 pmVenue:Committee Suite 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 in the report.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

2. **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.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2018.

4. Corporate Parenting Update from Elected Members

To receive a verbal update from members of the Committee.

5. Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children 2018-20 (Pages 9 - 48)

To consider the Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children 2018-20.

6. Input from Children and Young People

To receive input from children and young people.

7. The Health of Cared for Children and Young People Annual Report: 2017-18 (Pages 49 - 60)

To consider the above report.

8. **Corporate Parenting Scorecard Quarter 2** (Pages 61 - 64)

To consider the Corporate Parenting Scorecard Quarter 2.

9. Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18 (Pages 65 - 112)

To consider the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18.

10. Corporate Parenting Update Report (Pages 113 - 124)

To consider the update report.

11. Future Committee Meeting Dates

To consider future meeting dates.

The following dates have been agreed for the remainder of 2018/19:

4.00 pm Tuesday 19 March 2019 4.00 pm Tuesday 23 April 2019

The following dates are proposed for 2019/20:

4.00 pm Tuesday 16 July 2019
4.00 pm Tuesday 17 September 2019
4.00 pm Tuesday 12 November 2019
4.00 pm Tuesday 21 January 2020
4.00 pm Tuesday 17 March 2020
4.00 pm Tuesday 19 May 2020

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee** held on Tuesday, 13th November, 2018 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman) Councillor D Flude (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors P Butterill, S Gardiner, G Hayes, G Merry and M Warren

Officers in attendance

Nicola Axford, Attendance and Pupils out of School Gill Betton, Head of Service: Children's Development and Partnerships Kerry Birtles, Head of Service: Cared for Children & Care Leavers Shelley Lewis, Independent Fostering Panel Chair Keith Martin, Head of Service: Cared for Children & Care Leavers Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People Laura Rogerson, Headteacher, Virtual School for Cared for Children Claire Williamson, Head of Service: Education Participation & Pupil Support Julie Zientek, Democratic Services Officer

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Durham, M Grant and O Hunter.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to add apologies for absence from Councillor M Warren.

21 CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Committee Members reported the following:

Councillor J Saunders had attended a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Group, which had focussed on the health of unaccompanied assylum-seeking children. Councillor D Flude had had a very positive meeting with Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, and had read his follow-up letter with interest. Councillor Flude also stated that she was a safeguarding governor, with an interest in looked after children in her schools.

Councillor G Merry stated that the Being a Good Corporate Parent Workstream had considered options for engagement with cared for children and young people other than in formal meetings, including getting together with tea and cakes before meetings. The Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers confirmed that suggestions had been taken to the shadow committee and that the Pledges to Cared for Children and Care Leavers would be considered by Council at its meeting in December.

Following his visit to the Crewe Child Protection Team with Councillor S Edgar the previous day, Councillor G Hayes stated that they enjoyed the Signs of Safety framework but had concerns regarding caseload and case complexity reporting.

Kerry Birtles, Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers, reported that approximately 50% of Corporate Parenting Committee Members had DBS checks. It was hoped to have the frontline visits up and running as soon as possible, to enable Members to gather knowledge. From May 2019, it would be mandatory for Members of the Committee to have a DBS check.

22 INPUT FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Kerry Birtles, Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers reported that she had spoken to two young people, who had mixed views. They wanted to attend the formal committee meetings and also participate in informal activities with Members and officers, including meals out, kayaking, crazy golf and trips to the zoo.

She also stated that children were intending to send their own invitations to Members for the forthcoming STAR Awards event.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

23 UPDATE ON THE ATTACHMENT AWARE PROJECT

Nicola Axford, Attendance and Pupils out of School, gave an update on the Attachment Aware Project, which helped schools to support pupils with attachment difficulties.

Ten schools had taken part in the project, which included staff training, safe spaces and teaching children about their own emotional behaviour. Following the project, a positive impact had been reported, with pupils being calm and settled in schools.

Next steps included a repeat next year with a second group and consideration of a Cheshire East multi-team strategy for attachment awareness.

In response to questions from Committee members, it was confirmed that training had been carried out in other schools and that information would also be on the website. In addition, the attachment work would feed into a behaviour strategy which would be rolled out to all schools. It was not an expensive intervention but it was more difficult for smaller schools, where the headteacher also taught.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.

24 VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CARED FOR CHILDREN HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Laura Rogerson, Headteacher, Virtual School for Cared for Children, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Virtual School for Cared for Children Head teacher's Annual Report for 2018.

The Virtual School had continued to support all cared for children. While the overall number of children had continued to rise, a high number were achieving in school. In the last 12 months, attendance had improved, exclusions remained low, and the quality and completion rate of Personal Education Plans had risen to over 90%.

Areas of need included maths, supporting a higher number of children out of area, improving Key Stage 4 outcomes, and emotional and mental health.

Priorities for 2018 - 2019 included continuing to provide support and interventions for schools and children, ePEPs, and the introduction of an SEN lead within Virtual School team.

In response to points raised by Committee Members it was reported that:

The support provided to pupils out of area included advisors visiting schools and keeping track of attainment, and training for schools. Bespoke packages such as online learning were also being considered.

There was no deputy headteacher but the leads were confident and supported the headteacher.

Primary and secondary school headteachers were to be invited to encourage participation at training events.

Ms Rogerson was thanked for the support the Virtual School has provided and for the very informative report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

25 NATIONAL ADVISER FOLLOW UP LETTER TO CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

The Committee considered the contents of a letter outlining the findings of Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, who had conducted a follow-up visit to Cheshire East on 15 October.

RESOLVED – That the letter be noted.

26 CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2018-20

The Committee considered the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20.

It was intended that the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy would improve the experiences and outcomes for all Cheshire East cared for children and care leavers. The strategy set out the following pledges:

- 1. We will be a good corporate parent
- 2. We will improve education, employment and training outcomes
- 3. We will work to achieve permanence and keep children safe
- 4. We will improve health and wellbeing outcomes
- 5. We will prepare young people for adulthood

The Corporate Parenting Committee ensured that the Council effectively discharged its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers from 0 - 25 years of age, in addition to holding partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities. The Committee scrutinised performance reporting and impact, along with issues and risks, and prepared an Annual Report for consideration by Cabinet and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Five Workstream Groups, aligned to the five pledge areas, ensured that the strategy was delivered effectively. The Chairman of each Workstream Group attended the Corporate Parenting Strategy Group, which had an overview across the workstreams to ensure any risks and issues were identified and that overall progress was being made in achieving the strategy outcomes.

An action plan had been drawn up, setting out the key actions for the achievement of the outcomes and pledges within the strategy.

Various sources would be used to ascertain what was working well and where action was need to achieve change, including talking to cared for children and care leavers, a corporate parenting scorecard, and feedback from children, young people, parents and carers, families and practitioners.

RESOLVED – That the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20 be noted.

27 CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update on national and local developments in relation to cared for children and young people and care leavers.

The update report had been amended to align with the priorities of the new Corporate Parenting Strategy and included the 'youth-proofed' pledges.

A resume of the following was given:

Ofsted Focussed Visit – October 2018 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20 and Youth Proofed Pledges Member Training Head of Service for Cared for Children and Care Leavers - Maternity Leave Virtual Headteacher Annual Report 2018 Ignition Panel Decision-Making and Mental Capacity: NICE Guideline Mental Health Assessments for Cared for Children Pilot Visit from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers Care Leaver Covenant Local Offer for Care Leavers

Members expressed their best wishes to Kerry Birtles, Head of Cared for Children and Care Leavers, who would be on maternity leave from the end of November, and to Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care, who was about to retire.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.

28 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

29 FOSTERING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The Committee considered the Annual Report of the Fostering Panel, presented by its Independent Chair. Members had the opportunity of asking questions on any points of interest or clarification.

RESOLVED - That the report and its conclusions be noted.

30 FEEDBACK FROM OFSTED'S FOCUSSED VISIT IN OCTOBER 2018

Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care, gave a presentation on the findings of the 'focused visit' of Cheshire East's children's social care services which had taken place on 30 and 31 October 2018.

The focus for the visit had been the experiences of children cared for by Cheshire East, especially those who were living at home on care orders and children in residential provision. Inspectors had also looked at planning for permanence.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and concluded at 6.10 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)

Agenda Item 5

Cheshire East Children and Young People's

Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children 2018-2020



Cheshire East Children & Young People's Trust

Our Shared Ambition in Cheshire East is that:

Children and Young People are valued as individuals in their own right

Children and Young People **feel and are safe and protected**, free from fear and danger

Children and Young People are brought up and cared for within their own families wherever possible but **experience good care** where this is not the case

Children and Young People are **physically**, **mentally and emotionally healthy**

Children and Young People **enjoy their childhood** and youth and have a positive experience of social engagement with each other and their communities

Children and Young People have **every opportunity to achieve** and reach their potential and enjoy their school and learning experiences

Children and Young People have a say in the services they receive and see meaningful participation as their right

Children, young people, their families and services **work together to meet individual needs** and problem solve, and support is based on their lived experience

Young People are supported into adulthood able to shape their own destiny

The borough **celebrates the successes and achievements** of all children and young people

The Care Leavers Pledge!



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Foreword

Cheshire East Children and Young People's Plan sets out the vision for Cheshire East to be a place where children and young people thrive, are safe from harm, feel physically and emotionally healthy, have access to outstanding education and feel prepared for and excited about adulthood.

We work extremely hard to make sure this is the experience for all our children and young people. Our Early Help offer is in place to support families to stay together, however there are a number of children and young people whose families are unable to care for them; this may be because of temporary or permanent problems facing their parents, as a result of abuse or neglect or as a result of a range of difficulties including not having a parent to look after them. In these circumstances it is the Local Authority's responsibility for providing the best care and support.

In Cheshire East our children and young people have been asked to be referred to as 'cared for children' and 'care leavers'. When safe and appropriate we want our cared for children to live in Cheshire East, this may not always be possible due to safety concerns but, regardless of where a young person is placed, we want them to feel nurtured and supported to have high aspirations and achieve their best outcomes.

When a young person becomes cared for the Local Authority then has Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Corporate Parenting is the term used for the collective responsibility of the Local Authority and its partners to ensure all services i.e. housing, health, leisure are working together to support the care and protection of our children and young people.

All children are unique; children who come into care even more so with needs and circumstances each requiring an individual, tailored response. As a Corporate Parent it is our responsibility to ensure we understand what these needs are and that we have the skills, knowledge and resources to meet them.

The purpose of this Sufficiency Statement is to set out the provision we, as a local authority, have in place for cared for children, children on the edge of care or custody and care leavers. Ensuring it is flexible, diverse and most importantly is influenced by what our children and young people tell us.

Introduction

The majority of children are brought up in their own families, but for a small number of children circumstances may dictate the need to grow up in alternative settings which can include foster care, residential and supported independent living.

Children in Care are the responsibility of the local authority who becomes their Corporate Parent. As Corporate Parents we need to ensure that a sufficient number, type and quality of accommodation is available in order to ensure the welfare and emotional and physical well-being of every child and that they are in environments with people who support them to reach their potential.

No one service or agency can by itself provide all the support needed by children in care. It requires all services and agencies to 'share the care' and actively work together to ensure the right support and opportunities are made available to children and young people in care and their carers

Local Authorities are required, under s22G of the Children Act 1989, to publish an annual Sufficiency Statement for children in care.

Cheshire East's Cared for Children and Care Leavers Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan set out the principles by which agencies and services in Cheshire East will ensure that children in care have the same opportunities as their peers to enable them to fulfil their potential, and make a good start in adult life. It sets out the achievements so far, shared priorities for children and young people in care, and the actions to be taken to make a positive difference to their lives.

As corporate parents we have high expectations for our children and young people in care and encourage them to have high expectations of themselves. We want them to leave care with a sense of achievement and security, looking forward to a future where they will be valued and involved citizens who are economically independent and able to contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy details five outcomes for which we can measure progress to ensure we are all working as hard as possible to ensure children and young people feel supported, encouraged and hopeful; these outcomes are in the words of our cared for children and care leavers:

- Involve Me
- Providing me with a Good Safe Home
- Keep Me Healthy
- Help Me to Achieve
- Support Me to Move to Adult Life

Each outcome has priorities and detailed actions of what needs to be achieved to meet each outcome; the voice of children and young people is central to the Corporate Parenting Strategy and informs this Sufficiency Statement.

Executive Summary

The overall picture in Cheshire East is of good and improving performance in relation to our Children in Care. Whilst we have seen an increase in the number of cared for children during the past year we continue to be lower than both the regional and national average. We feel confident that for these cared for young people they are in the right environment that will best meet their needs; the highest driver for removing children from their family home continues to be abuse and neglect. We have seen an increase in the local child / young person population and this, alongside national drivers and a change in culture and practice, we believe contributes to the pressure on care for children numbers.

The number of children placed beyond a 20 mile radius of Cheshire East has remained consistent over the past 4 years at 17%. For those young people who are placed further away there is robust evidence provided in the placement approval request to demonstrate why that placement best meets need. There is an on-going priority to continue to place more children nearer home; with plans to expanding our internal residential offer to five properties, a continued drive to recruit and retain a diverse range of foster carers and further developing our 16 + Ignition offer; for example in 2017 we seen an increase in the number of taster flats (we now have 4) with plans to increase this further working with our local commissioned services and social landlords.

Central to our approach is the wishes and views of our young people who have quite clearly told us that what is important is being consulted on where they live and having a choice where to live when leaving care. Cheshire East has signed up to The Care Leavers Pledge and is committed, with partners, to the priorities set out in Children and Young People Plan. Ignition is evidence of our commitment to the pledge with a monthly panel attended by young people who leave with ownership of their plan for accommodation and with a choice of provision that best meets their needs; for now and the future. This approach has also seen greater stability for our young people.

Cheshire East accesses four North West / Greater Manchester Frameworks providing external agency placements for residential care, fostering and leaving care. This provides greater value for money and core standards that are consistent across the region. The new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework which is being introduced in 2018 will support greater flexibility and choice which is better aligned to the needs we have identified.

Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) continue to take a high number of our cared for children. During 2017 we have worked with a small number of IFA's to develop our partnership; using their experience to test out our LEAN Review arrangements and to look at recruitment within the Cheshire East (CE) area. In 2018 we will work with a greater number of IFA's to develop a more bespoke offer, closer working relationships and targeted recruitment as it is recognised that at times more specialist provision is required when it is unable to be met in-house.

Quality Assurance visits take place across all residential placements; this provides close scrutiny of the placement but, more importantly, the opportunity to develop relationships with our providers. Voice for Children (a Social Enterprise run by a Cheshire East care leaver utilising the lived experience of being in care) undertake the visits with us providing a genuine opportunity to capture the young person's views. In 2018 we will be rolling out Quality Assurance visits and greater scrutiny to our 16+/ Supported Accommodation providers. We will be working with the NW Region in a planned programme of Independent Fostering Agency Quality Assurance visits too.

Adoption Counts – Cheshire East's new Adoption Service joined the Regional Partnership in the Summer of 2017. The service has relocated sharing space between CE and the regional office which has allowed for greater partnership working. In 2017 foundations were put in place to support Concurrency; it is envisaged the first concurrency placement will be made in 2018.

Cheshire East's Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Pathway Plan has developed and strengthened. Working with local providers we support young people to establish them and, when they are ready, support them to move to West Street - our independent living house. Our UAAS worker has developed best practice, good relationships with our young people, local colleges and other agencies and has provided a safe and strong environment for these young people to begin to flourish again. In 2018 we will be working to develop our offer further; housing and wider support, in line with the expected increase in numbers.

Staying Put and Staying Close allow young people to have the option and support in place to stay close to their Foster Care Placement or Residential home when they leave, or to reside with the Foster Care family past their 18th birthday. Staying Put has started to develop within CE which is extremely positive but this has had an impact upon the number of FC available. In 2018 we will be working with residential providers to develop Staying Close.

Our collective actions to continually improve the sufficiency of cared for children's accommodation and support is set out within this statement and our key actions are captured at the end. These actions will be closely monitored to ensure the sufficiency duty is met.

The Sufficiency Duty for Children in Care

The Statutory Guidance sets out a requirement for Local Authorities to work with key partners to be in a position to secure, where reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care in their local authority area which meets the needs of children and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area ('the sufficiency duty').

The sufficiency duty requires local authorities to do more than simply ensure that accommodation be 'sufficient' in terms of the number of beds provided. They must also have a regard to the benefits of securing a number of providers and a range of services. Fundamentally, the accommodation available must meet the needs of children. To achieve this Cheshire East's Children's Commissioning and Placements Team follow the commissioning cycle of analyse, plan, do, review. A wealth of data is used to inform our analysis including the quarterly Cared for Children Monitoring Reports and Placements North West census. We do not rely solely on data, the biggest contribution to our analysis is the feedback from our children and young people and our partners / professionals. The views and aspirations of our young people are instrumental to our planning, delivery and achieving outcomes.

There are standards of excellence set out in the 1989 Children's Act for the sufficiency duty:

- all children are placed in the local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their needs and welfare
- all children with adoption recommendations are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that recommendation;
- there is a diverse range of universal, targeted and specialist services working together to meet children's needs, including children and young people who are already looked after, as well as those at risk of care or custody;
- Children's Trust partners, including housing, work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and support the continuity of accommodation beyond the age of 18;
- Services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children and young people, including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies;
- In addition to meeting relevant National Minimum Standards, services are of high

enough quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care planning process for children and young people;

- Services are situated across the local authority area to reflect the geographical distribution of need;
- Placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children;
- Universal services know when a child or young person is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support them, including placement providers;
- There are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area;
- The local authority and its Children's Trust partners collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for services for looked after children and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements

This sufficiency statement sets out how Cheshire East has met these standards and currently working towards developing them further.

Standard of Excellence - All children are placed in the local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their needs and welfare

Keeping children and young people safe is paramount; this begins with our Early Help offer. Supporting families to stay together with the help they need to maintain this. Our weekly Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) has strengthened this approach during 2017 with challenge and support given to colleagues to enable alternative solutions to coming into care or moving placement.

However for some children it is necessary for them to be placed a distance from their home setting due to safeguarding concerns or to accommodate significant levels of need. Where this is required we work closely with the host authority to ensure there are the right support and services available within that area and that there are clear strategies around Missing from Home, Child Sexual Exploitation and that it has a strong LSCB that supports local providers.

The percentage of the cared for children population accessing a placement beyond 20 miles of their previous registered address is 17%, this is consistent with the previous year. This means that less than 1 in 5 cared for children in Cheshire East is accommodated over 20 miles from their home authority. This position is not too far adrift of the general position across the North West and we would be looking to reduce this further to 10% and to better understand the rationale for those placed at distance from the authority. Analysis is consistently undertaken to understand the placement decision, presenting need and any gaps in local provision that would have supported a placement closer to the young person's home community.

Achievements from 2017:

- We have worked with local providers to enable much closer working; knowing in advance what vacancies are coming up and what the matching considerations will be.
- We hosted a Sexual Exploitation training event in partnership with one of our local residential homes
- We continue to improve the recruitment of Cheshire East (CE) foster carers and have worked with IFA's to encourage targeted recruitment within CE and have seen local recruitment growth for some of our more specialist IFA's
- We have developed strong relationships with providers who would like to work with us in Cheshire East; a provider who has been running successfully in Australia for ten years is just in the process of opening its first home in England in CE
- We have Short Breaks providers working with us to look at the opportunities for more closer working

• We have a group living house delivering 16+ supported accommodation within CE run by an external organisation; partly due to need identified via Ignition

Plans for 2018-2019:

- Our Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) will follow the Signs of Safety approach which will enhance a rounded assessment and planning
- Redesign our edge of care support structures / resources
- Continue to market shape and undertake procurement activity to further develop local provision
- Put in place a Home Based Care Framework for children with a disability in order to strengthen the support at home rather than needs escalating and requiring more specialist services (sometimes out of borough)



1 Cared for Children Population (April 2017 – March 2018)





Standard of Excellence - All children with a plan of adoption are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that plan being approved.

Cheshire East is now part of a Regional Adoption Agency with Stockport MBC, Trafford MBC, Manchester MBC and Salford MBC.

Cheshire East has successfully maintained its performance since 2016 reducing the approval time from 7 months to 5 months. Of those who took longer this was due to additional matching requirements including sibling groups and further complex needs.

In 2017/2018 thirteen children have been adopted, and twenty eight have achieved permanence through Special Guardianship orders.

In 2017 recruitment was targeted to identify families who could consider children in terms of fostering to adopt and families who would be able to adopt sibling groups and older

Achievements for 2017:

- Adoption Counts went live on 3 July 2017 and implemented a hub recruitment function which takes enquiries from all potential adopters across the region covered by the five LA's.
- Staff from the 5 LA's have been co-located into to 3 locations in defined roles.
- So far the service has placed seventy percent of children from the 5 LA's with in house adopters.

