

# Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

---

**Date:** Monday, 25th January, 2021

**Time:** 12.30 pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

## How to Watch the Meeting

For anybody wishing to view the meeting live please click in the link below:

[Join live meeting](#)

or dial in via telephone on 141 020 3321 5200 and enter Conference ID: 663 015 019# when prompted.

Please turn off your camera and microphone when entering the meeting and ensure they remain turned off throughout.

---

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

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making and Overview and Scrutiny meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020.

---

For requests for further information

**Contact** Joel Hammond-Gant

**Tel:** 01270 686468

**E-Mail:** [joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with any apologies

3. **Declarations of Interest**

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

4. **Whipping Declarations**

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

5. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

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

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

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

6. **Child/Young Person's Story**

To receive a verbal update of an anonymised child/young person's story.

7. **Covid-19 Update** (Pages 11 - 20)

To receive the standing Covid-19 update.

8. **Self-Evaluation Frameworks**

To consider presentations on the three Self Evaluation Frameworks for the Children's Directorate.

9. **Pre-Budget Consultation 2021/22 - Children's Services** (Pages 21 - 32)

To consider the proposals within the Pre-Budget 2021/22 Consultation relating to Children's Services.

10. **Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2019/20**  
(Pages 33 - 92)

To consider the first annual report of the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

11. **Forward Plan** (Pages 93 - 104)

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

12. **Work Programme** (Pages 105 - 112)

To give consideration to the work programme.

**Membership:** Councillors M Addison, J Barber, M Beanland, D Brown, J Buckley, C Bulman (Vice-Chairman), P Butterill, S Handley, A Moran, J Saunders (Chairman), L Smith and N Wylie

This page is intentionally left blank

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

held on Monday, 23rd November, 2020 at Virtual Meeting

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)  
Councillor C Bulman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M Addison, J Barber, M Beanland, D Brown, J Buckley, P Butterill, A Critchley (substitute), A Moran, L Smith and N Wylie

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor K Flavell, Portfolio for Children and Families

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Matthew Adam, Children and Young Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Lead (NHS Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group)  
Kerry Birtles, Director of Children's Social Care  
Jacky Forster, Director of Education and 14-19 Skills  
David Leadbetter, Head of Service - Children's Commissioning  
Madeleine Lowry, Associate Director of Operations (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)  
Kate Rose, Head of Service for Children's Safeguarding  
Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Early Help and Prevention

**36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Handley, who was substituted for by Councillor A Critchley.

**37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 28 September 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**39 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of a party whip.

**40 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION**

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

**41 CHILD / YOUNG PERSON'S STORY**

The committee watched a video that had been put together by Cheshire Without Abuse, which highlighted some of the personal stories from domestic abuse sufferers in Cheshire East.

Members noted the important work that Cheshire Without Abuse, the council and other partners continued to do to reduce domestic abuse in the borough, and support domestic abuse victims.

**RESOLVED –**

That the video update be noted.

**42 COVID-19 UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the committee's standing update on the Covid-19 pandemic and how the work the council had undertaken to respond to, and recover from, it.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- the up-to-date figures on school attendance;
- why the rates of elective home education cases had risen so significantly in recent months;
- whether grants from central government had been received to ensure that all elective home educated students had access to adequate broadband and computer access; and
- what the uptake of PPE had been from schools and whether there had been sufficient uptake of free packages of PPE.

**RESOLVED –**

That the update be received and noted.

**43 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE SCORECARD - QUARTER 2, 2020/21**

The committee considered the performance data relating to Children's Services from Quarter 2 of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Members asked questions in relation to the council's numbers of Children's Social Care staff, and whether the low level of 0-2 year olds engaged at Children's Centres had been a consequence of the pandemic.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Performance Scorecard be noted.

**44 COVID-19 AND CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Consideration was given to a report on the type and range of support that was available to children and young people struggling with their mental health and wellbeing.