Plans for 2018:

- A strategic recruitment model has been developed and this will aim to recruit the right adopters for the children coming through the care planning process in each LA.
- The service is currently running a marketing campaign with TV and radio interviews aimed at reaching more adopters for BME children and sibling groups.
- Children's tracking systems are being developed and these will ensure that all children who potentially maybe adopted are tracked through the process with a view to avoiding delay
- Adoption Counts is developing an adoption support Centre of Excellence which will offer an improved support offer across the region to all adopters in need of professional advice / input





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Standard of Excellence - There is a diverse range of universal, targeted and specialist services working together to meet children's needs, including children and young people who are already looked after as well as those at risk of becoming looked after or in custody.

Cheshire East has a wide ranging offer that is designed around evidenced need. Due to the size of the authority there is a locality approach to service delivery. Cheshire East's Consultation Service (ChECS) provides a holistic approach to advice, support and referring to appropriate services.

Our Early Help offer is delivered internally and through commissioned services and provides support at the earliest opportunity to help stop issues from escalating. This support may come from universal services, for example our Youth Engagement Service, Family Support, Early Years, Schools or from a more targeted provision such as @ct, CAMHS, Children in Need or Virtual School or Youth Offending Service. Services work together to support children and families and, where appropriate, provide a step down approach.

During 2017 the Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) was established to support colleagues with both ideas and challenge for all placement requests and placement moves; encouraging more innovative and creative thinking. The approach used is in line with Signs of Safety. RAP encourages Social Workers to think differently but it also challenges services to think and deliver differently too.

The Big House!

A family who were discussed at RAP provide a great example of the difference creative thinking and partnership working can make. A family were facing an extremely stressful situation with Granny taking over the care of her 4 grandchildren in her small house. To support Granny, Aunty moved in to help and brought her two small children too. Due to a range of difficulties there were conversations about what the safest and most supportive plan would be for this

family.

Housing worked with us to help secure a bigger house. Home Start and the Family Support Service provided additional support. A Foster Carer provided mentoring and @ct helped with support to aunty and granny alongside providing a buddy for the young people. School played a big part in supporting this arrangement. Partners from a range of services have successfully kept this family together.

Community At It's Best!

Our unaccompanied asylum seekers have arrived from a range of countries all with different stories, traumas and experiences. Working with the local community we are now in a position to offer these vulnerable young people a safe home. We have worked with neighbours who now provide a protective watching eye and support with simple things like putting the bins out! The college has developed its offer to provide English lessons, vocational activities and friendship support. The YMCA has a football team that has been extremely welcoming and our supported living providers; YMCA, Mococo and Watermill have all developed their offer to make sure young people are supported to live independently. Links have been made with local hairdressers, GP's, food shops as well as the Mosque; all of whom have been extremely welcoming and supportive. Our UAAS project worker and Personal Advisors have worked extremely well together to ensure this community approach continues to thrive.

A Different Track

Our Youth Offending colleagues raised concerns about a young person who had recently emerged from the criminal justice system and needed extra support to get back on the right track again. Bringing together Youth Engagement, the police, the local college, YMCA alongside commissioning a new placement with floating support we were able to help this young person find work experience and begin to re-engage with college and their life again.

Standard of Excellence - Our Children's Trust (including housing) work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and to support the continuity of education or accommodation beyond the age of 18.

We are extremely proud of our offer for Care Leavers; by working with all partners we have choice for young people and a process that provides them with a voice and ownership of their accommodation and future plan. Ignition is for young people aged 15½ plus who are thinking about

where and how they would like to live when they leave care (we think the earlier we can plan the better the experience!) Ignition is made up of a range of partners; Housing, Social Landlords, YMCA, P3, Forum Housing Supported Lodgings, Commissioning and Leaving Care, Voice for Children and private providers. Young people attend Ignition and describe their current situation and where they would like to be in the future, partners listen and then describe what they have to offer or what they could develop to meet need. Young people are able to visit different provisions so they are able to make a more informed choice, the taster flat allows young people to experience independent living for a 2 week period with floating support to assist with budgeting, household skills, food shopping, cleaning, cooking etc....young people return home with an idea of whether they are ready to live independently and support to work on areas for development.

We now have a strong offer for our care leavers including taster flats, supported independent living, supported lodgings with 'hosts', dispersed properties with the offer of floating support alongside Staying Put and Staying Close arrangements, a group living house and support / acting as guarantor for individual tenancies. All of this choice would not have been possible without the successful partnerships that have developed through Ignition.

The panel also discuss young people who have been supported to move on; this helps ensure the placement is still meeting their needs and also helps develop our learning and placement knowledge, this whole process is very important for commissioning as it helps identify any gaps to address and good practice that we can celebrate and build upon.

In December 2017 there were 22 Independent Living Placements, which is 5% of the cared for population this is an increase of 2% since April 2017. We are witnessing more placement stability and more equipped and prepared young people who are ready to take their next independent steps.

Achievements from 2017:

- Growth in the number of Ignition taster flats (currently 4 with plans for more)
- Increase in our commissioned block contract offer
- Group Living House established
- Greater stability in placements and a planned transition
- Significant improvement in Care Leavers NEET

Plans for 2018:

- NEET Panel (Based on the Ignition Model)
- Taster Flat Provision in Macclesfield, Congleton and Middlewich
- CE Quality Assurance Visits to all 16+ provision

- Independent living skills targeted work with 15 & 16 year olds in residential and FC placements
- Increase the number of individual tenancies
- Increase the range of 16+ provision across the borough working with local residential providers



Standard of Excellence - Services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children and young people including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies.
Standard of Excellence - Services are situated across the local authority area to reflect geographical distribution of need

We have a wide range of provision across Cheshire East and this provision continues to grow based upon identified need. Whilst it is recognised we do not have the full sufficiency located within the Cheshire East boundaries we can evidence a large development of provision during 2017.

Cheshire East Foster Care recruitment continues to prove successful, as of December 2017 we have 124 Mainstream Foster Carers and 36 Family and Friend Placements.

We increased the provision of our internal residential provision from 3 homes to 5 homes, whilst challenges were presented by the commissioned provider making this a successful contract we have robust plans in place to ensure success in 2018.

Our 16+ care leavers offer has grown incredibly in particular with our block contract arrangements. Not only do these contracts provide young people with a greater choice it also provides excellent value for money and less reliance on the external market.

During 2017 we have increased provision in line with identified need and growth forecasting.

For the YMCA in Crewe we have increased by:

- 2 PACE beds that we also offer out to neighbouring authorities
- The Bridges which provides emergency beds for up to a week whilst alternative accommodation is found
- The Foyer offering long term accommodation in self-contained flats
- Ignition Flats providing taster opportunities and 6 month lets
- Floating Support

For Watermill House in Macclesfield we have:

- Increased the beds to 6
- Commissioned an E-bed providing emergency provision in the Macclesfield area
- Started discussion about developing a taster flat

For Forum Housing's Supported Lodgings Hosts we have:

• Developed the offer to allow placements for some of our more complex young people

Working with external providers we have helped shape the offer within Cheshire East by developing partnerships and encouraging establishment and growth in the areas in which we need more.

We have:

- A Group Living Unit in Crewe
- A new residential provider setting up its first home in England in Cheshire East
- A newly established home within Cheshire East working with Commissioning to expand and develop their offer
- A step down Foster Care offer from a residential school setting

For our Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UAAS) we have leased a 5 bedroomed property (designed for 16+ care and accommodation) and developed a UAAS support role. We now have a very clear pathway for when UAAS young people arrive in Cheshire East. Working closely with one of our supported living providers we ensure a smooth transition; being supported with college, health and recreational plans and, when ready, being moved to live more independently in the leased property. This has worked extremely well; we have fostered positive community

relations, strong links with the college and, most importantly, ensured a safe space for these vulnerable young people to flourish. Work is now underway to develop this model across the borough working with other partners to ensure we have enough provision and are sharing good practice.

Complimenting all of this growth is access to the Frameworks through Placements North West; Greater Manchester Residential Framework, Merseyside and Partners Residential Framework, North West Fostering Framework and Leaving Care Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework.

In line with the commissioning cycle these developments have all been designed following analysis of data, feedback and good practice i.e. the Taster Flats.

The data informs us that during 2017 there continued to be an increase in the number of children subject to a child protection care plan. Further analysis highlight the increasing complexity of levels of need; family dynamics and generational challenges.

The number of children in need over the 4 year period of 2014-2017 has steadily reduced. We know that targeting resources and providing the right support to families at an earlier point can help families to deescalate problems. The decrease in children in need and increase in child protection assures us that we are supporting families at an earlier point which is positive, yet dealing with more complex needs which has implications for the level of need for the young people who are coming into care.

During 2017 changes were made in services, a dedicated disability team was established so a lot of cases that were CIN in the teams were moved over to the specialist disability team. The table below shows the changes and the impact at a particular point of time. (Please note the disability figures are extracted from a specific data point so it is important not to let this factor into a like for like comparison between 2016 and 2017, although there is clearly a decrease).

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Children						
In Need						
2016	1133	1129	1114	1054	995	966
2017	895	956	864	831	791	809
Disability						
team	97	99	109	106	118	107
2017						

Child Protection						
2016	268	284	287	281	295	279
2017	288	302	336	333	369	362

As at December 2017 there were 470 children and young people who are cared for with around 9% placed in residential children's homes. Whilst this is an increase from the previous year it is evidence of the targeted work to ensure each young person is in a placement that best meets their needs. RAP ensures all placements have support and challenge to ensure the placement is working to meet the desired outcome – be that returning home or 'stepping down' to foster care provision, part of RAP's Terms of Reference is to review existing placements.

We continue to see an increase in young people aged 11 to 15 who are entering care along with the increase of UAAS. It has also become more difficult to find placements for this age group both locally and regionally.

When analysing the current cared for children population and their home town prior to coming into care 67% of cared for children come from the Crewe and Macclesfield areas. This geographical mapping of the communities from which our cared for children originate has, influenced the early help strategy and the spread of accommodation that is required; be that through the residential redesign, additional supported living properties or foster carers.

It is recognised that our local providers, both Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) and Residential, accommodate a large proportion of young people from other local authorities, which when we consider we have only 37 residential beds and are down on IFA's from 121 (2011) to 86 (2016) is quite a challenge; this decline continued into 2017. We have been working with providers to target recruitment within CE and to have greater contact / communication to ensure first choice on local provision.

Internally we have achieved much during 2017 with Cheshire East Foster Carers. The number of Cheshire East Family and Friends placements continues to increase. In December 2017 there were 71 placements, which is 15% of the cared for population this is an increase of 2% since April 2017 and compares favourably to the national average which stands at 8.0%.

We recruited a further three foster carer households in December 2017 the total number of mainstream foster carers is 124 looking after 157 children* (*as at December 2017).

Achievements from 2017:

Increase in commissioned services to meet need

- Forged relationships with new and existing providers
- Worked more closely with other Local Authorities across the region
- Increased our Fostering Capacity Scheme loans and grants
- Promotion of simpler payments scheme and guaranteed retainers for newly approved carers awaiting matching
- Reduction in assessment time to between 16-18 weeks and further collaboration with our North West partners to consolidate the reduction in assessment time across NW and increase the numbers of inquiries translated into approvals
- Comprehensive training and development for foster carers –from pre- approval through to specialist skill development for particular placement needs
- Development of our Fostering Plus Scheme to attract foster carers who can be supported to develop specialist skills.

Plans for 2018:

- Increase the number of Foster Carers who can provider short break provision for children with disabilities
- Increase the number of placements for parent and child
- Increase the number of Foster Carers for our teenage age group and siblings
- Re-commission residential provision
- Increase the emergency provision offer
- Develop a step down Foster Care provision
- Develop our fostering collaboration with Go Live date within 2018





Standard of Excellence - In addition to meeting relevant National Minimum Standards, services are of a quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care planning process for children and young people

Once a placement search is undertaken any offers that the Placement Service receives are forwarded to the young person's social worker and social worker's manager. Attached to the offer

will be information containing the Residential Home's Statement of Purpose, latest OFSTED inspection, Reg 44 and Young Person's Handbook. The provider will also provide the names of any other Local Authority whose children may be placed in that provision so references can be sought and any matching considerations further checked out.

Where possible the Commissioning Team and the Social Worker should visit any new placements together prior to the young person visiting. A lot of effort is put into establishing the quality of the provision, ensuring the staff and manager of the home have the right skills and approach and, most importantly, have a warm, kind and inviting home.

Young people, wherever possible, visit the placement to see if it is somewhere they would like to live and can buy into. It is important for young people to feel in control of their future and feel they have a say in the plan.

Residential settings and IFA's provide regular updates on how the placement is going. Residential homes also send their monthly Reg 44 reports. The greater the relationship is with providers the more we can support placements by facilitating ongoing dialogue.

For residential placements we have a commitment to make at least one Quality Assurance (QA) visit a year. This is undertaken with Voice for Children (a Social Enterprise run by a Cheshire East care leaver utilising the liver experience of being in care) which helps us to make sure the visit and review is very much young person focused. The framework for quality assurance visits has been reviewed to ensure that its coverage is rigorous and joined up with the collaborative approach being led by Placements North West. Since January 2015 QA visits have been undertaken in partnership with Voice for Children and commissioning. These joint visits have proved highly effective in ensuring the voice and eyes of the young person are central to the visit.

Prior to the QA visit information is collated from family, social workers, Independent Reviewing Officer, Virtual School and any other professionals who are linked to the young person to understand what is going well, concerns or any issues. This information is shared with the provider. Likewise feedback is gathered from the provider and fed back to CE. During 2017 a high number of compliments were received during visits about the standard of paperwork provided, the commitment of social workers and the positive communication.

Information about Ofsted inspections is collated monthly and uploaded to Liquid Logic, any changes ratings results in a visit to understand the reasons for the change and what plans are in place to address any issues raised.

Independent Placement Agreements (IPA) are used for all external IFA and residential placements, they include details about agreed outcomes, review periods and costs. IPA's have been amended on Liquid Logic so they are aligned with the outcomes detailed in the placement request form and are automated which ensures they reach the placement in a more timely manner and before the placement commences; ensuring everyone is clear about the outcomes required, timescales and costs.

During 2017 we undertook review of the placement process to look at ways in which we could improve our practice and processes. Following this a number of changes have been implemented which has provided a big impact. We now have a 10am Huddle with commissioning, placements and fostering colleagues, this ensures clarity about placement searches, that information and updates are shared on a daily basis and more teams are working together. There is now a cut off time for referrals and a Tuesday afternoon shut down - all of these changes contributed to a more calm and manageable system.

In a 6 month period we have seen a big reduction in emergency placements, reducing by over 30%.

The Placement Review looked at the Placement Request Form and working alongside Signs of Safety we were able to make this form more young person and strength focused. All of the work undertaken has resulted in more measured, clear and timely placement requests which has helped with placement searches and provided a choice.

As of December 2017 there were 196 Care Leavers. Work continues to ensure a smooth transition be that to home or moving onto adult services. A major area for development is the transition for young people from children's to adult services in relation to mental health.

Achievements from 2017

- Successful Joint Provider Forums with CWaC, Halton and Warrington
- LEAN review for placements

Plans for 2018

- Increase the number of pre-placement visits
- Develop the use of Reg 44 reports
- Report Quality Assurance themes to Social Care Leadership Team

- Develop 16+ Quality Assurance
- Launch the electronic Individual Placement Agreement (IPA)
- Drop in / unannounced visits by Commissioners
- Yearly IPA reviews for all long term placements

Standard of Excellence - Universal services know when a child or young person is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support them, including placement providers.

Standard of Excellence: Placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children.

When a young person enters care the placement details are entered into Liquid Logic and an automated notification is sent to our colleagues in Safeguarding, Health and Virtual School. Case notes are continually updated so information sharing is in place; each team is responsible for sharing information with the relevant services as appropriate.

Our residential providers are proactive in linking with other services in their local area. This requirement is set out in the IPA and is checked as part of the QA visit.

Sometimes young people do not want people to know they are cared for and we must always be fully respectful of that whilst keeping them safe.

Locally we hold Provider Forums for all placement providers and facilitate a varied agenda that provides a range of updates; we invite speakers, share good practice from across the region and try to link services up.

Linking everything together is Children's Commissioning. The Commissioning Team works across the whole of children's services and have excellent links covering Early Help, SEN, Young Carers, Social Care and Adults Services. **Standard of Excellence** - There are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area.

As mentioned the Placement Review was undertaken to look at the entire placement process. The review was based on LEAN principles and a number of recommendations have been implemented which have proved highly effective and produced successful outcomes.

The Placement team and Commissioning team have recently merged, being co-located with frontline social work teams ensures strong knowledge re supply of placements (via internal provision, commissioned services, 4 frameworks, off contract providers, market shaping etc) and strong evidence of quality prior to placements and QA pre and post placements is shared effectively.

The LEAN review included a Visual Management recommendation and the Placement and Commissioning team have introduced 'The Huddle'. At 10am every morning teams gather around the huge white board to discuss placement searches, where they are up to, any blockages, ideas, solutions.....this practice has improved partnership working, has speeded up placement finding and has helped future planning as we have a board that also records internal Foster Care provision and respite requests. Social Workers can call in and contribute ideas and keep up to date with where the search is up to. Commissioning are able to share intelligence about specific homes and areas and there is a wealth of knowledge about IFA carers alongside our internal FC.

RAP, Ignition and NEET Panel all provide young people and colleagues with knowledge about the local offer and support available. Ensuring placements are reviewed in a timely manner enables knowledge sharing about what is available in Cheshire East and the benefits of working more closely with local support.

Links with North West Commissioners enable good practice to be shared as we continually strive to do and be better.

Achievements from 2017:

- Placement Review
- Placements and Commissioning Merging
- RAP aligning with Signs of Safety

Plans for 2018

- Increase in the number of joint visits with Commissioning and Social Workers to placements prior to placement offers
- Develop greater links between Early Help and Placement Providers within Cheshire
 East
- Develop partnerships and links local providers

Standard of Excellence - The local authority and the Children's Partnership collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for children in care and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements.

Cheshire East has strong partnerships in place with all neighbouring authorities and this has developed further during 2017.

Adoption Counts is a new, collaborative adoption agency, bringing the professional expertise and specialist skills of five local authorities from across Greater Manchester and Cheshire together to deliver adoption services of the highest quality

Foster Care Collaboration will provide a number of opportunities across the region, we are already sharing resources and working on a targeted recruitment drive.

We hold joint Provider Forums with Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington which has proved extremely valuable and promoted more joint working and problem solving. The ability to discuss issues on a footprint that aligns to that of Cheshire Police also brings its benefits.

Alongside other NW local authorities we fund a small but highly effective Placements North West team. We benefit from the co-ordination of a range of framework contracts, sharing good practice from others; IFA Quality Assurance pilots, training and procurement. Placements NW also produce regular scorecard information and an annual census across the range of placement activity which provides valuable intelligence and benchmarking.

• To explore further opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring authorities in order to manage the market for residential care and Leaving Care more effectively


In Conclusion

In many respects, the sufficiency duty is being met and considerable improvements have been made over the last 12 months to the whole system that works to deliver excellent outcomes for our children in care through good quality / value for money placements that are close to home, however, as detailed plans are in place to further improve the position and increase the range of provision within Cheshire East.

It is important that the actions identified in this Sufficiency Statement are monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure the improvement journey continues and the changes to the number / profile of children in care and the internal / external accommodation market provide appropriate influence on future actions.

The key to performance in this area is ensuring the levels and quality of accommodation for children in care across the market is maximised. The right placement at the start and the stability for children is the key to performance against the sufficiency duty. All our actions should focus on high quality outcomes for our cared for children, their voice should be loud and influence the way we work towards good quality, stable placements that are value for money.

Decision making should reflect the importance of effective early help for children and families and this continuing across the whole life course. Continuous reflection and effective decision making that is sustainable across the lifetime will provide excellent outcomes for our children in care.

Proposed Actions

This action plan will be updated and added to on a quarterly basis.