Questions and comments were put in relation to;

- what could be done to help to address children and young people's mental health needs before they reach a point of crisis; and
- whether, since the committee's Spotlight Review on Children's Mental Health Services (24 February 2020), services had been made more equitable across the borough of Cheshire East;

The committee felt that it would be pertinent for the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a similar update on the offer of services for adults and older people experiencing mental health and wellbeing struggles.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1 That the report and update be received and noted.
- 2 That the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be recommended to request an update on the offer of services for adults and older people experiencing mental health and wellbeing struggles.

**45 DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The committee gave consideration to a report on how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on domestic abuse cases in Cheshire East.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- the role of Cheshire Police and how partners have worked together to tackle domestic abuse in Cheshire East;
- the inequitable financial formula for the Cheshire region local authorities, which meant that all four councils received the same funding, despite Cheshire East having the greatest number of cases and demand on services; and
- whether the grant funding – due to end in March 2021 – was likely to be continued, or was at risk of being lost.

**RESOLVED –**

That the update be received and noted.

**46 NEET SUMMIT AND ACTION PLAN**

The committee received a report on the NEET (people not in employment, education or training) Summit. The report highlighted how the council has worked to bring together national and local initiatives to ensure that young people are able to make choices about their short-term and longer-term ambitions as they move in to adulthood.

The committee noted that the NEET Summit sounded positive and productive, and that getting feedback directly from the recipients of the programme would further help the council and partners to understand their views, wants and the kind of roles they would be interested in.

**RESOLVED –**

That the update be received and noted.

**47 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING**

Consideration was given to an update on the work that had been carried out through the Schools Forum to develop a proposed new model for allocating High Needs Top-up Funding, along with the details of the planned next steps for this work.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- the fact that survey numbers didn't reflect an overwhelming endorsement of the proposal;
- what amount of additional resources the financial implications noted in the report would require, and whether the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted this; and
- what the consequences of any decreases in funding to schools (in relation to Covid-19) had been, or would be, on children and education performance.

**RESOLVED –**

That the update be received and noted.

**48 FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.



**49 WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee reviewed its work programme, and discussed in particular, the need to ensure that the committee allows itself appropriate time to properly scrutinise the Children's Service Directorate Pre-Budget 2021/22 Consultation.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1 That the work programme be noted.
- 2 That the Scrutiny Officer liaise with officers to determine how the committee's remaining meetings and their proposed agendas could be managed to ensure that sufficient time could be apportioned to the various items.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 4.14 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)

This page is intentionally left blank



*Working for a brighter future together*

Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** 25 January 2021

**Report Title:** Children's Services' Response to COVID-19

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Kathryn Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

---

### **1. Report summary**

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the work of Children's Services in response to the current national and international public health emergency on Covid-19.
- 1.2. These are unprecedented times for the Council, and for our children, young people and families. We have many challenges ahead. Covid-19 is, and will continue to have, a significant impact on our children, young people and families.

### **2. Recommendation/s**

- 2.1 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note:
  - The progress to date,
  - The issues outlined in this report
  - The impact of the pandemic on children and young people.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation/s**

- 3.1. To enable members to scrutinise arrangements for children and young people to ensure we have the right support in place to help children

OFFICIAL

achieve the best outcomes. To put on public record a summary of our response to date and to explain the ongoing pressures due to Covid-19.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

4.1. Not applicable.

#### **5. Children's Services' Response to COVID-19**

##### *Children's Social Care*

- 5.1 We have reviewed our service offer in light of the new national lockdown which came into effect on 6 January 2021. We will be maintaining statutory service provision in line with our usual processes where it is safe to do so, including face to face visits, in order to continue to effectively safeguard children and young people. Visits are carefully risk assessed to consider the risk of Covid to the child and wider family members. Family time is continuing to take place as we recognise the importance of this to children and young people's wellbeing and long-term relationships.
- 5.2 We are identifying which vulnerable children supported by our Children's Social Care and Early Help services would be safer attending their early years setting or school, and workers are supporting and encouraging families to continue attendance. Safeguarding is a multi-agency responsibility and we will be ensuring the Safeguarding Children Partnership has oversight of which children we feel are at increased risk due to not attending education, and that as a partnership we take action to support them to attend, and review our plans, assessment of risk and multi-agency response where the child continues to not attend.
- 5.3 To recognise the dedication and great work from the workforce, Children's Social Care carried out '24 days of thank yous' for advent and shared compliments and resources for working with families each day during December. One example of the positive feedback shared was this compliment which was received by a social worker from a parent:

*'From the bottom of our hearts THANK YOU! You gave me back my trust for professionals you had never given up on me! Even when things wasn't in our favour you still stuck by us and pushed us you have made me so much better! You made me realise the mother I can*

*be you showed me that the world isn't that dark and that there is light.  
THANK YOU! Thank you for saving me!*

- 5.4 Ofsted ILACS inspections were due to recommence from 5 January 2021. Ofsted have announced that they will not be conducting any fieldwork in January so that local authorities can focus on leading their local emergency response. Inspections will resume from February and we are expecting to receive an inspection shortly.

#### *Early Help and Prevention*

- 5.5 We have reviewed our service offer in light of the new national lockdown which came into effect on 6 January. We will be maintaining service provision in line with our usual processes where it is safe to do so, including face to face visits, in order to continue to effectively safeguard children and young people. Visits are carefully risk assessed to consider the risk of Covid to the child and wider family members. We are also continuing to provide some targeted, direct work in line with Government guidance from our Family and Children's Centres. This includes support for families open to our service and to new parents who have given birth during the pandemic. A range of online and remote support continues to be in place to complement this offer.
- 5.6 Early years providers were advised that they could remain open during the new national lockdown, this includes nurseries and registered childminders but does not include nursery classes in primary schools – we are waiting for further guidance from the DfE on this. We will continue to offer our support to all settings and will be closely monitoring the number of vulnerable children attending to ensure families can continue to access provision and support.
- 5.7 Over 9,000 vouchers were distributed over the Christmas period to families and young adults in need through the Winter Grant Scheme. The grant is to offer practical support in the form of food and utilities payments. The scheme will continue until the end of March. A referral process is in place for professionals to refer families who need this support which is working well. Emergency vouchers were distributed to Social Care and Early Help teams to cover any enquiries during the holiday period when families may self-refer.

*Education and Skills*

5.8 On 6 January the DfE announced the following:

- Schools and colleges remain open but with attendance limited to vulnerable children and children of critical workers (also referred to as key workers).
- Extra funding will be provided to support schools to provide food parcels or meals to students eligible for free school meals. The national voucher scheme will also re-open so that in the event schools cannot offer food parcels or provide an alternative local solution, every child can access free school meals while they are learning at home.
- The minimum standards of remote learning have been strengthened, schools will be expected to offer pupils online lessons and a set number of hours of remote education for pupils.
- Schools are expected to have a digital platform, such as G-Suite or Microsoft Education, and should provide at least some of their remote provision via video lessons – this can be done by school-led videos or using other providers like Oak National Academy.
- There will be further distribution of laptops to schools.
- The UK's leading mobile network operators will provide access to educational sites. Schools can already request free mobile data uplifts for disadvantaged families via the Department for Education's website.
- The level of additional data for families will vary by provider, but for example Three customers will receive unlimited data and EE customers will receive an extra 20 gigabytes per month. Other providers supporting the offer include Tesco Mobile, Smarty, Sky Mobile, Virgin Mobile, Vodafone and O2.
- Students will not be asked to sit GCSE, AS and A level exams this summer. Ofqual will consider a teacher assessed system as a replacement for GCSEs, AS and A levels. A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students, while also giving them the opportunity to have their say.
- Assessments in some vocational qualifications can still take place in January, where schools and colleges judge it right to do so. The department is working with Ofqual on arrangements for those who do not take their January assessments, as well as for vocational and technical assessments scheduled for February onwards.