Standard of Excellence: All children are placed in the local authority area, except where							
this is not consistent with their needs and welfare.							
Action	Timeframe	Update					
Develop Resource Allocation Panel							
(RAP) Signs of Safety approach							
Redesign our edge of care support							
structures / resources							
Continue to market shape and							
undertake procurement activity to							
further develop local provision							
Put in place a Home Based Care							
Framework for children with a disability							
in order to strengthen the support at							
home rather than needs escalating and							
requiring more specialist services							
	•						

Standard of Excellence: All children with a plan of adoption are placed with an adoptive family within 12 months of that plan being approved.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To increase the number of adopters for the children coming through the care planning process in each LA.		
To deliver a marketing campaign that will reach more adopters for BME children and sibling groups.		
Develop a tracking systems that will ensure all children who potentially maybe adopted are tracked through the process avoiding delays		
Adoption Counts successfully develop an adoption support Centre of Excellence offering an improved support offer across the region to all adopters in need of professional advice / input		
Standard of Excellence: There is a c	diverse range of	universal, targeted and specialist

services working together to meet children's needs, including children and young people

who are already looked after as well as those at risk of becoming looked after or in custody.							
Action	Timeframe	Update					
To continue to review the Early Help offer, ensuring the JSNA is updated and utilised							
To continue to develop CHAPS meetings with partners							
To target @ct resource to support families on the edge of care or custody							
Standard of Excellence: Our Children's	Trust (including I	housing) work together to secure a					
range of provision to meet the needs of t	hose who becom	e looked after at the age of 16 and					
17, and to support the continuity of education of the support of the support the support of the	ation or accommo	dation beyond the age of 18.					
Action	Timeframe	Update					
NEET Panel (Based on the Ignition Model)							
Develop the Taster Flat Provision across Macclesfield, Congleton and Middlewich							
CE Quality Assurance Visits to all 16+ provision							
Independent living skills – targeted work with 15 & 16 year olds in residential and FC placements							
Increase the number of individual tenancies							
Increase the range of 16+ provision across the borough working with local residential providers							
Standard of Excellence: Services are a and young people including predicted de	mand for a range	of needs, and emergencies.					
Standard of Excellence: Services are geographical distribution of need	situated across	the local authority area to reflect					
Action	Timeframe	Update					
Increase the number of Foster Carers who can provider short break provision for children with disabilities							
Increase the number of Foster Carers for our teenage age group							
Re-commission residential provision							
Increase the emergency provision offer							
Develop a step down Foster Care provision							

Standard of Excellence: In addition to meeting relevant National Minimum Standards, services are of a quality to secure the specific outcomes identified in the care planning

process for children and young people.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase the number of pre-placement		
visits		
Develop the use of Reg 44 reports		
Report Quality Assurance themes to		
Social Care Leadership Team		
Develop 16+ Quality Assurance		
Launch the electronic Individual		
Placement Agreement (IPA)		
Drop in / unannounced visits by		
Commissioners		
Yearly IPA reviews for all long term		
placements		
	•	

Standard of Excellence: Universal services know when a child or young person is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support them, including placement providers.

Standard of Excellence: Placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To develop the Provider Forums with		
Partners		
To review the membership of RAP on a		
regular basis and ensure		
communication is effective		

Standard of Excellence: There are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area.

Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase in the number of joint visits		
with Commissioning and Social		
Workers to placements prior to		
placement offers		
Develop greater links between Early		
Help and Providers within Cheshire		
East		
Develop partnerships and links local		
providers		

Standard of Excellence: The local authority and the Children's Partnership collaborate with								
neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for children in care and commission in								
regional or sub-regional arrangements.								
Action	Action Timeframe Update							
To explore further opportunities to								
collaborate with neighbouring								
authorities in order to manage the								
market for residential care and Leaving								
Care more effectively								

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCORECARD FOR CARED FOR CHILDREN'S ACCOMMODATION

Key performance measures to supplement those included in service scorecards:

			2018-2019				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Comment
1	Actions in published sufficiency					Qtly	
	statement reviewed					review	
2	% of cared for children					10%	
	accommodated beyond 20 miles						
3	% of cared for children in external					100%	
	agency placements that are rated						
	good or outstanding			_			
4	Number of cared for children in					0	
	external agency placements rated						
	inadequate		_				
5	Average weekly cost of external						
	agency placements:						
						£3200	
	Residential					6760	
	IFA					£760	
7	% occupancy level for					95%	
/	commissioned residential					93%	
8	Contracts in place for external					100%	
0	agency placements					10076	
9	Individual Placement Agreements					100%	
5	for external agency placements					10070	
	which provide bespoke outcomes						
	for cared for children						
10	At least one compliance visit					100%	
	undertaken pa for each cared for						
	child in an external agency						
	placement						

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF 2018 – 2020 SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT

Proposed Actions

This action plan will be updated and added to on a quarterly basis.

Standard of Excellence: All children are placed in the local authority area, except where this is not consistent with their needs and welfare.							
Action	Timeframe	Update					
Develop Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) Signs of Safety approach	April 2018 onwards	Weekly RAP meetings taking place (incl SoS mapping, step out of residential etc)					
Redesign our edge of care support structures / resources	July 2018	New Team manager in place across edge of care teams and statement of purpose to be reviewed and written					
Continue to market shape and undertake procurement activity to further develop local provision	Ongoing Collaborative Provider operating, regular engagement leading to im sufficiency. Procurement ac CWD care at home framewo & LD accommodation and s Children's Home comm Ignition developments, chi mental health redesign, me etc						
Put in place a Home Based Care Framework for children with a disability in order to strengthen the support at home rather than needs escalating and requiring more specialist services	October 2018	New all age Care at Home Framework (Dynamic Purchasing System) in place from November 2018. Award letters sent 22 October 2018					
Standard of Excellence: All children wi within 12 months of that plan being approximation of the plan being approximation of		ion are placed with an adoptive family					
Action	Timeframe	Update					
To increase the number of adopters for the children coming through the care planning process in each LA.	Ongoing	Recruitment Strategy under development					
To deliver a marketing campaign that will reach more adopters for BME children and sibling groups.	Ongoing	Recruitment Strategy under development. Voluntary organisations already requested to support specific family finding					
Develop a tracking systems that will ensure all children who potentially may be adopted are tracked through the process avoiding delays	Ongoing	RAA Strategic Planning group hold monthly meetings to track children. RAA lead attends Permanency Forum every other month with frontline teams.					
Adoption Counts successfully develop an adoption support Centre of Excellence offering an improved support offer across the region to all adopters in need of professional advice/input	April 18	RAA – centre of excellence					

Standard of Excellence: There is a diverse range of universal, targeted and specialist services working together to meet children's needs, including children and young people who are already looked after as well as those at risk of becoming looked after or in custody.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To continue to review the Early Help offer, ensuring the JSNA is updated and utilised	2018-19	JSNA Forward Plan
To continue to develop CHAPS meetings with partners	April 2018 onwards	At least quarterly meetings of provider / police / CEC operational & commissioning officers taking place
To target @CT resource to support families on the edge of care or custody	July 2018	New team manager in place and development of statement of purpose

Standard of Excellence: Our Children's Trust (including housing) work together to secure a range of provision to meet the needs of those who become looked after at the age of 16 and 17, and to support the continuity of education or accommodation beyond the age of 18.

Action	Timeframe	Update
NEET Panel (Based on the Ignition Model)		This is the NEET challenge panel that is held on a monthly basis. Children's Social Care and Virtual School representation.
Develop the Taster Flat Provision across Macclesfield, Congleton and Middlewich	Ongoing	Two further Ignition flats secured first quarter of 2018-19. P3 developing taster provision in Macclesfield / Congleton Q3 and Q4
CE Quality Assurance Visits to all 16+ provision	2019-20	Placements North West continue to conduct 16+ QA on behalf of the region. CE to supplement with own visits
Independent living skills – targeted work with 15 & 16 year olds in residential and FC placements	Ongoing	There is a targeted training offer delivered by our Care Leavers service around planning for independence for our children in foster care. For children in residential care, the care plan and option of attending Ignition panel early are ways in which we target early transition and preparation for adulthood.
Increase the number of individual tenancies	Ongoing	Ignition continues to grow and is a significant support to cared for / care leavers. Priority band B has been agreed for care leavers and therefore opens up Home Choice tenancies even further. Q4 – housing strategy group to establish a vulnerable persons project which extends the Ignition approach and increases access to tenancies
Increase the range of 16+ provision across the borough working with local residential providers	Ongoing	Promoted at Provider Forum and staying close will feature within new Children's Home commission

Standard of Excellence: Services are available in adequate quantity to respond to children and young people including predicted demand for a range of needs, and emergencies.

Standard of Excellence:	Services	are	situated	across	the	local	authority	area	to	reflect
geographical distribution of	need									

	Timofromo	Undete
Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase the number of Foster Carers who can provider short break provision for children with disabilities	Ongoing	Small increase in respite carers. Retained specialist carers for children with disabilities and will form part of the foster4 collaboration recruitment and retention strategy
Increase the number of Foster Carers for our teenage age group	Ongoing	Will be part of the collaboration recruitment and retention strategy
Re-commission residential provision	2018-19	Out to tender from May 2018 for 5 Children's Homes (13 beds). Indicative timeline for tender award is January 2019. This Care Hub will include short stay and an emphasis on step down to fostering and return to family with an holistic assessment of the child's needs.
Increase the emergency provision offer	2018-19	Two well established emergency beds at Crewe YMCA (double up as PACE beds). Emergency beds recently increased at P3 Watermill (Macclesfield).
Develop a step down Foster Care provision	2018-19	New Care Hub (Children's Home commission) is designed around step down to fostering / return to family
Standard of Excellence: In addition to are of a quality to secure the specific children and young people.		
Action	Timeframe	Update
Increase the number of pre-placement visits	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate and best use of planning time
Develop the use of Reg. 44 reports	Ongoing	Part of QA visit preparation and social worker notification linked to QA
Report Quality Assurance themes to Social Care Leadership Team	2018-19	Report planned for Q3
Develop 16+ Quality Assurance	2019-20	Placement North West continue to conduct 16+ Quality Assurance on behalf of the region. CE to supplement with own visits
Launch the electronic Individual Placement Agreement (IPA)	2018-19	Implemented Q1
Drop in/unannounced visits by Commissioners	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate
Yearly IPA reviews for all long term placements	Ongoing	

Standard of Excellence: Universal services know when a child or young person is looked after and have good links with the range of targeted and specialist services which support them, including placement providers.

Standard of Excellence: Placement providers (including private, voluntary and public sector providers) are linked into the wider network of services and work with these services to offer appropriate support to deliver identified outcomes for looked after children.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To develop the Provider Forums with Partners	Ongoing	
To review the membership of RAP on a regular basis and ensure communication is effective	Ongoing	RAP is effective and continually reviewed

Standard of Excellence: There are mechanisms in place to ensure that professionals involved in placement decisions have sufficient knowledge and information about the supply and quality of placements and availability of all specialist, targeted and universal support services within the local authority area.

Action	Timeframe	Update		
Increase in the number of joint visits with Commissioning and Social Workers to placements prior to placement offers	Ongoing	Undertaken as appropriate and best use of planning time		
Develop greater links between Early Help and Providers within Cheshire East	2018-19	See new Early Help Framework. Children's mental health workshop with early help providers (with a focus on cared for children)		
Develop partnerships and links local providers	Ongoing	Commissioning have strong links with providers and partners and have delivered sector led improvement. Ignition short listed for national award re: partner excellence		

Standard of Excellence: The local authority and the Children's Partnership collaborate with neighbouring Children's Trusts to plan the market for children in care and commission in regional or sub-regional arrangements.

Action	Timeframe	Update
To explore further opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring authorities in order to manage the market for residential care and Leaving Care more effectively	2019-20	Early discussions held with NW commissioners and sub-region. Plan in earnest when children's home commission mobilised. There is a commissioning work stream as part of the foster4 collaboration which is exploring opportunities to collaborate within the independent market.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCORECARD FOR CARED FOR CHILDREN'S ACCOMMODATION

Key performance measures to supplement those included in service scorecards:

			2018-2019					
No.	Measure	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Comment	
1	Actions in published sufficiency statement reviewed	Yes	Yes			Qtly review		
2	% of cared for children accommodated beyond 20 miles	24%	23%			10%	When you take out placed with family / friends, adoption and long term foster care % = 13%	
3	% of cared for children in external agency placements that are rated good or outstanding	93%	98%			100%		
4	Number of cared for children in external agency placements rated inadequate	1	0			0	TCA moved early to his adult supported living arrangement	
5	Average weekly cost of external agency placements:	£3561	£3724			£3200	Complexity of individual	
	Residential						children and difficult market conditions	
	IFA	£797	£798			£760		
7	% occupancy level for commissioned residential	67%	67%			95%	1 home operational. Match difficult to utilise 3 rd bed	
8	Contracts in place for external agency placements	100%	100%			100%		
9	Individual Placement Agreements for external agency placements which provide bespoke outcomes for cared for children	90%	94%			100%		
10	At least one compliance visit undertaken pa for each cared for child in an external agency placement	100%	100%			100%		

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South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Agenda Item 7

ANNUAL REPORT TO: Cheshire East Corporate Parenting Committee FOR INFORMATION

Report of:Shan McParland Designated Nurse Cared for ChildrenSubject/Title:The Health of Cared for Children and Young PeopleAnnual Report: Apr 2017- 18

"Evidence from research, shows that looked after children and young people share many of the same health risks and problems of their peers, but often to a greater degree. They can have greater challenges such as discord within their own families, frequent changes of home or school, and lack of access to the support and advice of trusted adults. Children often enter the care system with a worse level of health than their peers, in part due to the impact of poverty, poor parenting, chaotic lifestyles and abuse or neglect. Longer term outcomes for looked after children remain worse than their peers, as they face greater challenges related to long-term health, social and educational needs."

(Statutory Guidance on 'Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children, DFE, DH, 2015)

Purpose of the report

This report outlines the delivery of health services to children in the care of Cheshire East Council (CEC) during the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, in line with National Statutory Guidance ('Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health of Looked after Children: Statutory Guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England.' 2015). It reviews performance indicators, clinical work undertaken by the Wirral Community NHS Trust Cared for Children Health Team, service improvements and plans for further development.

The aim of the Cared for Children Health Service is to ensure that children in the care of Cheshire East Council have their health needs identified and addressed. This includes the provision of a detailed, high quality initial health assessment (IHA) when received into care and a statutory review health assessment (RHA) annually for children over five years of age and 6 monthly for those under five years of age.

The team works in partnership with Cheshire East Council and local health providers to ensure that appropriate services are developed and maintained to continue meet the health needs and improve the health and wellbeing of all cared for children and young people originating from the South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group area.

In Cheshire East, Looked after Children are referred to as Cared for Children. For the purposes of this report the terms are synonymous.

NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group



Glossary/Acronyms				
C4C	Cared for Children			
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group			
CEC	Cheshire East Council			
IHA	Initial Health Assessment			
RHA	Review Health Assessment			
DoH	Department of Health			
LAC	Looked After Children			
DNA	Did Not Attend			
SDQ	Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire			
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children			
CQC	Care Quality Commission			
SEN	Special Educational Need			

Key Points

The population covered within the report is all Cared for Children and Care Leavers that live in, or originate from, the Cheshire East Local Authority footprint. The number of Looked after Children has continued to rise steadily over the last eight years. At 31 March 2017 there were 72,670 looked after children in England, an increase of 2,220 on 2016, and an increase of 4,600 on 2013. At 31 March 2017, 62 children per 10,000 of the population were looked after, up from 60 children per 10,000 in the previous four years. On 31st March 2018, 477 children were registered as cared for by Cheshire East Council compared to 429 children on 31st March 2017; therefore the total population has risen by 11% during the year. In addition there are 203 children placed in Cheshire East Local Authority area by other local authorities.

The team responsible for co-ordinating health services for Cheshire East Council Cared for Children are employed by Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust and are co-located with local authority colleagues at Cledford House in Middlewich. The team consists of a Named Nurse for Safeguarding and Cared for Children, 2 Specialist Nurses Cared for Children, 1 Specialist Nurse 16+ and Transitions, and 2 Administrators.

A new Designated Nurse for Looked after Children and Care Leavers commenced in post in November 2017. This role is purely strategic and separate from any operational responsibilities within the Provider organisations. It is pivotal to strategic planning, quality assurance and performance monitoring and is essential in advising on the provision of services for vulnerable cared for children and care leavers within the health economy.

The post covers the four Cheshire CCGs and aims to standardise practice across all 4 areas to eliminate unwarranted variation in service delivery, and improve the health and wellbeing of all our cared for children.



Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

The Responsible Commissioner

NHS South Cheshire and Eastern Cheshire CCGs are the responsible commissioners of health services for cared for children who are taken into the care of Cheshire East Local Authority if they were registered with a GP within either NHS Eastern Cheshire or South Cheshire CCG at the time of entering care. They are the Originating CCG and they remain responsible for a child even when they are subsequently placed out of area.

When cared for children are placed out of area it is the responsibility of Cheshire East Local Authority as lead agency to notify health as stakeholders to ensure that children maintain access to relevant health services. This includes the Originating CCG (in this case either NHS Eastern Cheshire or South Cheshire CCG) and the Receiving CCG where the child or young person has been placed and registered with a GP (DOH 2015)

Payment by Results

The Department of Health, with NHS England, Monitor, the Royal Colleges and other partners, has developed a mandatory national currency and tariff for statutory health assessments for looked-after children placed out of area. NHS Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs are charging for statutory health assessments in line with the national tariff.

The Payment by Results tariff is aimed at improving quality, access to services and providing resources into local areas to meet the demand. Further development and implementation of the Payment by Results tariff for statutory health assessments has been completed by the new Looked After Children and Care Leavers Administrator.

NHS Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs have a process in place whereby prior to payment of invoices for cared for children placed out of area, assurance is provided through the provider service who quality assure all completed Review Health Assessments (RHAs). All cared for children placed into the Cheshire East Council area from other authorities have a health assessment completed as priority and this is not delayed due to invoicing arrangements.

Corporate Parenting

Accountability and scrutiny for the services provided to cared for children from multiagency partners is directed through the Corporate Parenting Board. The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children and Care Leavers represents NHS Eastern Cheshire and South Cheshire CCGs on Cheshire East's Corporate Parenting Board and is a member of the local authority Corporate Parenting Strategy Group, as well as the chair of the Priority 'Help me to be healthy' Group. These meetings are currently held quarterly. This arrangement allows greater scrutiny of local partnership working in relation to Cared for Children's health and enables more effective relationships as Corporate Family members.

NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

The following information provides assurance regarding the outcome indicators relating to health through the work of the Designated Nurse Looked After Children and Care Leavers, undertaken on behalf of NHS Eastern Cheshire and South Cheshire CCGs.

Key Performance Indicators

Initial Health Assessments

It is a regulatory requirement throughout England for each cared for child new into care to have a comprehensive health assessment and a health care plan in place prior to the first LAC review (which takes place at 20 working days from entry to care). Across Cheshire East there has been a continued focus on improving the timeliness of IHAs and RHAs over 2017-18. During Quarter 4, there were 64% of IHAs requested within 48 hours of coming into care, and 70% completed by paediatricians within the statutory requirement of 20 working days. This compares to 64% and 58% respectively, at the end of Quarter 4 2016-17. Close monitoring of this performance indicator is essential in order to improve performance in this area for the coming year.

Table 1: Cheshire East Children requiring IHA

Time frame	Request received with 48 hrs	IHA within 20 working days
Q4 2016-17	64%	58%
Q1 2017-18	57%	62%
Q2 2017-18	45%	43%
Q3 2017-18	63%	71%
Q4 2017-18	64%	70%

There is further work to do to achieve aspirations of ensuring that all children entering care are supported to have their health care needs identified and met in a timely way and this will continue to be a priority during 2018-19. The primary focus for action will be around:

- Review of the pathway to escalate late IHA requests which is shared across Cheshire.
- Greater scrutiny of cancelled and/or DNA appointments by senior children's social care managers.
- Programme of education and training for social care staff and carers by health practitioners in order to ensure the IHA process and pathway is understood, and the IHA forms, supporting information and referral letters are completed

Review Health Assessments (RHAs)





For children under 5 years it is a statutory requirement that an RHA should be completed twice in a 12 month period. For children and young people 5 years and above, an RHA is required annually.

RHAs are completed for all Cheshire East cared for children, and also for children placed in the Cheshire East area by other Local Authorities.

Reporting of performance with regards to timeliness of assessments continues to be monitored on a quarterly basis and discussed at the 'Help me to be Healthy' Group meetings, a Sub group of the Corporate Parenting Strategic Group. A collaborative approach has resulted in a visible improvement in the timeliness of RHAs. True partnership working is yielding positive results and this will continue throughout 2018-19.

At the end of 2017-18, **87.7%** of children who had been in the care of Cheshire East Council for more than 12 months had an up to date RHA. For those that were not completed within timescale, analysis of the contributing factors that lead to the breach is carried out to identify the areas where further work is required.