- Statutory key stage 1 and key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the key stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics, will not take place.
- As announced in December, Ofsted will carry out monitoring inspections in the Spring term of those schools most in need of challenge and support. These inspections will have a strong focus on remote education. In addition, Ofsted can inspect schools – of any grade – where it has significant concerns about safeguarding or the quality of education being provided, including remote education.
- The rapid testing programme for secondary schools and colleges will continue for those on site, with daily testing of close contacts available to students and staff and weekly testing available for staff. Primary staff will be included later in January, and more detail will be set out in due course about reaching all secondary students as they return to face-to-face education.

- 5.9 Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on 4 January on the third national lockdown, we contacted schools and colleges to advise them to open on 5 January to vulnerable children and children of key workers. Based on the learning from the first school closedown in March, we offered advice to schools on how to support vulnerable groups such as children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and children on a child in need or child protection plan. The Virtual School for cared for children has been ensuring that appropriate support is in place for cared for children and young people who are accessing education from home so they can continue to make progress.
- 5.10 We have established internal arrangements to review support for the most vulnerable children not attending school based on a risk-based approach to ensure coordinated support across partners / professionals.
- 5.11 It is required in law to deliver the provision in Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. For all children with EHC plans, we have advised schools to complete a risk assessment to assess the impact on the child of not attending education and, if it is agreed their needs can be met safely at home, to put in place a temporary provision plan which is coproduced with the parent/carer. Based on feedback from our parent carers, we have also asked schools to consider any children with SEN support plans, especially those where a needs assessment

was being considered for an EHC plan or where they have complex needs.

- 5.12 We have re-established our email address for practitioners, parents and schools to contact with any queries on attendance of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. This was previously very effective in enabling us to address any barriers to attendance quickly. The learning from the first lockdown has enabled us to put plans into place quickly and effectively.
- 5.13 Schools have moved to remote learning until at least February half term. Schools were well prepared in terms of planning for remote learning and have been able to have this in place with short notice.
- 5.14 We have encouraged schools with secondary age children to continue to set up testing arrangements. We will look at how we can enable access to testing for primary school staff. Pilots took place before Christmas and training sessions for schools are taking place in January.
- 5.15 We are awaiting the publication of new guidance for schools and will continue to provide intensive support to schools around how to implement this to ensure we have a consistent and safe approach across all schools. The Education Recovery Group continues to be effective in planning our joint response.

## **6.0 Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1 Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1 New legislation has been enacted and guidance has been released in relation to coronavirus.
- 6.1.2 We have liaised with our Legal Services colleagues throughout the pandemic, to assist with and support our understanding and implementation of all legislation and guidance that affects our services to children and families, and will continue to do so as we progress.

### **6.2 Financial Implications**

- 6.2.1 We are seeing the expected rise in demand to Children's Services as a result of Covid-19 which will increase costs to the Council.



### **6.3 Equality Implications**

- 6.3.1 Care leavers are especially vulnerable and may be disproportionately disadvantaged in terms of housing and employment options as a result of Covid-19. They are also more likely to be living alone so have been at risk of being socially isolated during increased restrictions.
- 6.3.2 We have seen an increase in mental health issues, both for children and young people and parents and carers.
- 6.3.3 Some people we work with are at higher risk from Covid-19, for example pregnant women, people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, and those with underlying health conditions such as some of our children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 6.3.4 Some children with additional needs, for example those with autism, could find the change in routine at school and at home particularly challenging and may need additional support to help them through the changes.

### **6.4 Human Resources Implications**

- 6.4.1 There have been HR implications to staff working in different ways. HR and Public Health have been supportive of officers in ensuring that robust risk assessments are in place and available to staff in undertaking their duties, for example in carrying out face to face visits to families.
- 6.4.2 Staff have shown enormous flexibility and resilience. Families have been very positive about our new offer and virtual contact with them, and there will some ways of working we will continue with in the long term.
- 6.4.3 We are conscious of the sustained emergency response that has been required by our staff, and the impact this has, and we are continuing to remind staff that they need to prioritise their wellbeing in order to maintain their resilience.

### **6.5 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.5.1 We have developed a Children and Families Covid-19 risk register. The Children and Families Leadership team are continuing to meet

on a regular basis to share information and ensure there is a joint approach to our response and risks are anticipated and mitigated.

## **6.6 Rural Communities Implications**

6.6.1 There are no direct rural communities' implications of this report.

## **6.7 Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.7.1 The contents of this report have outlined the implications for our children and young people.

## **6.8 Public Health Implications**

6.8.1 Covid-19 is a global pandemic and public health emergency. Public Health advice has been sought to ensure Children's Services are complying with Public Health guidelines and are providing safe services for families and our staff.

## **6.9 Climate Change Implications**

6.9.1 The increase in people working from home, and reduced travel, has had a positive impact on climate change.

## **7 Ward Members Affected**

7.1 All members.

## **8 Consultation & Engagement**

8.1 Our Youth Council has continued to meet (virtually), and we continue to consult with the Parent Carer Forum and other groups. Feedback from families and partners on our support during Covid-19 has overall been very positive.

## **9 Access to Information**

9.1 None.

## **10 Contact Information**

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

Name: Mark Palethorpe

Job Title: Executive Director of People

Email: [Mark.Palethorpe@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Palethorpe@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank



*Working for a brighter future together*

Version  
Number: 0.1

Key Decision Y/N

Date First  
Published:

## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

---

**Date of Meeting:** 25 January 2021

**Report Title:** Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 to 2025 - Consultation

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Amanda Stott - Portfolio Holder for Finance,  
Communications and ICT

**Senior Officer:** Alex Thompson – Director of Finance & Customer Services

Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

---

### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1** The Council is required to set a balanced budget each year. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020, Cabinet approved a balanced set of proposals for consultation, with a comprehensive programme to promote the proposals and seek responses from stakeholders.
- 1.2** Part of the annual process for setting the budget sees Scrutiny Committees review the proposals and provide feedback prior to Cabinet making its recommendations to Council.
- 1.3** Cabinet will review the feedback received from all sources, including the Local Government Settlement issued on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and will aim to make recommendations to Council at it's meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. These recommendations will include proposals for a balanced budget based on robust estimates and supported by adequate reserves.

## **2. Recommendations**

That Committee:

- 2.1** Review the consultation information approved by Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (appended to this report), focusing on the proposals relevant to this Committee.
- 2.2** Provide feedback on the proposals to Cabinet as necessary in advance of their meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1** Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide an important element of the Council's governance arrangements. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy presents a set of key decisions for Members each year and it is important that Members are provided with opportunities to review the proposals being consulted upon and the Scrutiny Committees fulfil a significant element of this requirement.
- 3.2** To ensure that budget proposals are robust, it is appropriate to subject them to appropriate scrutiny throughout the consultation period. Appendix A provides the list of proposals subject to consultation and identifies those most relevant to each Committee.
- 3.3** Additionally some proposals will be subject to further consultation activity directly with services users. All feedback received during the consultation period will be provided as part of the reporting to Cabinet and Council in February 2021.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1** The consultation process was discussed with Members in their various roles within political groups and as Members of committees. Options to support responses to the consultation were considered and a full suite of service scrutiny meetings was agreed as the most appropriate way to engage Members this year.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1** The background and context to the process and development of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are contained within the Cabinet Reports dates 10<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- 5.2** Since publication of the Cabinet reports the Chancellor of the Exchequer has published the Spending Review 2020 and the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement. The

announcements relevant to local authorities focused on additional funding schemes related to COVID-19, and an overall increase in Local Government Spending Power for 2021/22 of 4.5%. The increase in Spending Power reflects a net effect of new and continuing grants compared to grant reductions but is mostly based on an ability to increase Council Tax by including an additional 3% precept for Adult Social Care.