Date	% of Cheshire East children with an up to date he assessment	alth National data
31.03.15	95.9%	90%
31.03.16	70.8%	90%
31.03.17	90.9%	89%
31.03.18	87.7%	No data

National data source: Department of Education: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers), year ending 31 March 2017: additional tables: SFR 41/2016, December 2017

Dental Checks

It is recognised that there can be some difficulties with obtaining and reporting on dental data due to both the number of dental practices that cared for children are registered with, and the lack of a single method for collecting the information. The table below indicates the percentages of cared for children who were up to date with their dental check on 31.03.2018 and the 3 years before.

Table 3: Dental data

Date	% of Cheshire East children who have visited a dentist	National data
31.03.15	98%	86%
31.03.16	76%	84%
31.03.17	80%	83%

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31.03.18	85.2%	No data

It is anticipated that the actual number of children who have attended their dentist will be higher than this however difficulties in obtaining data for reporting continues to exist. Discussions regarding more reliable and less time consuming methods of obtaining this data will be taking place between the Designated Nurse and NHS England during 2018-19.

A number of children who come into care are not registered with a dentist and have not had a dental review due to neglect. If this is the case it will be added to the health care plan foster carers to action immediately.

Immunisations

National statistics indicate that at the end of 2017, slightly fewer children had their immunisations reported as up to date than in previous years (84% down from 87%).

Local data analysis indicates that on 31st March 2018, 95.5% of cared for children in Cheshire East had age appropriate immunisations. This is an excellent achievement and work will continue throughout 2018/19 to maintain such high performance in this area.

Developmental Checks

Compliance with the healthy child programme is excellent and has performance has remained at 100% for cared for children who have had a developmental check.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

It is recognised that there is a higher level of emotional and mental health issues amongst children and young people in care. At the end of March 2017 in England, the percentage of children in care with emotional and behavioural health that was considered normal was 49%, borderline was 12% and cause for concern was 38%. These figures have remained fairly stable over recent years.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a clinically validated brief behavioural screening questionnaire for use with 4-17 year olds. It provides information to help Social Workers form a view about the emotional well-being of individual children in care, and is the outcome measure used for tracking the emotional and behavioural difficulties of children in care at a national level.

Statutory guidance states that all children aged 4-17 years old should have an SDQ completed annually and in Cheshire East the first SDQ should be completed when the child or young person enters care. A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional





difficulties, with a score of 0 to 13 being considered normal, a score of 14 to 16 considered borderline cause for concern, and 17 or more a cause for concern.

On completion of an SDQ, there is a pathway in place which provides clear guidance on the action required in the event of a borderline or concerning score. This action may take the form of monitoring, advice and support for carers, the child/young person or other professionals working with the child, or a referral into a specialist service.

The table below details the percentages of children with normal, borderline and concerning Goodman's (Goodman and Scott, 2012) strengths and difficulties questionnaires (SDQ) scores. These were completed by carers in relation to 96% of 4-16 year olds which is an excellent compliance rate.

Year end	Average score	Normal range (under 14)	Borderline (14-17)	Concern (17+)
2013/14	14.2	45%	14%	41%
2014/15	13.4	50%	15%	34%
2015/16	14.6	46%	10%	45%
2016/17	14.6	44%	3%	53%
2017/18	14.0	48%	14%	38%

Table 4: SDQ scores

Substance Misuse

Nationally, 4% of children looked after were identified as having a substance misuse problem; the same as in both 2016 and 2015; 49% received an intervention (similar to previous years).

In Cheshire East there were 17 young people who were reported to have a substance misuse problem which represents 3.5% of the total cared for children population, slightly lower than the national figure. Of the 17 young people with a substance misuse problem reported, 4 received intervention (23.5%), 12 were offered intervention but refused (70.5%) and 1 was not offered intervention (6%).

Care Leavers Health Passports

All young people who leave care when they reach their 18th birthday should receive a summary of their health history. During 2017-18 there has been extensive work completed by the Clinical Nurse Specialist 16+ in the Cared for Children's Team to develop an effective system for ensuring that young people are leaving care at the age of 18 years with a meaningful, relevant summary of their health history. Engagement has been successful in a large proportion of cases and has involved an innovative and constantly evolving approach to access even the most hard to reach young people.

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The current format of the Health Passport has been developed with the involvement of young people therefore there is confidence that this document is appropriate and what they want. At the end of 2017-8 there were 52 young people who reached 18 during that year and 61.5% had received a Health Passport, handed to them personally by the Nurse Specialist who completed it. Feedback regarding these documents has been consistently positive.

As this was a new process, issues regarding gaining consent from the young people were identified as causing some delay/difficulty in completing the Health Passports. For 2018-19 the 16+ Nurse Specialist has begun to request consent when completing review health assessments from 16 years of age thus increasing the opportunities to obtain the required consent in time for the health passport to be completed prior to the young person reaching 18.

Training and Supervision of Health Professionals

'Looked after children: Knowledge, skills and competences of healthcare staff' (March 2015) is an Intercollegiate Role Framework written by the 'Royal College of General Practitioners', 'Royal College of Nursing' and 'Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health' to provide a framework of competencies required for Health Professionals who work with Cared for Children.

Health Professionals responsible for completing Review Health Assessments are required to demonstrate competence to Level 3 of this framework and at the end of 2017-18, 91% of all Health Professionals had attended Level 3 training during that year. Also, as part of the Quality Assurance process, training needs may be identified on an ad hoc basis and feedback to practitioners is provided by the Specialist Nurses for Cared for Children when required to ensure health assessments are of a consistently high quality that remain child focussed.

All Health Practitioners who are named professionals for Cared for Children received supervision for the C4C Specialist Nursing Team on a 3 monthly basis. This is an opportunity to review practice and monitor outcomes of health interventions. During training and supervision cycles, identification of C4C with SEND is essential to ensure that both the Review Health Assessment and the Education and Health Care Plans are interlinked and used to inform each other.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

During 2017-18 the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) has increased within the Cheshire East area. It is recognised that many of these young people have experienced significant adverse life events both within their countries of origin, and during their journeys to the UK. The resulting physical, emotional and mental health needs





of this group of young people can be particularly complex and specialist support services may be required.

In recognition of the unique health and wellbeing needs of this group of young people, a group has been set up with membership from partner agencies, including Health. The purpose of this group is to develop effective pathways to ensure that health needs are identified promptly, and that referrals to appropriate support services are being made. NHS England has also recognised that this is a concerning issue nationwide and is providing guidance across Regional Networks to enable services to work effectively.

Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership helps local young parents to increase their confidence and gives them the guidance and support required to give their baby the best start in life. Young parents are paired with a specially trained family nurse who visits them regularly; from the early stages of pregnancy until their child is two. The offer was extended in 2017-18 to first time pregnant vulnerable young people in care/care leavers up to the age of 24 (it was previously age 19).

Over the last year the Family Nurse Partnership in Cheshire East has worked with 11 mothers who are care leavers, 9 of whom are still active on the caseload (9% of current caseload). They have worked with 7 fathers who are care leavers and 2 families where both parents are care leavers.

They have 1 one client who is a young parent and currently a looked after child and 3 infants who are looked after.

Quality and Patient Experience

The voice of the child

It is widely acknowledged that there is need for the universal service offer to take full consideration of the specific needs of the cared for children population and amend delivery to promote their engagement. For example there should be flexibility in terms of appointment times and venues, and the involvement of cared for children and young people in the review or development of services designed to meet their health needs.

Obtaining feedback from children and young people is key to understanding their needs and promoting their engagement. This is an area for further development during 2018-19 and will be implemented through closer working with the local authority Participation Officers and My Voice (the Children in Care Council)

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Priorities for 2018-19

- Review of the SDQ strategy to ensure the completed scores inform the annual health assessment and care planning
- Strengthen the process for maintaining oversight of all our children and young people placed out of area
- Completion of Self Audit by Provider teams in line with commissioning standards: This will be used to benchmark current services provided against commissioning standards and identify areas where improvement/development is required
- Twice yearly Quality visit to Provider services to be completed by Designated Nurse: This will serve to provide assurance to the CCG that the services provided meet statutory requirements
- Review of the reporting arrangements by the Provider teams to the CCG: To enable the collection of qualitative data to support numerical data already collected and improve the understanding of the unique needs of our children and young people in care.
- Strengthening of training arrangements: Undertake a training need analysis of the multi-agency workforce to identify existing gaps in knowledge to promote delivery of statutory responsibilities and role as corporate parents. Develop a training strategy to develop interagency training across the health economy to improve the workforce knowledge and understanding of the LAC and Care Leaver population.
- Improving Services for Looked After Children as required by Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked after Children: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England (2015):

NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

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CORF		TING SCORE	ECARD 2018-19		Stat											C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate
Ref	Info available from	Commentary/ Lead		Polarity	Neigh	National Av	Target	Yr. end 17-18	Qu 1 18-19	Qu 2 18-19	Qu 3 18 19	- Qu 4 18 19	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments		Priority
Genera	al				AV												
G1	BI Team	Kerry Birtles	Number of cared for children				400-450	477	496	495				→	Statistical first release for 2017-18 confirms a national rise in the average rate of cared for children per 10,000 from 62 to 64. Statistical neighbour average has risen from 58 to 61, with rates ranging from 37 to 90. CE is positioned joint 4th highest. The Northwest average has risen from 86 to 91. In Q2 Cheshire East has experienced a significant reduction in the rate of individuals entering the care system falling from 56 in Q1 to 34 in Q2 (a reduction of 39%). This is in part due to a focus on permanency planning at the earliest stages of social work intervention and may reflect early indications of the success of Signs of Safety and the safety plans focussing on home and community based support.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
G2	BI Team	Kerry Birtles	Rate per 10,000 cared for children		61	64	52.7 - 59.3	62.9	65.4	65.3				\rightarrow	As above.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
G3	BI Team	Sam Ankers	Number of care leavers					207	214	217				1	This represents all eligible, relevant and former relevant care leavers who are supported with access to a Personal Advisor (PA) to offer help and guidance as they move to independence together with financial support as appropriate to individual needs.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Priority	/ 1 - Being a Goo	d Corporate Pa	irent			L	<u> </u>		I	I	I	I					
P1.1	Sue Preston	Sue Preston	Number of eligible children and young people accessing advocacy services	High is Good					57	51				\checkmark	Of the cases open in quarter 2, 44 were issue based cases, 24 in care, 14 Care Leavers, 5 Disability and 1 Asylum Seeker. The issues were 11 representation, 9 placement issues, 7 complaints, 7 contact to see own child, 4 transition, 2 legal issue 1 educational issue, 1 Financial, 1 age assessment and 1 inappropriate referral. The other 7 advocacy cases are open to children who were on a child protection plan.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P1.2	BI Team	Karen Chan	% cared for children reviews in timescales	High is Good				91.0%	97%	95%				↓	The performance continues to be good. Reviews that fall out of timescales are a theme considered at monthly performance meetings so the reasons for all relevant children are understood. Action, where required, is taken through supervision. The figure does not reflect the quality of reviews and outcomes for children and young people and the service is working to improve this. The priority focus on improvements expected in permanency plans being available at second reviews will also have a positive impact here as it will mean fewer reviews are cancelled, causing delays.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P1.3	BI Team	Karen Chan	% of children and young people involved in their reviews	High is Good				98.5%	98.5%	98%				→	The performance is good. 4 individuals identified as not involved in their review. Whilst every effort is made to actively involve children and young people in a variety of ways, they have the right to refuse to participate. 3 of the 4 individuals where this was recorded were aged 15+.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Priority	2 - Improved Ed	lucation, Emplo	oyment and Training								-	-				-	
P2.1	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% of cared for children accessing 2-4 yr old provision (quarterly)	High is Good			90%	97%	97%						This data is only produced on a termly basis.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.2	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	Percentage of completed PEPs (Termly)	High is Good			90%	94%	80%						This data is only produced on a termly basis. The Virtual School works closely with all relevant schools and social workers to ensure each pupil receives a completed PEP on a termly basis and that the content is reviewed to ensure each child and young person has access to the support they need. The recent Ofsted focussed visit report highlights the strength and proactivity of the Virtual School.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.3	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% attendance at primary school of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared for children at month end rather than those in care for 12mths which are published figs)	High is Good			96%	96%	97%	95%				\checkmark	The virtual School head is meeting advisors every 2 weeks to review attendance to set clear actions and targets. Attendance has improved from same time last year.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.4	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% attendance at secondary school of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared for children at month end rather than those in care for 12mths which are published figs)	High is Good			96%	94%	92%	95%				1	The Virtual School Head is meeting advisors every 2 weeks to review attendance to set clear actions and targets, attendance has improved from same time last year.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.5	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% of Primary pupils with less than 90% attendance (ytd)	Low is Good			8%	5%	6%	6%				1	The Virtual School head meets with advisors every 2 weeks to review all children with attendance below 90% to ensure that interventions are put into place. The Q2 figure is lower than the same time last year.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.6	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% of Secondary pupils with less than 90% attendance (ytd)	Low is Good			9%	11%	16%	18%					The Virtual School Head meets with advisors every 2 weeks to review all children below 90% this includes analysing data for exclusions due to impact on attendance. Actions and targets are in place with a clear tracking document to review.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.7	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	Number of Permanent Exclusions 1/2 termly - Primary	Low is Good				1	0	0				\rightarrow	No change from previous quarter.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.8	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	Number of Permanent Exclusions 1/2 termly - Secondary	Low is Good				0	0	0				\rightarrow	No change from previous quarter.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.9	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% of cared for children in good or outstanding schools	High is Good				60%	79%	82%				↑	The percentage has increased from the same period last year. Whilst it is the ideal that every individual is in a good or outstanding setting, a reduced Ofsted rating would not result in an automatic move for an individual. Rather the Virtual School, together with the setting, would ensure that the appropriate support was in place to ensure that the education of individuals was not compromised. A process is in place to risk assess any school below Good before a school move is confirmed, with regular reviews with the Virtual School Advisor to ensure children are making appropriate progress and effective support is in place.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.10	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	Number of children living in educational/ residential provision	Low is Good				9	8	8				1	No change from previous quarter.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.11	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% 16-18 year olds in Care that are NEET (monthly)	Low is Good				7%	6%	12%				1	Every young person is discussed at NEET Panel (Post-16 Virtual School Advisor and Permanence Team) which is held every month to ensure that clear interventions are put into place to support moving young people back into education.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.12	Laura Rogerson/ scorecard	Laura Rogerson	% 16-18 year old Care leavers that are NEET	Low is Good				12%	20%	50%				↑	There are a total of 40 individuals in the 17-18 birthday cohort. Currently there are 13 NEET who are able to work and being supported by a PA. Whilst 2 are unable to work, 1 is involved with re-engagement provision and 1 in positive activities. The remaining are unable to work due to either mental health issues, disability/ illness or pregnancy/ parenting.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3



CORF	DRPORATE PARENTING SCORECARD 2018-19																
Ref	Info available from	Commentary/ Lead		Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 17-18	Qu 1 18-19	Qu 2 18-19	Qu 3 18 19	- Qu 4 18 19	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
P2.13	Sam Ankers	Sam Ankers	% of care leavers accessing Higher Education (University)	High is Good				10%	9%	9%				\rightarrow	No change since the last quarter, however, many courses will not be confirmed until the end Sept/ beginning of October so it is possible that there will be a change in Q3.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.14	Sam Ankers	Sam Ankers	Number of Cheshire East care leavers in apprenticeships (18+)	High is Good				7	9	10					Increase of one young person starting an apprenticeship. All apprenticeships are external. Two are with a commissioned service (Ringway Jacobs).	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.15	Sam Ankers	Sam Ankers	% 19 - 21 year Care leavers NEET	Low is Good				23%	52%	57%				↑	There are currently 39 individuals in the 19th birthday cohort - 17 are in education, employment and training (EET) and 22 are not (NEET - 7 of which are engaged in positive activities). There are 35 individuals in the 20th birthday cohort - 15 are EET and 20 are NEET (9 of which are engaged in positive activity and 1 with no contact). There are 41 individuals in the 21st birthday cohort - 18 are EET and 23 are NEET (6 engaged in positive activity) Of this cohort 6 individuals are in custody. If you include those engaging in positive activity the percentage drops to 37%.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P2.16	Sam Ankers	Sam Ankers	21-25 year olds in EET	High is Good											Currently exploring what is routinely captured when 21-25 yr olds get in touch - developments in the system will be required to report around this.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
Priorit	y 3 - Achieving Pe	ermanence and	Staying Safe	I					1			1		1		•	I
P3.1	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of cared for children in internal foster care	High is Good				150	158	147				→	The overall percentage of cared for children in internal foster care has remained the same, with slightly more individuals still in CE/ Friends and family placements (211 compared to 119 in external foster care). This remains a positive impact as internal foster carers will be within CE, and will most likely result in less disruption for individuals in terms of continuity of schools and access to friends/ family network where possible. This will also impact positively on budgets as the cost of an internal placement is substantially less than external foster care. Excluding respite beds we are currently at 83% occupancy levels, in line with last quarter. Of the 28 vacant beds only 4 are currently available.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.2	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of cared for children in external foster care	Low is Good				112	112	119				\rightarrow	Whilst the number of cared for children in external foster care remains fairly static, we are still focussed on achieving a reduction in the use of independent foster agencies where possible, through our ongoing collaborative work with Foster4.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.3	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children and young people in residential care	Low is Good				36	35	36				→	The number of individuals in residential provision remains static, albeit still higher than we would like to see, particularly given the high use of independent provision. We are currently completing the tendering process and contract awards for the reestablishment of Cheshire East based children's homes in order to ensure that where residential provision is required, those individuals will remain within Cheshire East and therefore receive consistency of health and education provision.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.4	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% cared for children placed over 20 miles from home address (Cheshire East and out of borough)	Low is Good				24%	24%	24%				\rightarrow	Excluding unaccompanied asylum seekers, 115 individuals are placed over 20 miles from home (15 in LA, 100 out of LA boundaries). Of these, 40 are placed with either family and friends, placed for adoption, with their own parents or in a long term matched placement and a further 5 in residential schools.		Outcome 5
P3.5	Jacqui Hall	Kerry Birtles	% of cared for children with a plan for permanence endorsed at 2nd review	High is Good					72%	70%				$ \downarrow$	30% of children and young people had a plan that was not endorsed, which is a similar position to last quarter and reflects continued scrutiny and challenge around ensuring the best outcomes for individuals. The rest remain subject to ongoing court proceedings.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.6	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children who have achieved permanence in foster care	High is Good				110	95	93				1	Of the 93 placements, 48 are matched to CE foster carers and 45 to external foster carers.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.7	Tim Rhodes	Jacqui Hall	Number of children who require a long term home	Low is Good											These are children who have a permanency plan of long term care but they are not in their long term placement yet - we are currently looking at how we can extract this data.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.8	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children that moved homes in the quarter	Low is Good					97	115				1	115 individuals moved home in the quarter, either in a planned or unplanned way. Analysis of placement moves and stability are forming part of the developing work around regular permanency planning sessions.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.9	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of stability meetings held												Data currently under development - disruption or stability meeting as an option for drop down in existing form to be developed in conjunction with reporting capabilities.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.10	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children placed with parents					43	40	44				1	There are currently 44 individuals placed with parents (14 of these are s38(6) placements). 6 of these placements are out of borough.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.11	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children in care living with Friends and Family					77	75	63				\downarrow	This relates to 50 friends and family placements and 13 reg 24 placements. 15 are placed out of borough and 48 in CE boundaries.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.12	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of children ceased to be looked after due to granting of special guardianship order (SGO) - year to date figure	High is Good				26%	15%	24%				1	In Q2 11 out of 34 children ceased to be cared for due to granting of a special guardianship order (SGO). A designated Special Guardianship Support Team offers support to these children up until aged 18, if required.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.13	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Number of children with an adoption decision					40	44	51				↑	There are 51 cared for children where the plan is for adoption. This includes 17 already placed with prospective adoptive carers/ foster to adopt and 18 awaiting Placement Orders. Cheshire East arrangements within the new Regional Adoption Agency are developing with a performance framework which robustly scrutinises drift and delay for children who are placed within their prospective adoptive family.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.14	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of children ceased to be looked after due to adoption - year to date figure	High is Good				10%	6%	10%				1	In Q2 5 out of 34 children ceased to be cared for as they achieved permanence via adoption. The total for the year to date is 7.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.15	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with adoptive family (This has changed to 14 months from 16 months)	High is Good				71%	78%	80%				↑	Please note that this indicator has reduced to being monitored at 14 month rather than 16 months in previous scorecards. Cheshire East remains well ahead of the national target. The target is based on the England average that was provided by DfE on the adoption scorecards.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.16	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family (A1 national indicator)	Low is Good		558	426	380	293	302				1	Cheshire East performance has improved steadily year on year since this became monitored through the Adoption data set, from an initial position of over 700 days down to 293 in the latest quarter.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.17	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Average number of days between placement order and match with adoptive family (A2 national indicator)	Low is Good		226	121	81	108	128					This has been rated as amber as it now exceeds the national target albeit we are substantially better than the national average.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5

COR		NTING SCOR	ECARD 2018-19		Stat			_		_	_		_				Comparate
Ref	Info available from	Commentary/ Lead		Polarity	Stat Neigh	National Av	Target	Yr. end 17-18	Qu 1 18-19	Qu 2 18-19		- Qu 4 18 19	RAG	Quarterly dir of trave		C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
P3.18	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family/ foster carer who becomes adoptive family	Low is Good	Av		426	368	293	292				\checkmark	Cheshire East performance has improved steadily year on year since this became monitored through the Adoption data set, from an initial position of over 700 days down to 293 in the latest quarter.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P3.19	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of individuals aged 16-18 leaving care through independence						69%	83%				↑	Of the 15 16-18 year olds who left care in quarter 2, 12 achieved independence, the other 3 remained in staying put arrangements.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Priorit	y 4 - Improve Hea	Ith and Wellbe	ing Outcomes		<u>I</u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		1	1	1					1
P4.1	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of initial health assessments requested within 48 hours of coming into care	High is Good				68%	72%						A meeting is in place for the New Year to revisit the process and recording to ensure alignment of the figures reported by Health and the local authority. This is likely to be due to the time lapses between information being recorded on each agency's systems between requests being sent by the LA and received by the relevant health department and completed assessments being finalised by Health and received by the LA. In order to present the most accurate picture once the analysis has been completed, a retrospective position for the year will be published.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P4.2	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of initial health assessments completed by paediatricians within 20 working days	High is Good				57% (63%)	65%							4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P4.3	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	% of review health assessments completed (ytd fig)	High is Good				88%	79%	80%				1	At the end of September 2018, there were 495 cared for children, 27 of which had no initial health assessment recorded, 396 had health assessments recorded within timescale and 72 had health assessments overdue.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P4.4	Shan McParland	Shan McParland	Number of care leavers with a health passport	High is Good					85%	47%				\checkmark	In quarter 2 15 individuals turned 18 and, of those, 7 received a health passport. There are still some developments to full sharing of GP data and consent from young people to access all relevant data and ensuring all appropriate information is held on the young person's record.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P4.5	Sam Ankers	Sam Ankers	Number of pregnant care leavers (eligible, relevant and former relevant) 16+	Low is Good				8	1	3				1	Two extra young people identified as being pregnant in Q2.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P4.6	Jacqui Hall	Steve Nevitt	% of young people with a SDQ score of 20 or above	Low is Good				24%	22%	22%				\rightarrow	There are currently 65 individuals with an SDQ score of 20 or above recorded on the system. The highest score is 35	3 Good emotional and mental health and wellbeing	Outcome 5
P4.7	Nadine Warde		% of young people where we have undertaken an emotional wellbeing screening tool													3 Good emotional and mental health and wellbeing	Outcome 5
P4.8	Bev Harding	Bev Harding	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				27	9	11				↑		2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Priorit	y 5 - Preparing fo	r Adulthood															L
P5.1	BI Team	Sam Ankers	Number/ % of care leavers with an up to date pathway plan	High is Good						95%				\rightarrow	young people have a plan.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.2	BI Team	Sam Ankers	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High is Good				97%	93%	94%				\rightarrow	Of the 115 individuals in this cohort there are 8 deemed to be in unsuitable accommodation - 6 of these relate to individuals in custody. The other 2 relate to 1 individual who currently has no fixed abode and 1 individual refusing to engage in contact albeit all reasonable attempts are being made to ensure they are safe and supported.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.3	BI Team	BI Team	The number of young people with a CSE plan - All Individuals					5	Supressed	Supressed				÷	Whilst the numbers on a formal plan are suppressed, CSE is still being identified as a potential issue at all levels. 44 contacts were received in Q2 where CSE was a possible area of concern for one or more members in the family, 15 of which were accompanied by a screening tool. 17 of these met the threshold for specialist priority. There were 18 assessments completed in quarter with a CSE risk considered and explored. The Safeguarding Unit conducted a thematic audit which looked at the use of the screening tool to evidence the risks or otherwise to the child. As a result there is an action plan to increase the number of screening tools completed to evidence escalating and de-escalating risk. This coincides with the launch of the new child exploitation screening tool across all agencies and training to support understanding and awareness an it is to be expected that this will drive improvement.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.4	Jacqui Hall	Jacqui Hall	%/ number of individuals aged 16-18 that return home to parents (ytd)					17%	14%	11%				\downarrow	Of the 9 individuals who have left care in the year to date to return home to their parents 1 is aged 16+.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.5	Sarah Ramsey Louisa Joyce	Keith Martin	Number of cared for children that transition to adult services												restructure.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.6	Sarah Probert	Jacqui Hall	Number of individuals in staying put arrangement					10	11	11				\rightarrow		2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.7	Lisa Blanchard	Lisa Blanchard	Number of individual offences committed by cared for children	Low is Good					18	14				\checkmark	sentenced during quarter 2.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.8	Lisa Blanchard	Lisa Blanchard	Number of cared for children offending	Low is Good					Supressed	Supressed				\rightarrow	The number of current cared for children offending is supressed due to the figure being less than 5 - from a percentage perspective it would be rounded to 0.5%.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5

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Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board

LSCB Annual Report 2017-18 & Business Plan Priorities 2016-18

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Foreword from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2017-18 Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board (CESCB). The reports shows that in Cheshire East we have continued to build on the strong partnership foundation to meet the many challenges facing agencies in ensuring that we are not only keeping children and young people safe but also improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

We hope that you will find that the report helps you to better understand how organisations and people work together and the contribution the Safeguarding Board has made to this. It sets out how these arrangements can continue to improve on the basis of the Safeguarding Board and partners being able to objectively and critically learn from what works well and act to improve what may not work as well as was intended.

In January 2018 we had our annual development/planning day where we reviewed the progress against the 2017-19 Business Plan; considered the effectiveness of the board and developed our vision and values to underpin the new Future Arrangements. In order to improve our effectiveness we have redesigned the way that reports are received at the board; introduced themed sessions – so that we can consider what is working well, what we need to improve and the actions that we are going to take as a partnership. The themed sessions have been scheduled in 2018-19 and include Early Help, Health Assessments for Cared for Children, Neglect and the Integrated 'Front Door'. We also reflect on our effectiveness at the end of each meeting.

As Independent Chair I am committed to ensuring our children, young people and their families have a voice and are heard. Capturing and responding to 'Voice of the Child' is a strength in Cheshire East working alongside the excellent work that is done by the Safeguarding Children in Education Team. You can read more about the work that we have done on page 15 of this report.



We start each board meeting with partners giving a 10 minute spotlight as to how they engage with Children and Young People and the impact that is having.

Our vision for the Children in Cheshire East is:

'It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential'

You can read more about our strategic commitment and the values

The continuing challenge will be maintaining the progress of the last few years, through a time of policy change and new national priorities that include changes to Safeguarding Boards; without losing sight of what matters – the safeguarding of children in Cheshire East.

This report covers 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and highlights the activity, progress and challenges faced by CESCB with a particular focus on the journey of the child; the refresh of both the Neglect and Early Help Strategies; Fact 22 (Project Crewe) and the impact this initiative has had on engagement with families, improvements in relation to number of families being supported through early help and the reduction in size of caseloads for social workers in one of the more challenging localities in Cheshire East. We have set out the achievements made in 2017 -18 and the areas where we need to continue to make improvements.

As you read through the pages of this report you will gain an insight into the work of the Board, how we audit, review, learn and invest in partnerships with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of our children. There is no doubt that there is much to celebrate in our work, but much more that we can do. We are committed to continuous improvement and strive to improve the lives of children who are neglected or in need of early help, those who live with the toxic trio of parental domestic abuse, substance misuse or poor mental health and those who are at risk of child sexual exploitation. We are determined to tackle these issues from every possible angle, to improve practice, to better engage with children and communities and to build stronger partnerships.

To conclude, I would like to thank members of the Board, across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in Cheshire East. We will continue to seek out what we can do better, to support the community we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.

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

Gill Frame, Independent Chair, Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board

Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board

Background

Working Together, 2015 (WT15), the statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LCSBs) 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. In June 2018 Working Together 2018 was published, this sets the same annual report expectation. 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

<u>Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board</u> (CESCB) consists of senior representatives from agencies working 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 holds all agencies to account. The main role of 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.

Our Collective Vision for the Children and Young People of Cheshire East

It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential.

We aim to do this through our collective commitment to:

- Strategic Leadership across the partnership to make the safety of children and young people a priority
- Challenge through focused inquiries or investigations into particular practice or issues on the basis of evidence, practitioner experience and the views of children and young people, in order for us to improve together

Learning – to achieve the highest standards of development and to ensure all practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective

This will include listening to the voice of children and young people and using what we hear to inform best practice.

The shared values that are at the heart of all we do and that we actively demonstrated through our behaviours and promote throughout our respective organisations:

We will:

- Actively involve children and young people and their families, as what they say will shape the way that we work;
- Listen to front line practitioners and their managers and take their views into account;
- Act in an open and transparent way and foster a culture of challenge, scrutiny and support across the partnership;
- Ensure that our staff have the skills, support and supervision to keep children and young people safe;
- Share information and intelligence that will enable us to keep our children and young people safe;
- Celebrate strengths and positive achievement. We are committed to continuously improve;
- Embed the principles of 'signs of safety' across our partnership;
- Work with other strategic partnerships in Cheshire East to ensure that our plans are aligned in order to maximise the opportunities for children and young people.

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 – comprising representatives from key statutory 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 and Task and Finish Groups (Cheshire East) – these groups work on the board's priority areas on a targeted and thematic basis. They report to the Executive and are ultimately accountable to the Main Board.

Operating at March 2018 were:

Sub-groups

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

Task and Finish Groups

- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Early Help

Sub groups (Pan-Cheshire) – CECSB works closely with the other Cheshire LSCBs on certain areas to maximise the opportunity for streamlined processes across our boundaries. The following Pan-Cheshire sub-groups are currently in operation:

Harmful Practices

- Child Death Overview Panel
 Child Exploitation
- Policies and Procedures
- Youth Custody

Key Roles

Independent Chair – The Independent Chair for Cheshire East is Gill Frame.

The Independent Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the local authority. During 2017/18 the Acting Chief Executive of Cheshire East was **Kath O'Dwyer**. It is her role to appoint or remove the LSCB chair. The Chief Executive meets regularly with the Independent Chair through the Safeguarding Review Meeting to maintain an overview of the effectiveness of the board, to hear any safeguarding concerns and to challenge the performance of the Board.

The Director of People's Services was **Mark Palethorpe**, who holds the role of Director of Children's Services and is a member of the main Board. He had responsibility to ensure that the CESCB functions effectively and liaised closely with the Independent Chair and also attends the Safeguarding Review Meetings.

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. **Clir George Hayes** represented the Council up to the November 2017 board meeting when **Councillor Jos Saunders** took over. The Board would like to thank **Clir George Hayes** for his contribution to the work of the Board. The Lead Member contributes to the CESCB as a 'participating observer', i.e. they take part in the discussion, but are not part of the decision making process.

Lay Member – Lukhvinder Kaur.

Children and Young People's Challenge Champions – a strength of the Board is its commitment to ensure that the voice of children and young people is a key focus of the Board. **Voice for Children** are care leavers and Members of the Board. They work with young people in Cheshire East to represent their voices on the Board. **Liam Hill** continues to carry out this role on behalf of the Board. Partner agencies are also asked to share with the Board their approaches to children and young people's participation in their service developments.

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) – CESCB links with the Health and Wellbeing Board and is held to account for key safeguarding issues for children in Cheshire East. 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 CECSB 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.

Partnership Key Lead Areas

Key partnerships agreed the following leads for shared priority areas:

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

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

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 CESCB is represented on this Network.

Board Membership and Attendance

The Board is well attended by key partners. A summary of Board membership and attendance for 2017-18 is in Appendix 2.

Financial Arrangements 2017-18

The finances of the Board for 2017-18, including member contributions are at Appendices 3 and 4.
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 75400 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.

8.8% of primary pupils are entitled to free school meals (an indicator of deprivation), compared to 14.2% nationally and 8.4% of secondary pupils compared to 13.3% 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 backgrounds are reported to be White British (87% of primary pupils and 89% of secondary pupils), albeit the ration has reduced slightly from last year

There are just under 100 different first languages recorded for primary and secondary pupils, although only 6.9% of primary pupils and 4.7% of secondary pupils have a first language other than English, compared to national figures of 21.2% and 16.6%, respectively, so although increased from last year it is at a lesser rate than the increase nationally.

The number on a child protection plan has increased from 275 on 31st March 2017 to 286 on the 31st March 2018

At any one time during 2017-18 there were between 7-11 disabled children on a child protection plan.

As at 31st March 2017, 477 children and young people were cared for by Cheshire East which is an 11% increase from last year; 21.7% of these live outside Cheshire East and more than 20 miles from home.

The Child's Journey in Cheshire East Cheshire East Consultation Service

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 referrers are required to have a telephone discussion with a qualified social worker and are advised on the level of need for the child and family and the appropriate next steps. Co-location of the police, the multiagency missing from home service, the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service, and domestic abuse hub within the front door arrangements at 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%)
2016/17	10,432	3438 (33%)
2017/18	9536	2976 (31%)

Number of consultations over the past four years that resulted in a referral to children's social care

There has been a 9% reduction in consultation activity since last year which is at similar levels to those seen in 2015-16. Conversion to referral has reduced by 2% to 31%

There has been an average of 795 consultations and 250 referrals a month over the past year.

Early Help

Prevention and Early Help Service.

Recent years has seen an increasing demand for family support services, often with the issues that families are facing becoming increasingly complex. The Early Help Brokerage Service is a service with a dedicated team whose aim is the swift allocation of early help cases. This will provide timely referrals to early help, and identification of the best service to meet the needs of the child or young person and their family.

During 2017-18 ChECS received 9536 contacts of which 2985 were passed to Early Help Brokerage Service. Overall this was 31% of ChECS contacts, and has remained fairly static since the start of EHB

CESCB will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of the front door and responses to early help in 2017-18.

The Local Authority aims to ensure that family support services are offered across a Continuum of Need with the right level of support meeting the right level of need.

The Local Authority remains committed to our Safeguarding Improvement Plan and an effective range of services are in place across the continuum to meet need. This includes:

- High quality advice and information through the Family Information Service support to our partners to engage with and deliver Signs of Wellbeing early help services, and supported access to more targeted services through CHECs and the Early Help brokerage.
- The Early Start service will deliver services in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and support families to achieve social mobility and early childhood health and ensuring localised intervention strategies between Children Centers and Maintained, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) childcare settings.

- EYFS will be embedded throughout the early year's services.
- Children Centers embed the Parent Journey consistently across all centers as the service universal offer.
- Family Support is offered across the continuum of need, and resources are aligned to need across level 2 Targeted and Level 3 Complex caseloads.
- Family Support services lead the council provision for parenting interventions.
- Supporting young people who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) to access provision post 16.

Local authority	Completed in 45 days			
	2014 -15	2015-16	2016-17	
England	81%	83%	83%	
North West	82%	83%	81%	
Cheshire East	72%	89%	88%	
Cheshire West & Chester	84%	82%	87%	
Warrington	88%	81%	74%	
East Riding of Yorkshire	78%	75%	74%	
North Yorkshire	91%	95%	92%	
Solihull	57%	83%	81%	
Warwickshire	85%	84%	74%	
Central Bedfordshire	97%	95%	93%	
Hampshire	79%	88%	90%	
West Berkshire	71%	86%	97%	
North Somerset	56%	57%	62%	

Children in Need and Child Protection

Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days nationally, regionally and for our statistical neighbours. 2017-18 data will not be released until October 2018.

Assessment timescales

3098 social care assessments were completed in 2017-18, 86% of these were completed within 45 day, and 1116 of these were ended following assessment with the individual not being in need of social care support.

Children in Need

A child in need (CIN) is defined 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. As at 31st March 2018 there were 2182 open episodes as per the CIN census guidance. This compares with 2183 at the end of March 2016. This equates to a rate of 289.4 per 10,000 of the 0-17 population compared to 263.2 in 2017. Last year our statistical neighbour average was 292.5 so we sit in the mid-range of the group and we were substantially lower than the national and northwest figures of 330.4 and 372.3 respectively.

Child Protection

When the local authority receives a referral and information has been gathered during an assessment (which may have been very brief), in the course of which a concern arises that a child maybe suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, the local authority is required by Section 47 (S47) of the Children Act 1989 to make enquiries.

• The number of S47's initiated within the year was 786, a small increase of 2.5% from the previous year (767) but

substantially less than the 2014/15 figure of 914.

- The number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) undertaken in the year was 397, an increase of 13.4% from last year (350) and similar to the 2014/15 figure of 426. The percentage of S47's going onto ICPC has increased to 51% from 46% in the previous 2 years.
- The number of Child Protection Plans (CPP) started during the year was 362 which is an increase of 11% from the previous year (327), but still slightly less than 2014/15 figure of 394.
- The number of children becoming subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time has increased from 17.4% in the previous year to 17.7%.
- ICPCs taking place within 15 days has increased again to 84.3% from 80.4% in 2017/18.

Key Indicators	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
CPPs lasting 2	2.1%	5.7%	0%	0%	0.5%	1.1%
years or more						
CPP for a 2 nd or	15.1%	15.9%	13.9%	22.9%	17.4%	17.7%
subsequent time						
CP cases reviewed	97.9%	91.3%	89.1%	99.5%	99.0%	94.7%
within required						
timescales						
ICPC within 15	85.4%	87.9%	41.7%	69.7%	80.4%	84.3%
days						

Child protection numbers 2012-18

Cared for children are those that are looked after by the local authority either voluntarily or through a statutory order. As at 31 March 2018, 477 children and young people were being cared for by the local authority, an increase of 11.7% from the previous year. This is higher than the Northwest average and in line with the latest available national average. For the second year regionally we are reporting a rise in cared for children so it is likely that an increase will also be reflected nationally once data is released.

- 21.7% live outside the local authority area and over 20 miles from home;
- 36 live in residential children's homes;
- 9 live in residential specialist school as at March 2018;
- 343 children and young people in foster placements; of these 141 (41.1%) live out of the local authority area;
- We also supported a number of individuals who presented as unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) with support and advice including accommodation, where appropriate.

The figures show a high number of young people live out of the area; in reality many of these 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. 23 Children placed with a relative/friend were placed outside CE (28.8% of those placed with family/friends).

In the last 12 months a total of 146 children have ceased to be cared for by the Local Authority. Of these, 15 children have been adopted; 38 children became subject of special guardianship orders; 36 individuals have left care due to turning 18.

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 57, our performance is still at the lower end of our comparator group.

Care Leavers

As at 31 March 2018 there were 207 care leavers in Cheshire East. This has increased slightly over the last 12 months and is marginally higher than the 199 in March 2017.

Families Achieving Change Together

Families Achieving Change Together (FACT22 previously known as Project Crewe) has had a positive impact during 2017-18 with a reduction in referrals to children's social care of 8%. Repeat referrals have reduced from 25% to 22% and they are now in line with the national average. The overall impact has been that the average open caseload in Crewe CIN/CP has reduced from over 1000 to around 600 during the period that FACT22 has been in place. It is one of only 9 of the 50+ Round 1 Innovation Programme projects invited to take part in a longitudinal study. This follow up evaluation will track the outcomes for the families involved in the original Randomised Control Trial in order to assess sustained impact and will be a great opportunity for Catch22 and Cheshire East to showcase how their continued partnership has impacted positively on the areas children and families. Catch 22 and Cheshire East have also contributed to research conducted by Research in Practice, a national training and development resource that supports evidence informed practice with children and families. This research looks at best practice in effective Commissioner-Provider relationships when commissioning

innovative services.

Emotionally Healthy Schools Programme

Phase 2 of the Emotionally Healthy Schools (EHS) programme is now well under development with 5 components:

- Access to specialist mental health advice (single point of access) and a brokerage model to support professionals working with Children and Young people (CYPMH Link Programme), which is now delivered by CWP;
- 2. Access to tools and support to schools to implement the tools (Tools for Schools) which is now delivered by Visyon;
- 3. Educational specialist Leadership Programme, led by Middlewich High School;
- 4. Systems and processes to identify and support vulnerable children and young people to thrive;
- 5. Development of 'Getting Advice' including on-line platform.

This programme of work is now a key element of the Cheshire East Clinical Commissioning Group Local Transformation Plan for Young People's Mental Health, which is governed via the Children and Young People's Strategy Group which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The project was highly commended in the National Local Government Chronicle awards in March 2018.

Review of Priorities for 2017-18

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 CECSB 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 and has committed to continuing with these through 2017/19:

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 Contextual Safeguarding.
- 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 CECSB business through:

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is central to CECSB business
- Engaging children and young people in co-producing information and support relevant to them

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- Ensuring that the CECSB 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 CECSB'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

Improvements against the Priorities

Improving CESCB's engagement with frontline staff

CESCB e-bulletins

CECSB has continued to publish its e-bulletin, Newsflash and Frontline Bulletin. These have covered a variety of topics including

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Youth Justice Service AwardSingle Agency Reports to
- ConferencePAN Cheshire Safeguarding
- Procedures
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Learning and Development
- Signs of Safety

- Threshold of Need Guidance
- Neglect case studies in Early Help cases
- Local Government Chronicle
 Awards
- November Children's Rights Month
- DfE child Protection Campaign
- Safer Internet Day

Feedback from Board members has been that this method of communication is effective in supporting them in promoting CECSB and in disseminating safeguarding information within their services.

Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people

• Spotlight – The Voice of the Child

Board meetings now start with a partner agency sharing an example of their practice in developing participation by children and young people in their safeguarding work.

• November Children's Rights Month (NCRM)

November Children's Right's Month is an annual celebration of children's rights across the borough. CESCB members took part in a range of activities including the 'takeover takeaway' developed by young people for adults to experience life for them. Within Cheshire East we worked with Cheshire East Youth Council to make it a celebration of the positive participation of Children and Young People for services within Cheshire East.

Key events include -

Reverse takeover month is where professionals choose a challenge set by young people. The aim of the challenge is to become a young person for that chosen activity, professionals choose from a menu card and then complete an evaluation form at the end of the challenge. You can read about the challenges further in this report. Page

- "Hands up for children's rights day" was the 16 November where all staff were asked to put their hands up. This year was slightly different as we asked that all staff who put their hands up also made a pledge of how they are going to make a commitment within their work to improve diversity and equality. This was a huge success and completed pledges are attached and will be sent back to teams to review as part of their development during 2018.
- National Take Over Day is where young people have the opportunity to become a professional for the day and run a specific area of business. This year four young people took over being managers and directors for the day, all young people and managers have reported back on the day later in this report.

• Act Now Conference 2017

This event featured input from a number of schools on a range of issues



- 'TWISTA' Eaton Bank
- 'The Pride Youth network; a year on' -Poynton High
- 'Child to Parent Violence' – Adelaide
- Bullying' Brine Leas

- 'Missing' Sandbach Boys
 School
- 'Child Sexual Exploitation- the radio show' St Thomas More
- Big Sisters' Sandbach
 School
- 'Sticky Situations Solved!' -Middlewich High

Individual Board members agreed to link with the schools and conduct a follow up visits supported by SCIES to thank them for their involvement with the Act Now conference and to be a 'champion' for the work they are doing going forward.



The Act Now Event generated calls for action that were presented to the Board by Liam Hill that have been integrated into the Board's business plan.

- Improve communication and promotion of local services regarding CSE to all young people to raise awareness and understanding of CSE i.e. Deliver interactive sessions and provide information through assemblies and lessons in school, Enable young people to hear directly from people who have survived CSE
- Continue to raise awareness of both radicalisation and extremism and what action young people should take if they have concerns someone is vulnerable to this.

All members were also asked to consider their own services websites in relation to LGBT.

The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East.

• Continuing to drive developments around Child Sexual

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Exploitation

From March 2017 until July 2018 the CSE Operational Group operated as in previous. From August it altered to be managed through the multi-agency MFH/CSE team. The new model is 2 shorter groups held, one North and one South to ensure that appropriate professionals for the geographic area are present. Four meetings were held in the previous format then 7 meetings in both South and North.

There were 26 referrals for young people at risk of CSE that were considered in 2017-2018. Of these, 22 (88%) were flagged as being at risk of CSE and for continued monitoring by the group, which is a 73% increase on 16/17. This suggests that the monitoring and scrutiny of CSE Tools provided by the Integrated MFH and CSE Team is ensuring that appropriate cases are being identified.

The referrals were from a range of agencies, schools (50%), Cheshire East Council (CEFS, Youth Prevention and Children's Social Care) (31%), Youth Justice (4%), CAMHS (4%), School Nursing (4%), A&E (4%) and Catch22 (4%). Of the school referrals, half initially had concerns identified via the police however the schools were the best placed professionals to complete a robust CSE Screening Tool to ensure an appropriate referral to the CSE Operational Group due to there being no other professionals involved. There was no identifiable common pattern and they were identified through reports to police from parents directly. There was overall improvements in quality in the screening tools that led to referrals, with some good evidence of multi-agency collaboration in completion. Girls were 92% of those identified as at risk. This is an ongoing trend from previous years reporting. It is known through national statistics and regional North West statistics (via TITAN) that there continues to be a low number of males identified and flagged due to CSE concerns.

Young people identified were aged between 13-18 years, the majority of flagged cases (87.5%) were 13-15 and the remainder (12.5%) being 16+. Based on previous reporting periods, the youngest children have been 12; this change indicates that children aged below 13 are being escalated for Children's Social Care Intervention and not being managed at CAF Level due to the nature of concerns.

Work in these key areas is regularly reported into the CECSB to ensure focus.

• 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.

There has been a positive and substantial reduction in the number of individuals going missing in quarter 4 of 2017/18. A total of 339 individuals were reported as missing from home in Cheshire East in 2017/18. A small element of these will also be reported in the missing from care figures as the presenting issues may have resulted in the individual being taken into care. This is a positive picture however as it is a reduction of 11% on the previous year.

• Trafficking

A number of victims and perpetrators of modern slavery have already been identified across our boroughs, reinforcing the sad reality that modern slavery exists here, today, just as it does in others parts of the UK.

Modern slavery involves the abuse and coercion of vulnerable people. As such, it constitutes a safeguarding issue and, learning from our work around CSE, Forced Marriage, FGM and radicalisation, agencies across Cheshire are well placed to tackle it effectively. However, it presents a great number of overlapping issues and crimes which require a strong, coherent partnership response. It is essential that all of us across the public sector recognise that protecting people from slavery and exploitation is everybody's business, and part of our day job as professionals who work continuously to safeguard and support those at risk. The Pan-Cheshire vision will be delivered through four priorities:

- 1. Embed the Modern Slavery Act into mainstream activity
- 2. Improve awareness, understanding and identification
- 3. Develop a positive protection and support system for victims
- 4. Hold perpetrators to account and promote appropriate prosecutions

• Continuing to drive developments around children in a home with domestic abuse

Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (CEDSAP) undertook the following directly addressing Children and Young People's work.

1. High Risk Cases

There has been a 17% reduction in high risk/MARAC cases over the last three years and a parallel rise in early help seeking through the Domestic Abuse Hub sited alongside ChECS. 576 children have been heard at MARAC which is a decrease from the 663 last year and 782 in 2015-16.

"They gave me support. Which in my case is what I needed. My daughter needed support too. But they advised me where to go. They were in constant contact which is excellent"

2. Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)

Specialist Services (IDVA, Barnardo's and Cheshire Without Abuse) continue to be present at all initial conferences where domestic abuse is a factor, regardless of whether the case is open to services in order to broker support and advise on appropriate interventions. Domestic abuse was identified as a factor in 36% of 273 notifications sent. In addition to these a further 9% referrals were open to domestic services but had come to conference for other reasons, making a total of 45% ICPCs where domestic abuse is a factor.

"Just wanted to raise a positive piece of work undertaken by (IDVA) in an ICPC I have chaired today.

Her professional views assisted to focus professionals on the immediate risk factors for the children and mum in this family. DV is a historic and current factor and mum WILL not engage.
(IDVA) was clear about her recommendation and category to ICPC, which was discussed between professionals in an appropriate and balanced way. She was able to express her professional opinion and back it with reasons. She demonstrated professional confidence. Having an IDVA present was beneficial to the development of the outline CP plan and focusing on the impact of the DV on the children."

3. Joint Working with Child in Need/Child Protection Teams Specialist services staff now sit alongside these teams three days a week facilitating information exchange and shared planning as well as undertaking joint visits where appropriate. This has improved working relationships significantly resulting in better input and outcomes for families.

4. Training

Specialist Services deliver a wide range of training supporting workforce development to safeguard children and families:

- 4 x Level 1, Level 2 Domestic Abuse
- 6 x Parenting Challenges (Toxic Trio)
- 4 x Sexual Violence awareness
- 3 x Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse
- Hospital based delivery through Hospital IDVAs
- Responding to those who harm

"Much better informed about how services are organised in the authority and how to navigate them"

- 5. Priorities for 2018-19 These include:
- Recommissioning outreach, accommodation and specialist children's services and ensuring that these work in an increasingly integrated way with partners and whole families
- Embedding Signs of Safety tools and approach across the specialist sector
- Introducing eMARAC to fast track information and action to protect families at the highest risk

• Continuing to drive developments around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards across Cheshire agreed and implemented Pan-Cheshire practice guidance for FGM. This covers female children under the age of 18 and adult females including those who come under the Care Act 2014 definition of an Adult at risk.

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To prevent FGM in the future, agencies need to work closer with practicing communities and foster stronger links so together we are able to break the taboo and silence surrounding the harmful practice of FGM.

• Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism

The Prevent strategic work is now led by the pan-Cheshire Protecting Vulnerable People group, to ensure all agencies are kept up to date with latest developments. The OSCT have now decided to extend the original Dovetail pilot as part of a gradual rollout across the North West, rather than implementing it across the country at this stage. A Dovetail Governance Board (DGB) in the NW is in place, providing an opportunity for oversight and input from a range of stakeholders. The aim is to build the resilience of the regional hub model, and ensure that there are appropriate formal mechanisms to report and resolve challenges. Liverpool represents Cheshire and Merseyside on the DGB as host site for the C&M Hub. Cheshire East are part of a C&M Hub Working Group which are now working together to develop the new working arrangements.

Partner agencies been asked to ensure they follow the Prevent training strategy by ensuring their staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. The CECSB website has a Prevent page where information on resources and training is available.

A Channel Panel has continued to meet throughout the year to safeguard individuals at risk from being radicalised or being groomed into becoming involved in acts of violent extremism. 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. The overall number of cases considered has reduced due to nationally mandated changes from summer 2017. All of the 12 cases referred to Panel in 2017/18 were males, 11 of which were under 25, and 8 of these referrals were from schools. There were no cases which included mental health concerns. 6 of the referrals were regarding extreme right wing concerns. Only 1 last year was regarding ICT use (link to change in criteria).

Each situation is assessed on its own merits and the work done will vary depending on the needs of the individual young person. The interventions completed have included: attendance on conflict/anger management courses, being assigned a mentor at school, participation in sessions with an intervention provider to address skewed thinking or entrenched distorted ideological views, being taken to a local religious centre and being mentored by religious leader, CAMMS, support from drugs and alcohol services, support applying for jobs/benefits/housing and support tracing birth parents.

• Child Protection Case Strategy meetings

There is an active task and finish group working on improving the quality of strategy discussions and ensuring that these are multi- agency meetings. This includes exploring the use of technology and improving systems to alert partners to a forthcoming strategy discussion.

The majority of strategy meetings now taking place are of a good quality with appropriate decision making and application of thresholds. They are well planned with multi-agency representation. There are improved systems in place to ensure

partner agencies are invited to Strategy Meetings and receive a timely copy of the minutes. The main priorities moving forward are to improve attendance of health representation at urgent strategy meetings that take place on the same day that a concern is raised and to align strategy meetings with the Signs of Safety Model.

The desired impact of this work is that strategy discussions will in the majority of cases be planned, multi-agency meetings. Although this work is not yet complete the activity from the group has already increased focus on multi-agency participation in strategy meetings across the partnership.

• Implementing our neglect strategy



Since the neglect strategy was launched in 2017 over 600 staff across the multi-agency partnership have been trained in the use of the Graded Care Profile 2. This is a testament to the strategic commitment of the partner agencies and a very good indication of the priority that neglect is afforded by frontline staff. In 2017/18 the:

 percentage of children subject of a child protection for neglect for more than 12 months has reduced from 22% in 2016-17 to 7%, thus indicating more effective interventions are being delivered more quickly

- percentage of children made subject of a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time for neglect reduced from 67% in 2016-17 to 39%
- use of the graded care profile, a tool used to assess the level of neglect, increased from less than 10% in 2016-17 to over 60%, and in the month of March 2018 all child protection case conferences considering plans for neglect were supported by a completed grade care profile
- number of children subject of a child protection plan for neglect reached a peak in quarter 2 at 175, which is evidence of better identification of neglect and a number of these children went on to be subject of court proceedings and being protected from further harm

The use of the Neglect Screening and Graded Care Profile tools needs to continue to improve and that assessment and planning is more effective in tackling neglect in a timely and effective way, so we achieve lasting change. There remains a need to strengthen the impact of early help assessment and planning so we achieve the strategic priority of preventing neglect through early help.

Recent auditing of the effectiveness of child in need and child protection planning has again identified areas for improvement and is a business plan priority. Partner agencies need to provide greater support and challenge to CiN meetings and core groups. Partner agencies either take the minutes or chair the meeting.

The recently revised JSNA for child maltreatment highlighted that we are under identifying maltreatment in young people aged 12-17. Each priority lead of the Children's Trust is linked with Members of the Young Parliament and as priority lead for feel and be safe we are working together to raise the profile and impact of neglect amongst young people.

In 2019 a review and refresh of the 'Neglect Strategy' will be undertaken to ensure the learning and impact of the current strategy informs the next. The recently published Ofsted/CQC/HMIP JTAI Report, Growing up Neglected: a multiagency response to older children will be used to inform the revised strategy.

The neglect strategy and campaign has been short listed for several national awards and we have received requests from a number of local authorities asking if they can use our strategy and scorecard as a template.

• Developing our Early Help Strategy

Having a strong early help offer is extremely important in ensuring we provide families with the support they need as soon as they need it, and we prevent problems from escalating. Serious problems can cause serious harm to children



and young people in the long term, are detrimental to everyone in the family, and are more difficult to address.

A range of agencies are involved in identifying where families need additional support, and in providing early help. This strategy will support us to have a consistent and coordinated approach across the partnership, so all families can expect the same support and good quality service no matter what their needs are and where they live. This strategy evaluates the needs of children, young people and families in Cheshire East, ensuring that our resources are targeted were they are most needed and will have the most impact.

The Strategy and action plan was endorsed by the Board for implementation in 2017-18.

• Learning and Development

The Learning and Development sub-group have:

- Had full engagement of relevant partners in the groups work
- Established a working party to identify the a range of methods to disseminate multi-agency learning from the two SCRs
- Developed a one page guide to screening tools and will be available on the LSCB website
- Implemented GCP 2 training, which has been supported by the sub group which is reflected in the number of practitioners who have attended training and its increased use
- Identified updates to include MAPPA and Neglect Topics for the e-learning platform
- Acknowledged that the increase in the training demand on staff complete in addition to own agency mandatory training may affect their ability to attend safeguarding training.

There is a need for ongoing support from all agencies to the learning and development department to complete post course evaluations to evidence impact of training on practice and outcomes for children.

Strengthening Partnerships

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

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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 guality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Partnership Chairs Group has continued to meet during the year. It has been exploring cross cutting issues within Business Plans and identifying shared risks.

Performance, Scrutiny and Challenge

CESCB has a comprehensive quality assurance framework, which can be found on our website. In 2017-18 this has provided CESCB with a range of guantitative and gualitative information in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Cheshire East. CESCB has strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Partnership Chairs Group has continued to meet during the year. It has been exploring cross cutting issues within Business Plans and identifying shared risks.

Performance

A quarterly picture, showing a Young People, Parents and clear trajectory of progress. Carers Allowing us to set targets and What children, young people evaluate our performance against and their families want and is our statistical neighbours

Qualitative Information

Feedback from Staff Detailed information on what is What staff know would help working well and areas for them to work with families, improvement for specific services, what is working well, and what including what the causes of could work better. issues are.

Performance Monitoring

The CESCB scorecard has covers a range of measures from all partners and has been aligned with the areas of focus for the CECSB. It provides a robust oversight of safeguarding practice across the partnership.

Feedback from Children and

important to them, what their experience is of our services.

The CESCB Quality and Outcomes Sub Group is effectively scrutinising and challenging partnership performance and is driving improvements to partnership working.

A range of quality assurance activity supports performance monitoring. Arrangements for this are robust and support and supplement partnership performance monitoring. This includes the CECSB multi-agency audit programme.



The Audit and Case Review subgroup has:

- overseen Serious Case and Reflective reviews
- undertaken analysis of the findings over the year across all audits and reviews (3 audits, 2 reflective reviews, 4 single agency audits and 1 case review), and highlighted recurring themes to enable the Board to focus on the areas of practice it wishes to improve
- further developed the audit methodology which is much more comprehensive and inclusive with better practice based findings

Multi- Agency Audits

and effective multi-agency debate and agreement on findings. Scrutinised and monitored the progress of agreed actions from audits and reflective reviews

Areas of challenge in 2017-18 include:

- Taking forward the learning from the Serious Case Reviews
- engagement with parents and children more about their experience as part of the audit function
- Improving the quality of multiagency decision making at CiN/CP meetings
- Merge the Audit and Case Review group with the Quality and Outcomes with a clear QA framework established to meet the new requirements under WT 2018

These audits consider five different cases covering a range of ages and levels of need each time. The agencies audit their own involvement using a common tool. They all make judgements on the quality of partnership working. Agencies then came together to analysis the audits and make recommendations for improvements. The agree improvements are then tracked to completion by the Audit and Case Review Sub-Group.

Neglect

There was historical information indicating that some of these children have had identified neglect for a long time.

Strengths found	Areas of improvement within the wider system:
 Children and young people are protected and were found to experience positive outcomes In 67% of cases audited neglect was identified at an early stage with most identified at birth Child protection plans were found to be SMART. The new style of case conference was very rigorous and chairs were professional and gave plenty of opportunity for challenge, health 	 In CiN and CAF Meeting minutes, clarity is required regarding the following; Who records the minutes Who distributes the minutes And who receives the minutes.
 Identification of risk and response was swift and appropriate Good practice evidenced throughout case records across all the agencies Areas for improvement specific to Neglect: 	 would be improved if communication was improved. Child Services and Adults Services requirement for a joined up approach, both children and adult services may be offering the correct support there was still a need for better links and
 Quality of home conditions. There were inconsistencies in defining if home conditions were of an acceptable standard. The multi-agency meetings should provide a forum within which these judgements and the evidence informing them can be moderated. The Graded Care Profile tool was applied two of the five cases audited; there was consensus that when it was used it was a helpful tool. 	 coordination between them. Referrals were made to the Learning Disability team for parent's cognitive assessments to take place. There needs a better understanding of the criteria for when this specialist assessment is required and then a clear pathway for this type of assessment to be done covering the referral process, service thresholds and which agency is commissioned to undertake the assessments.
• Police involvement was documented and it was agreed that the correct actions were taken however neglect was not identified on their system even though detailed recording indicated neglect.	• Clarity for schools and DSL's on how to escalate concerns for children who are CiN or CP with agencies when there is a disagreement with action plans.

Child Protection Conferences

What's going well?	What do we need to do?
 There were some good multi-agency assessments identified with risks and strengths well explored ICPCs, RCPCs and Core Groups were well attended by the involved agencies Agencies communicated well between meetings When there was progress in a case this was clearly evidenced in Core Groups, Conferences and Assessments Where professionals formed good relationships with parents, progress was consistent and sustained Where there was consistency of agency representatives, plans showed good and timely progress 	 Screening Tools (GCP and CSE) need to be used more effectively and consistently and evidence impact at an earlier stage. The Core Group needs to ensure that there is a better focus on the child's lived experience and views. Better use of SOS Tools would support this work The impact of ethnicity, race and culture needs to be considered in assessments There should be a better use of the Core Group agenda – including a discussion on the need for the
What are we worried about?	use of the contingency in each Core Group
 The impact of ethnicity was not always recognised and understood There was not consistent focus on all children within a family Parents ability to deflect/avoid professional input was not always clearly recognised and challenged Professional sympathy could lead to overly positive prognosis without corroborating evidence Whilst there are some good examples of the child's views and lived experience this was not consistent and did not always inform the Plan The choice of Child Protection Category can lead to an incorrect focus of work effort and missing crucial evidence of impact on child Absent parents and lack of engagement from non-resident fathers is rarely challenged or their impact understood Neglect is rarely considered to be a crime and parents are not investigated for this as a crime Adult Services do not consistently recognise the impact on child protection process Of the 5 cases audited, 2 were considered to be Good, 3 Required Improvement 	 CP IROs need to ensure that there is active consideration of category at each Review Conference The impact of parental alcohol use needs to be better considered. Alcohol Audit to be used to measure this Adult specific services need to consider impact on the child and should think <i>family</i>. Asking an adult if they have contact with a child should be a routine question There needs to be better engagement of the absent parent and more active consideration of their role in increasing/reducing risk Agencies to better engage vulnerable young women before they become parents All agencies to be equally accountable within the Child Protection Plan Agencies need to feel more confident in offering challenge to partners and professionals where there is limited progress in a case

Child Sexual Abuse

What's going well?	What are we worried about?
• Evidence of multi-agency working – attendance at ICPC, information	• Strategy meetings not involving all relevant partners and minutes not
sharing	being routinely shared
• All cases seem to have evidence of appropriate challenge when in	 Length of time to source work with parents
the Child Protection arena	Lack of focus of religion and culture from front door
Practitioners at core groups	Health records repeated difficulties in making contact with social
What do we need to do?	workers, cancelled core groups. This needs a basic exchange of
• Strategy meetings developments to be fully implemented.	contact details at the outset
• Ensure that risk assessments are being routinely used	Updates are required on the progress of criminal investigations to
Consider the application of the working/ written agreements	core groups to inform case progress
including monitoring how they are used in practice	There needs to be a greater awareness by partners of the work
• Core groups should set as an action a request for police information when there is an ongoing criminal enquiry	carried out with sex offenders to enable a greater awareness of the progress of the case
• Pre-birth assessment policy – review the policy, what stage to refer,	No support for the non-abusive parent
interventions	• The full implementation of the Signs of Safety into supervision of
• Consider what information partners require to inform them of the	practitioners.
implications of work with sexual offenders to the safeguarding of	Community safety and families when ongoing investigation,
children	information changes and evolves so requirements will change
Serious Case Reviews (SCR):	agency contributions to strategy meetings is having a positive

This year we have had 2 Serious Case Reviews underway. These reviews were not been completed within this year due to an ongoing investigations.

Reflective Reviews:

This year the CECSB accepted the recommendations of 2 Reflective Reviews reported to it. These recommended that:

• CECSB seek assurance that the development to improve multi-

impact.

- CECSB ensure there is Health provision at CHECS that can access health records and provide that information to the strategy meeting process.
- All handovers of a CAF needs to ensure all information is shared and the child's transition to school is pre-planned; this should include CAF being attended by the school prior to transfer and clear plan in place to include the school nurse.
- The Neglect screening tool should be completed by practitioners, with the support of their managers wherever there is a concern about potential neglect.

- CEFS Supervision of staff working with children and young people should be more robust in the monitoring of case work.
- Ensure that professionals understand that CAF home visits do not always have to be conducted by the lead professional. The plan should identify and name which professional is best placed to fulfil these tasks and set out the purposes and frequency of home visits.
- Ensure that there is a process for The Education, Health and Care Plan to be informed by the history that will be recorded within CAFs
- School recording systems for contacts with Parents and Agencies to provide an overview to the DSL.

Actions plans to address these have been implemented and progress is being overseen by the Audit and Case Review subgroup

Single Agency Audits

Child Protection Independent Reviewing Officers Audit of Child Protection reports

Auditors identified that 27% of reports were inadequate and not of sufficient quality to support effective planning and decision making for the child. Only 30% of reports were of good or outstanding quality with the remainder requiring improvement. In response to this IRO Safeguarding Chairs will look at each report provided to review conferences, the quality of the reports will be scored, themes and trends will be looked at as part of the process. Feedback will be provided to each agency about their report together with what constitutes as a good report to provide guidance on what Good looks like. As from April 2018 poor quality reports will lead to a practice alert being raised.

East Cheshire Trust Audit Activity

There were number of findings from this:

- Wards are compliant
- A&E staff should be routinely using the risk assessment
- Improved understanding required of the needs cared for children
- Clear understanding of escalation in the health context
- Maternity audit evidenced
- Lots of multi-agency communication between midwifery and other services
- Good understanding of thresholds with all women were screened appropriately for mental health, FGM screened and Domestic Abuse
- That Domestic abuse was screen at initial meeting but no evidence of that being checked again later in pregnancy

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 partners have been completing their S11 audits and the findings will be reported to the board in 2018/19.

Section 175/157 Audits

Schools are in the process of completing an annual S175/157 audit, this covers all the key areas of S11; findings from this audit are reported during the autumn to the CECSB. Considerable work is being undertaken in partnership with the Local Authority Education Department, Schools, School Representatives and the Councils IT support to improve the reporting system.

Challenge Log

The CECSB 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.

These included raising concerns with care providers on the quality of their responses to risk taking behaviors. Action plans to improvement practice were agreed with these providers and signed off when all the actions were completed.

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.

During 2017/18 there were 231 referrals to the Cheshire East LADO, which is a reduction of 2 from 2016/17.

 Of these: 231 Referrals: 66 (28%) were categorised as Consultations; 101 (44%) as No Further Action after Initial Consideration; and 64 (28%) met the threshold for a LADO strategy meeting.

- Most referrals were from professionals working in the Education Sector (36%) which is a consistent trend and linked to the majority of referrals relating to education staff
- There were a total number of 70 contacts from education professionals of which 23 (33%) met the threshold for a LADO strategy meeting and 26 (39%) required some preliminary investigations by the employer. The amount of referrals categorised as consultations (LADO threshold clearly not met) have reduced from 50% to 28% which suggests that education professionals have an improved understanding of the LADO's role.
- There has been an increase in referrals from foster care agencies which made up 17% of the referrals meeting threshold this year as opposed to 9% last year. 73% of these referrals came from Cheshire East Fostering Service which is a 53% increase from last year.
- The referrals from social care which met threshold dropped by 13% in comparison to the previous year, however the number of total contacts from social care has only dropped by 7%. 19% of the total contacts made by social care met the threshold; this has reduced from 31% last year.
- Referrals from Cheshire Police have reduced from last year; however they are consistent with previous years. Although the police might not be the source of referrals, the LADO consulted with them on 93% of the cases where threshold was met for LADO involvement.
- Referrals from and about those working in the voluntary and faith sectors remains low and although there has been an increase in the number of referrals from voluntary organisations these were all from the Scouts Association. LADO's throughout the country have reported similarly low levels from these sectors.

The LADO has continued to ensure that allegations are managed in a timely way: 73% of referrals were concluded within 3 months and 90% within 6 months. There have been several cases which have incurred significant delay (more than 12 months) once they reach the court arena. The delay appears to be a result of judiciary capacity and beyond the involved agencies control.

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 met on four occasions between April 2017 and March 2018. The total number of child deaths notified across the Pan Cheshire footprint was 53. The total number of child deaths reviewed by the panel during this period was 58 of which 27 were from Cheshire East.

The Panel has a role to identify any trends or themes and to make recommendations to the CECSB 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 CECSB and produces an annual report that summarises the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year. "as an adult social worker the training has added to my knowledge and contributed to how I undertake my practice with adults and their children."

CECSB Training and Development

<u>CECSB Learning and Development</u> continues to develop, deliver and evaluate a robust needs led multi-agency training package.

Working Well	Next Steps
GCP2 training to more than 550 participants across the workforce. Completed tools are being	Work with the LSAB to support a partnership
frequently seen in case conferences and planning meetings at all levels of the continuum.	approach to learning and improvement across
E-Learning - range of courses are being promoted including: Introduction to Safeguarding,	the sectors.
C.S.E, F.G.M and Extremism awareness.	Development of learning and improvement
training bulletin and 7 minute briefings have supported learning opportunities on current issues	opportunities for managers: mental capacity
New course developed initially for managers including Harmful Sexualised Behaviour.	and DOLs and Risk Management.
Improvements in evaluation and impact on practice data have maximised administrative time.	Further development of Pan-Cheshire learning
Partners have offered venues free of charge.	opportunities and standardisation of courses
E-Learning modules are now available through the LSCB website.	Review of multi-agency domestic abuse
Continued promotion of the single agency training policy, reducing the requirement for LSCB	training to maximise participation.
face to face basic awareness training.	Work with schools safeguarding forum to
Worries	obtain the views of a range of children and
Signs of Safety, training delivery to partners are programmed for 2018 onwards.	young people across the area.
Courses have been cancelled for the first time this year due to low numbers.	Single agency training standards to be further
The LSAB and LSCB are not joined up for learning and development opportunities.	developed for C.S.E and Neglect.
More courses need to be considered for managers across the partnership.	Implement 2 day Signs of Safety training to
The voice of the child within the training environment could be stronger.	partners.
Single agency training needs to be further developed in light of new safeguarding processes	Review of impact on practice data collection
from June 2019.	methods.

Returns for course evaluation show that:

- More than 92% of participants report an increase in knowledge, confidence and skills by the end of the course, with the same numbers stating they would recommend the course. This is a 5% improvement on last year.
- More than 92% participants value the courses and engage with change when delivering services to children.
- 93% of respondents self report that the training has positively changed or influenced practice.
- 71% of respondents identify discussion with managers following attendance on LSCB courses.
- 87% have said they have shared information with colleagues, both of these figures show an increase of 25% and more in comparison to previous years.

2017-18 Annual Reports

Summary of 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.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Cafcass is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. It represents children in family court cases, ensuring that children's voices are heard and decisions are taken in their best interests.

The demand on the family justice system and on Cafcass services remained very high throughout the year, with rises in local caseloads varying across the country. Overall Cafcass has seen a rise in private law applications (involving arrangements for children following parental separation) and a small decrease in public law applications (involving the local authority), Cafcass is actively contributing to the Care Crisis Review, a sector-wide initiative that aims to stem the increase in care cases and promote safe and beneficial outcomes for children. We are also undertaking innovative projects that seek to improve practice promote good outcomes for children and make better use of limited resources. An example is the three assessment pathways that we have been developing – domestic abuse; high-conflict; and parental alienation.

Cafcass' strategic priorities in 2017/18 were to:

Continue to improve our performance and the quality of our work; contribute to family justice reform and innovation; use our influence to promote knowledge and best practice; bring the uniqueness of each child (including diversity considerations) to the court's attention; be efficient and effective in light of high demand and financial constraints.

In February and March 2018 Ofsted undertook its second national inspection of Cafcass, the overall judgement was outstanding. They found practice was effective and authoritative, helping courts to make child-centered and safe decisions, adding value and leading to better outcomes for children. The overall judgement was influenced by many factors including: the exceptional corporate and operational leadership; sensitive and knowledgeable direct work undertaken with children in relation to a wide range of diversity issues; the culture of continuous learning and improvement; and a strong aspiration to 'get it right' for vulnerable children. The inspection identified some areas for Cafcass to improve relating mostly to the quality of recording and to explaining to court consistently when issues of diversity are not relevant to the application. They will be working on these in the year ahead and will continue to try to improve our services, and to contribute to family justice reform.

1 C+++	tegic Partnership Objective Improving frontline practice
L. Stra Partner	Outcome to be achieved - Competent practicioners and consistent practice. Children and Families provided with the right level of
Partner	
Chashing	support and intervention.
Cheshire Police	• Focussed on improving front line practice with officers have undergone safeguarding training to understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and not to expect others to safeguard children.
	• Domestic and child abuse is a priority. There is front line supervisory scrutiny regarding the quality of investigations and action
	taken. There is further senior leadership scrutiny during level 1 and 2 meetings held during every day where safeguarding is the main focus.
	The Public Protection Directorate (PPD)
	• Operates Pan-Cheshire providing a consistent organisational approach in the response to child protection.
	 Locally there is a consistent team with excellent working relationships with partner agencies.
	 All officers that work within the Directorate are detective accredited or are working towards that.
	 Has oversight of Child Exploitation and Missing From Home issues with dedicated officers
	 Officers consider early stage intervention to divert children away from crime.
	Local policing teams have school liaison officers that work with children within mainstream school and home schooled.
Wirral 0-19	Priority given to training all frontline practitioners in eCaf and GCP2 with the target that all practitioners are trained in by September 18.
Cheshire	Lo. Continued participation in Single and Multi-agency Audits. Learning incorporated into single and multi-agency training.
East	All frontline practitioners attending Signs of Safety multi-agency training
Eastern	 Worked with their providers to develop dashboards which reflect safeguarding standards.
and South	 Focussed on GP practice in safeguarding and on the quality of health assessments for Cared for Children.
Cheshire	 In partnership with public health jointly commissioned a specialist nurse to work within Cheshire East Contact and Referral Service
CCGs	This contributes to the timeliness of information sharing where there is a may be at risk of harm or in need of early help services.
	 Extended CSE nurse role to include working with children at risk of criminal exploitation
	 Improved information sharing processes between GPs, health professionals and our multi-agency partners, evidenced by a
	significant increase in the number of GPs reports provided for child protection case conferences.
	 Contributed to multi-agency work between health and the LA to establish timely and good quality health assessments for Cared
	for Children. There has been a significant improvement and the work will continue.
East	 Maintained 80% training compliance target for all levels. There were national difficulties with the level 2 E learning package and a
Cheshire	interim local solution was developed and implemented.

	• A "Think Family" approach is being promoted throughout the Trust and triggers for referral to children's safeguarding team have
	been developed and cascaded to staff working within adult focused areas.
	Formal quarterly supervision is provided to Midwives, Specialist Nurses and the Sexual Health Teams.
	• The Named Safeguarding Doctor/Nurse provides regular peer review to medical staff. The Named Doctor, Nurse and Midwife receive quarterly supervision from the Designated Doctor/Nurse.
Reaseheath	Ofsted care standards inspection during the year confirmed by grading outstanding that Reaseheath has competent and consistent practice and their young and vulnerable are provided with excellent support.
Education	 SCiES, CEASH, eCAPH and the DSLs liaise and communicate with their teams to ensure frontline practitioners are informed and supported.
	 Safeguarding is a standing item on CEASH and eCAPH agendas. Newsletters etc. are circulated to Headteachers and DSLs by SCIES, CEASH and eCAPH
Children's Social Care (CSC)	CESCB endorsed and began implementing a single operating model across the levels of need, Signs of Safety; this will underpin good practice with families and consistency in children and family experience. There has been good strategic engagement across the partner agencies. Alongside this there has been a focus on audit shifting to reflect the quality of practice at the frontline. There is evidence that this is having a positive impact but CSC recognise there is still further work to do.
	CSC has also focussed on ensuring children achieve positive outcomes in a timescale that meets their needs to be safeguarded and achieve permanency. There is clear evidence of fewer children on a child protection plan over 15 months and a reduction in repeat child protection plans.
National Probation Service (NPS)	Completed two audits, one of frontline practice with officers responsible for the supervision of custodial and community sentences. A safeguarding children workshop was developed to cover improvements related to NPS Policy requirements, as well as strengthening understanding of CESCB procedures.
	NPS identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each local team to promote and drive improvements.
	tegic Partnership Objective - Listening to children and young people
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Children's views are strongly represented.
Cheshire	The 'voice of the child' is understood by officer. Not just what the child says but what the child is experiencing.
Police	There are officers in dedicated roles regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, School Liaison and MFH co-ordinators. Officer's focused on
	representing the views of the child and ensure that colleagues are effectively safeguarding children.
	There are procedures for officers to speak to children to record that. Officers will utilise visually recorded evidence in line achieving
	best evidence. The child's views are taken into consideration when making decision on how we proceed.
	If cases progress to court then the police will support the child/children through the process.
Wirral	School Nurse Health assessments completed with vulnerable children and Young people now include wishes and feelings.

0-19 Cheshire East	Involvement in multi-agency and single participation events and processes.
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	CCGs have strengthened its approach to listening to children and representing their views on services and redesign of services. They have approached children participation groups and worked with other agencies to establish a network of young people who can provide a voice.
East Cheshire NHS Trust	Paediatric services have listened to the child's wishes and feelings about their situation now as well as plans and hopes for the future; Providing them with honest and accurate information about the current situation and future possible actions and interventions; involved the child in key decision-making processes; Providing appropriate information about their right to protection and assistance; invited them to make recommendations about the services and assistance they need and/or are available to them; Ensuring they have access to independent advice and support (for example, through advocates) to be able to express their views and influence decision- making and considering with them, issues arising in relation to identity, diversity, culture, faith, sexual orientation language, disability, low confidence and trust.
	Specific examples of work include 'The Feedback/Wishes Tree' on display in the Paediatric ward. Children are encouraged to 'plant the seed' - their ideas on how we can to improve their experiences in hospital. Staff then update the tree with how they have implemented the children's idea's.
	Specific feedback from the survey of 8-16 year olds included: Trust's values not being displayed in a child friendly way, wanting changes/improvements to the food available, updated décor and curtains on the ward and more variety of what activities are available for them during their stay – these were then actioned by staff.
Reaseheath	The reaccreditation of the Matrix Standard confirms the college's learner voice is very well represented.
Education	The voice of the child is at the forefront of practice in education; including students in interview panels, ensuring children are able to express their views at case conferences, students completing surveys on a range of issues that may affect them (mental health, emotional well-being, stress et al; both positive and areas for improvement views sought) and participating in group work at cross phase conferences on particular issues (bullying, homophobia, racism, gender equality et al).
Children's Social Care	CSC have a strong focus on ensuring that children's lived experience is evident, and there are examples of excellent child focused work, particularly for children in CP Plans and C4C. However CSC recognise they want greater consistency and strong evidence that the information has always informed the plan for the child and been revisited as change occurs. There are also good examples of how children have led work (e.g. chairing their statutory reviews) and how they have informed strategic development (e.g. the Local Offer for Cared for Children and Care leavers, and the animation about CP Conferences). CSC have also invested in the provision of direct work tools for frontline staff. There is evidence that these are being used to improve the quality of direct work.

National Probation Service	Voice of the child is a standing item on the MAPPA Agenda; chairs are required to consider the voice of the child in individual case decision making.
Service	NPS offender assessments capture details of children at risk; NPS are also required to identify children at the point of sentence. They are completing work to raise the profile of recording children's information and the impact of their parent receiving a custodial sentence.
	NPS have rolled out a nationally developed neglect toolkit and will support practitioners operating in an adult facing environment to recognise the features of neglect.
	There is a home visiting protocol and guidance about how to record any direct contact with Children.
3. Stra	ategic Partnership Objective Strengthening partnerships
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Strong safeguarding culture across the system, effective scrutiny, and challenge and evidence of improved outcomes
Cheshire Police	Processes are in place to scrutinise officer's actions. Their actions are updated on police systems. Incidents are reviewed by the Force control room and local supervision.
	The Police have improved the recording of crime in line with the Nation Crime Recording Standards. Crimes/investigations are then reviewed by supervision prior to closure. There is clear direction endorsed on investigations which are reviewed at specific periodical times to ensure there is progress and that safeguarding is being addressed to improve outcomes.
Wirral 0-19 Cheshire	Named Nurse is the chair of the CESCB Learning and Improvement subgroup and worked on the development of multi-agency blended learning alongside the CESCB Learning and Development Manager. Health lead for developing strategy meeting pathway
East	Nurse Specialist in the Integrated Front door is establishing partnership working and attending meetings with colleagues to build relationships between agencies and this service.
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	 have contributed to partnership working through the Health and Well-Being Board, the CESCB Board and its sub groups. worked with LA commissioners to develop joint safeguarding standards and quality assurance processes for providers; strengthened links to the Corporate Parenting Board and worked jointly with the LA to improve the timeliness and quality of initial health assessments for Cared for Children. worked with the Police and LA to develop new local safeguarding arrangements in Cheshire East and the LA to develop new CDOP
	arrangements across the Pan Cheshire footprint.
East Cheshire	Trust has worked closely with the two CSC teams to improve the early help offer to parents. The Named Midwife for Safeguarding is the nominated Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Champion for the Trust and has worked with partner agencies to update the

NHS Trust	CAF training and to deliver it to multi-agency teams. CAF is included in safeguarding level 3 training. Named Midwife also represents the Trust at the Early Help subgroup. To support the launch of the CESCB Neglect strategy neglect training has been delivered at level 3 by the Safeguarding team to staff about the recognition and management of neglect. This training has included SMART planning and the use of the Neglect Tool and the Graded Care assessment tool. The use of these tools has been actively promoted to health practitioners through supervision. The use of Tools to support referrals made to CSC will be monitored quarterly via the Safeguarding Children Dashboard.
	The CSE Nurse Specialist represents the Trust at the Children Missing from Home and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub group operational meetings for the management of Child Sexual Exploitation. Level 3 training this year has included the learning from the Brookes CSE SCR 2015 and Trafficking and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
	Trust hosted the CSE Nurse Specialist role for East Cheshire, this post is now in the process of being TUPED to the Wirral Community Trust. The Specialist Nurse is co-located and works as part of the multi-agency integrated team to deliver the CSE strategy across East Cheshire. The Nurse Specialist has been supervised and managed by the Safeguarding team. Training has been delivered by the Nurse Specialist to key groups of staff and links and information sharing pathways have been developed with health partners to enable early identification of young people at risk. A health pathway and health assessment has been developed which will be used by all health partners to assess the health needs of those young people who have been identified as at risk of CSE.
	The Safeguarding team continues to work with partner agencies at both strategic and operational levels to improve outcomes for children and adults subject to domestic violence and abuse. In November 2015 an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) was seconded from the Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit for 18 months to work within the hospital to support patients and staff who experience domestic abuse. This role has made a significant difference to patients and staff through the provision of immediate support and advice. The number of referrals has significantly increased as a result of improved staff awareness through training. The funding for this post is reviewed annually and was secured for 2018-2019.
	The Named Nurse, Doctor and Midwife have attended the Safeguarding Children Operational Managers subgroup to improve front line practice.
	The Named Midwife is the Trust Lead for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The Trust is compliant with the mandatory reporting requirements for FGM and to date has had 9 cases of historic FGM. All safeguarding procedures have been followed in relation to these cases. The Trust has a FGM policy and. FGM training has been delivered throughout the Trust this year.
	The Midwife for Vulnerable families continues to positively evaluated by multi-agency partners and the Midwife has been informed that she has been nominated for a good practice alert by the LSCB. This post has improved multi-agency working and information
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	sharing. It has improved access and continuity of care for women who traditionally are hard to engage and therefore improving outcomes for the babies.				
	The Trust has worked with the National Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project which will allow the identification of children who are Looked After or who are subject to a Child Protection Plan when they present to our Emergency Department of maternity services. CP-IS has been successfully implemented within the AE department, the Minor Injuries Unit, the Paediatric Observation Unit and the Maternity department.				
Reaseheath	neath Ofsted outstanding grading identified strong governance and management with a culture of continuous improvement.				
Education	Schools illustrate good safeguarding practice; ensuring students know who they need to talk to if they have concerns; assemblies and tutor time spent on a full range of issues (often led by the students themselves and/ or significant partners, for example, police, health); information around the school; emphasis within the curriculum (all subjects and PHSCEE); all members of staff understanding that they have safeguarding responsibilities and knowing to whom they need to report concerns (DSL and/ or Headteacher); regular training and updates (with SCiES, on-line training et al).				
Children's Social Care	 There have been many examples over the year for how CSC has work collaboratively to strengthen the partnerships. For example: It was identified that the contribution from the Police in CP conferences was not effective in determining risk and informing planning – so a bespoke training session was held – the contribution has now improved and the exercise is now being repeated with health professionals. There has been joint work between the IFD and police focussing on improving the quality and decision making in respect of Police referrals to the front door. Evidence of impact has been a reduction in referrals that do not meet threshold and an increase in the quality of information shared. Worked collaboratively with GP lead to improve the submission of reports to conference – this has included collating and providing data, providing training, auditing reports. The submission has improved significantly and this has been sustained. Established regular forums with partners, including the Designated Doctor and DSLs to identify specific barriers that may be impacting on working effectively together. The impact has been an increasing shared understanding at the frontline and strategically of specific roles and responsibilities. For example: child protection medicals and complex safeguarding. The Safeguarding Unit have conducted a number of thematic audits that have had partnership lessons. These have been reported to the partnership and have informed Board priorities and work streams, for example, strategy discussions, neglect, effectiveness of core groups, the quality of single agency reports to conference. Domestic Abuse is the most frequent characteristic for children on a child protection plan; CSC recognised that the partnership lacked rigour in developing effective plans for children based on the understanding of the adult abuse. CSC have supported better planning and access to specialist DA worker attends all ICPC where DA is identified as a risk fac				

	• The Safeguarding and Quality assurance Unit recognised the need to collate the challenge to agencies within the CP system, so CSC have developed a partner alert system to front line workers and leads, which identifies both excellent practice and where improvements can be made. This compliments informal discussions and is used to focus on thematic priorities e.g. the quality of reports to conference to give structured feedback to partners.		
	Worked with the key agencies to ensure strategy discussion/meetings are multi-agency.		
National	NPS have identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each Cheshire team to promote and drive improvements.		
Probation	Conducted two audits for scrutiny purposes.		
Service	HMIP has introduced an annual inspection regime – the standards incorporate safeguarding children considerations.		
	NPS participated in the Neglect JTAI in Cheshire West and are progressing actions in response to its findings.		

Key Priorities for 2018-19

The three overarching objectives remain for 2018-19:

- 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 Board workshop members worked together to agree the following key priorities and actions that will sit under the objectives:

- Implementation of the Signs of Safety approach to practice
- Improving the effectiveness of multi-agency child protection/child in need planning
 - $\circ\;$ Improve the quality of the Child in Need meetings
- Oversee the deliver and engagement with the
 - \circ Early Help strategy
 - Neglect Strategy
- Strengthen our response to Complex Safeguarding and Safeguarding vulnerable groups
 - Develop local implementation plans for vulnerable groups and on-line safety based on the Pan-Cheshire strategies.
 - Ensure that Young Carers are identified early and services become more 'joined up'.

- Collaborate with LSAB, to improve the way that agencies work together to respond to the whole family.
- o Provide assurance to the Board that agencies respond and link LGBTQ young people into support services as appropriate.
- Effectiveness of partnership response to child sexual abuse to ensure good outcomes.
- Dedicated consistent approach to new emerging Contextual Safeguarding issues i.e. Trafficking. Child Sexual Exploitation, On-line safety

Budget for 2018-19

An outline budget for CESCB's work in 2018-19 is set out at Appendix 4.

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egistered	Risk	Actions	Status year end
Dec 14	Partnership ownership of the improvement plan.	All actions complete	Closed Feb 18
Apr 17	Capacity within the Business Unit to manage SCR/Reflective reviews in line with national guidance.	Weekly Case tracker updated and available to CE Safeguarding Manager and LSCB Chair. Quarterly report to LSCB Board. Nine partner agencies have nominated chairs for Reflective Reviews.	Closed Oct 17
May 17	 Changes in membership of the Board through: restructures within partner organisations impact on the continuity of the business and pace of change needed to improve, uncertainty in relation to the future model of safeguarding partnership arrangements (Wood Review); emerging Pan Cheshire Structures that could impact on partner's capacity. will impact upon the Boards ability to fulfil its functions 	Continue to strengthen the Pan Cheshire approach. Agreement in principle from Cheshire Senior Leadership group to look at opportunities for alignment of LSCB's.	Open
May 17	No Designated Nurse for looked after children.	Looked After Children's Nurse appointed July 2017.	Closed Oct 17
Nov 17	Embedding Signs of Safety (SOS).	SOS is monitored and making progress.	Closed Feb 18
Feb 18	The need to improve the Effectiveness of Multi-agency Child Protection Plans/Children	The effective use of a suite of evidence based practice tools for assessments, direct work and planning to be agreed.	Open

Risks and Issues

It is essential to identify, analyse and priorities 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 with action updates at the Executive Group. During the year the following risks were on the LSCB Risk register.

	in Need has been identified in LSCB audits.	Signs of Safety model implementation.	
Feb 18	The rise in the Cared for population and its impact on partnership resources.	Specific legal support for discharge of care orders for childrenplaced at home of in the care of family and friends with plan todischarge Care Order in favour of Special Guardianship Order.Children Social Care introduced a Resource Accommodation Panelto discuss all requests for children to become cared for.Work across the region in respect of children placed on careorders at home – including working collaboratively with CAFCASS	Feb 18
		and Courts.	

Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Board Structure




	5.05.17	9.07.17	27.09.17	2.11.17	7.01.18	14.03.18
Independent Chair		Ξ			-	-
Voice for Children						
The Children's Society						
South Cheshire CCG						
South and Eastern Cheshire CCG Designated Nurse						
CWP NHS Foundation Trust						
East Cheshire NHS Trust						
Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust						
Wirral Community NHS Trust						
NHS England						
Public Health						
Executive Director of People						
Lead Member for Children's Services						
Head of Children's Safeguarding						
Director of Children's Social Care						
Head of Service - Children in Need and Child Protection						
Principle Manager for Early Help						
Safeguarding Adults Strategic Manager						
Cheshire Police						
Youth Justice						
Cheshire Fire Service						
Primary School Heads Representative						
Secondary Schools Head Representative						
Representative for Colleges and Further Education						
Independent Schools Representative						
HMP Styal Head of Residence and Services						
Probation – CRC						
Probation – NPS						
Lay Member						
Voluntary Sector Representative						
Voluntary Sector Representative						
Housing						
Cheshire CAFCASS						
Designated Doctor						
Director of Children's Prevention and Support						
Senior Lawyer						

Appendix 2: Financial Arrangements – 2017-18 The tables below sets out the CECSB's outline budget and outturn expenditure for 2017-18,

along with the financial contributions from partners.

Area of Expenditure	2017-18 (£)
Direct Employee Exps	196,185
Safeguarding Project Manager (0.70 fte)	
Performance Officer (0.50 fte)	
Training Manager (0.81 fte)	
Training Officer (0.91 fte)	
CECSB Admin (2 fte)	
Indirect Employee Exps	0
Employee training	
Conferences and seminars	
Transport	
Mileage and car parking	2,000
Premises	6,000
Hire of rooms for training, CECSB meetings	
Supplies and Services	48,000
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	252,185
Carry forward reserves from 2016-17	73,507
Income in 2017-18	206,878
Total available spend 2017-18	280,385
Expenditure 2017-18	252,185
Reserve carry forward to 2017-18	28,200

	CESCB Partners	2017-18 contributions (proposed)
Health	Eastern Cheshire NHS	£5,000
	Mid Cheshire Hospitals	£6,772
	South Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Eastern Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	£4,093
	Wirral Community NHS Trust	£5,500
	Probation Service (NRC)	£1,700
lar Se	Probation Service (NPS)	£992
Criminal Justice	Probation Service (NPS) Police	£25,000
Cr J	HMP STYAL	£2,000
	CAFCASS	£550
-	Local Authority	£44,300
С	Schools	
Education	Independent Schools	£68,915
	Cheshire FE Consortium	£4,500
	Total	£206,878

Appendix 3: Partner Contributions.

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Version Number: 1

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 22 January 2019

Report Title: Corporate Parenting Update

Portfolio Holder: Jos Saunders Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Keith Martin, Head of Cared for Children & Care Leavers

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee on national and local developments in relation to cared for children and young people and care leavers.

2. Recommendation/s

2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

2.1.1. Note the contents of the report.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

3.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee is as advisory group to the Cabinet and, as such, needs to be aware of any national or local issues that are likely to impact on cared for children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Committee need to be able to scrutinise and challenge performance to improve outcomes for cared for children and young people.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. None; this is an update report.

5. Background

5.1. This update report aligns with the priorities of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

6. Being a Good Corporate Parent

Councillors make Commitment to Corporate Parenting

6.1. Councillors from all political parties made a commitment to be 'good corporate parents' and improve the lives of cared for children and care leavers at a

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meeting of full council on 13th December 2018. Councillors signed up to the five pledges of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Participation of Cared for Children and Care Leavers

6.2. All future meetings of the Being a Good Corporate Parent Group will include a care leaver to represent the voice of cared for children and care leavers. They will bring feedback from the children and young people to the meeting to ensure that their voice is heard; this will be facilitated by the Participation Team.

Investing in Children Award

6.3. The Investing in Children Membership Award gives organisations national recognition for the good practice and active inclusion of children and young people in dialogue resulting in change. A number of services within Cheshire East have achieved this award and in 2019 the Cared for Children Service will be applying. It is expected that this achievement will recognise and celebrate examples of imaginative and inclusive practice.

Star Awards Celebration – Debrief and Next Steps

6.4. Following the successful Star Awards Celebration in November 2018, we have worked with young people to look at what worked well and what could be improved for 2019. This feedback is set out at Appendix 1

7. Education, Employment and Employment Outcomes

Cheshire East Apprenticeship Opportunities

7.1. From January 2019 a care Leaver will be joining the Participation Team as a 9 hour per week Youth Support Worker. There are also there are 2 ring-fenced apprenticeships available in the Youth Support Service for Care Leavers.

8. Achieving Permanence and Keeping Children Safe

Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children, 2018-20

8.1. The Sufficiency Statement for Cared for Children, 2018-20, along with a review of the plan, is on the agenda for consideration by the January Committee. This includes an update on the ongoing procurement process for development of residential homes and care hub provisions within Cheshire East.

Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

OFFICIAL

8.2. The Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board for 2017-18 is on the January agenda for consideration by Committee.

Permanency Forum

8.3. The Permanency Forum is a key forum for achieving the pledge around permanence in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Forum takes place every week, led by Senior Officers. They meet with frontline practitioners and team managers to talk about all of our children who are identified as being in the early planning for permanence or where a plan of permanence has been agreed but not yet achieved. This model, recognised as positive practice by Ofsted, is becoming more embedded within services and is supporting productive permanency planning, review of care plans and providing scrutiny to reduce drift.

Specialist Support

8.4. Plans are currently underway to recruit a Social Worker to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and homeless 16/17 year olds within the Cared for Service. It is expected that this specialist support will give them the best opportunities within Cheshire East.

The National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

8.5. This National Protocol, published in November 2018, provides a framework to help local areas reduce criminalisation of cared for children and care leavers. It aims to inform social care and criminal justice agencies' practice to ensure that these children, regardless of their placement type, are kept out of the criminal justice system where possible. The protocol is based on a multi-agency approach, underpinned by listening to and learning from young people and use of restorative practice.

9. Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

9.1. An annual report on the health of cared for children and young people in 2017-18 will be presented to the January Committee.

10. Preparing for Adulthood

The Annual Report from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

10.1. The Annual Report from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, Mark Riddell, was published in December 2018. The Advisor was appointed to work with all local authorities to help them implement the new care leaver provisions introduced through the Children & Social Work Act; and to offer consultancy support to any local authority that wanted to benefit from his expert advice. During his first year in post, Mark has visited around 40 local authorities and identified a number of examples of how local authorities

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are implementing the new duties effectively, as well as innovative practice more generally – which have been referenced in his report under the 5 outcomes set out in the cross-Government care leaver strategy, 'Keep on Caring'. Mark has visited Cheshire East twice and the report includes a good practice example from the borough.

11. General

Corporate Parenting Forward Plan

11.1. The forward plan for Corporate Parenting Committee has been amended to align with the five pledges of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The amended plan is attached at Appendix 2.

12. Implications of the Recommendations

12.1. Legal Implications

Legal advice will be sought, as appropriate, upon all relevant emerging issues.

12.2. Finance Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

12.3. Equality Implications

There are no equality implications as a result of this paper.

12.4. Human Resources Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

12.5. Risk Management Implications

Cared for children and care leavers are a vulnerable group that are at risk of a number of factors – poor education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood.

12.6. Rural Communities Implications

None.

12.7. Implications for Children & Young People

12.7.1. The contents of this report have implications for cared for children and care leavers, who are some of Cheshire East's most vulnerable children.

12.8. Public Health Implications

12.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

13. Ward Members Affected

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

14. Consultation & Engagement

14.1. None.

15. Access to Information

15.1. None.

16. Contact Information

16.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name:Keith MartinJob Title:Head of Cared for Children & Care LeaversEmail:Keith.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Cheshire East Corporate Parenting STAR Celebrations Debrief

The group discussed any issues that had occurred from this year's planning and event so that the day in November 2019 will be run very smoothly.

The group agreed that planning this year started much too late as it was June. Rebekka has put bi-monthly meetings in the calendar from January to May, and then June to November will be monthly meetings.

What went well

- Superhero theme
- Superhero actors
- All activities loved the drumming and the photo booth

What could be better

- Not every child had a certificate. 20 blanks were printed but we ran out of these too. Next year we need to double check the nominations received against the total number of cared for/care leavers?
- Certificates were not signed assuming that the Heads of Service would do
 this when they were presented. On the day there was no time to do this so
 most of the certificates went unsigned. Next year suggest we pre print or
 they are 'hand signed' by the Heads of Service
- Lesley took some feedback from one of our foster carers who wasn't expecting to see/meet birth parents at the event not sure how this happened
- More attention needed for the 'crossover' time between the first session and the second session. Many of the young people/carers arrived to lots of dirty cups/plates. One of the carers told Lesley that the young people looked forward to this event more than Xmas and for them to arrive when the place looked a bit chaotic didn't show us at our best
- Possibly rethink the professional photographer for the next event. Mandy & Kelly did a brilliant job but the printer was a bit slow and the final product wasn't as good a quality
- More 'branding' to dress the venue so more banners/balloons, particularly in the celebration room.

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General Feedback from Young People

Angela has spoken to the young people and feedback is as follows:

- Activities that they really liked were Slime station, hair braids, face painting, glitter tattoos and photo booth.
- The young people loved the food. However, next year they would like to have the chocolate fountain again.
- Young people would like next year's theme to be Pirates and Princesses.
- Young people would like the red carpet back at next year's event.
- The young people liked the hotel venue itself; however, they have said that is too far away and not central to the county at all.
- The superheroes were amazing, so next year we would like characters to fit the theme.

Action: Confirm with the young people that they would like a Pirates and Princesses theme at next year's event

<u>Venue</u>

As the young people have mentioned that the venue is not central enough Cheshire East, the group discussed using a different venue next year. Ideas put forward included Cranage Hall, Congleton Town Hall and the Chimney House Hotel.

Action - Contact Cranage Hall

Action: Following contact with Cranage, talk to the manager about hiring the hall at a discounted rate as the celebration is for cared for children.

Certificates

The young people really liked the certificates, as they had been involved with choosing the branding. They also really like having a separate celebration room to be able to go in.

The Planning Group

Other people have also emailed the participation team and would like to join the 2019 planning group.

<u>AOB</u>

The group agreed that the event in 2019 should be on Sunday 17th November.

The group discussed the option of inviting care leavers to the planning meetings, as they were not involved in this year's event. Kay shared with the group that a care leaver will be the new Youth Support Worker from January, and she will be able to work on the STAR Celebrations as her new project. She will be the lead for the activities and will be point of contact with the young people and the planning group. The group also discussed storage of the activities/arts/crafts etc and whether it is best to store them at the lock up. It was agreed that we buy some watertight containers to store activities etc for next year's event.

Action: Establish budget left after this year's event

Draft Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2018-19

Meeting Date	Possible Areas for Discussion	Sub Group	Lead Officer
MARCH	 Pledge Five - We will prepare young people for adulthood Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy 	PFA	Sam Ankers
	Foster carer fortnight	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Foster carer survey and action plan	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Update on implementation of Children and Social Work Act	CPOG	Keith Martin
	Statistical first release summary	CPOG	Bev Harding
APRIL/MAY To be confirmed (meeting currently	 Enablers - Cross cutting Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Update on staffing and infrastructure, recruitment and retention, staff turnover and absence Update on signs of safety 	BAGCP	Keith Martin/Steve Nevitt
arranged for	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q3)	BAGCP	Bev Harding
23/4/19)	Review of CPC Terms of Reference	CPOG	Gill Betton
JULY	 Pledge One - We will be a good corporate parent Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Member engagement and communication Quality assurance Participation and Engagement 	BAGCP	Keith Martin
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q4)	BAGCP	Bev Harding

	Frontline visits monitoring reports	BAGCP	Keith/Gill
	Draft Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report	BAGCP	Jos Saunders/Keith Martin
	Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Update	BAGCP	Kate Rose/Sue Preston
SEPTEMBER	 Pledge Three - We will work to achieve permanence and keep children safe Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Developments around permanence Keeping young people safe, including vulnerable groups (YOS, SEND, exploited) – include update from LSCB Annual report 	Permanence	Kayleigh Wilshaw
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q1)	BAGCP	Bev Harding
	Fostering Panel Report	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Adoption Panel Report (Report to OSC)	Permanence	Diane Grist
	Adoption Annual Report (Report to OSC)	Permanence	Adoption Counts/Keith Martin
	IRO Annual Report	BAGCP	Karen Chan
NOVEMBER	 Pledge Two - We will improve education, employment and training outcomes Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report 	Education	Laura Rogerson
JANUARY	Any other items	Health	Shan McPartland
JANUART	 Pledge Four - We will improve health and wellbeing outcomes Input from young person, practitioner or service Progress against the corporate parenting strategy Health Annual Report 	пеаци	Shan wice artianu
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q2)	BAGCP	Bev Harding

Standing	Update from children and young people	BAGCP	Keith Martin/Angela Murney		
items	Corporate Parenting Update from Elected Members	N/A	Jos Saunders		
	Update report, including how pledges have impacted	CPOG	Gill Betton/Keith Martin		
Other	LGA questions for each focus area	CPOG	Gill Betton		

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