**5.3** Cabinet will utilise the information provided during the consultation period in making their recommendations to Council in February 2021. However, to provide additional context to Scrutiny Committees, it is important to note the most significant impacts of the Spending Review for Cheshire East Council compared to the published consultation documents. Committee members should therefore note the following points from the Spending Review:

- Option to increase Council Tax by an additional 3% for Adult Social Care (1% = £2.3m for Cheshire East Council)
- Potential pay freeze across the public sector, apart from some key workers and those affected by minimum wage requirements (pay inflation of 2.5% assumed within the Cheshire East Council budget consultation)
- New Social Care Grant (equal to c.£0.4m for Cheshire East Council)
- Reduction in New Homes Bonus, by not continuing legacy payments for previous housebuilding (reduces grant to Cheshire East Council by c.£3.6m)
- Removal of access to the Public Works Loans Board for borrowing associated with yield. Cheshire East Council was forecasting c.£0.5m of income from activities associated with the approved Investment Strategy.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

**6.1.1** There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

**6.2.1** There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report, however the consultation process may

lead to amendments to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which is a Key Decision for the Council.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

**6.3.1** The MTFS will be considered alongside the new Corporate Plan, which sets out a new vision, aims and priorities for Cheshire East Council.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

**6.4.1** Equality Impact Assessments have been drafted based on the consultation proposals and will be updated alongside final recommendations on the budget.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

**6.5.1** There are a number of proposals which will impact on staff. These have been shared with staff and recognised Trade Unions as part of the consultation process.

### **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

**6.6.1** There are a number of risks associated in particular with the ongoing uncertainties around Covid response and recovery which are reflected in the MTFS.

### **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

**6.7.1** Any implications will be considered in the final responses.

### **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

**6.8.1** The implications are set out in the draft budget and will be considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **6.9. Public Health Implications**

**6.9.1** There are a number of implications, particularly related to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

### **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

**6.10.1** The implications are set out in the draft budget and will be considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

**7.1.** All

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**



- 8.1** This report is a part of the Council's consultation process to support the development and future implementation of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

## **9. Access to Information**

- 9.1** There are several important supporting documents members may wish to review to support engagement with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020 to 2025:

**9.1.1** [Cheshire East Council Medium-Term Financial Strategy](#)

**9.1.2** Cabinet Reports to launch the MTFS Consultation:

**9.1.3** [10<sup>th</sup> November 2020](#) – Item 51

**9.1.4** [1<sup>st</sup> December 2020](#) – Item 63

**9.1.5** [Cheshire East Council Budget Consultation \(Webpage\)](#)

**9.1.6** [Spending Review 2020](#)

**9.1.7** [Provisional Local Government Settlement 2021/22](#)

## **10. Contact Information**

- 10.1** Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name: Alex Thompson

Job Title: Director of Finance & Customer Services

Email: [alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

\*Important Note: Proposals marked **RED** / **AMBER** have been identified as those only being considered for consultation and any subsequent implementation if the Local Government Funding Settlement does not sufficiently increase the funding to Cheshire East Council. **RED** items would be removed first where possible.

		Note	Change from Previous Years Budget			
Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes	OSC		2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making						
Local Election Costs	Corporate		0.150			
			0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000
Listen, learn and respond to our residents, promoting opportunities for a two-way conversation						
Census 2021	Corporate		-0.020			
			-0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000
Support and sustain a financial future for the Council, through service development, improvement and transformation						
Pay inflationary increase	Corporate		4.591	3.825	3.907	3.998
Housing Benefit – Supported Accommodation	Corporate		1.300			
Core Financial System	Corporate		0.764	-0.459		
Mitigation of reduction in the Dedicated Schools Grant (Corporate Services)	Corporate		0.117	0.042	0.033	0.027
B4B unachievable savings - HR & TSC Budget Shortfall - ADD TO CORE FINANCIAL SYSTEM			0.000			
Mitigation of the year-on-year reduction in the Dedicated Schools Grant (ICT) - ADD TO DSG	Corporate		0.033	0.065	0.089	0.109
Direct Payments	Health	A *	-1.000			
Continuing Healthcare Reviews	Health	A *	-1.000	-1.000		
Prevention and Early Help Service – Reduction of frontline workers in Prevention	Children	R *	-0.265	-0.697		
Reduce the numbers of Business Support Staff in line with the repurposing of Children & Family Centres	Children	R *	-0.200			
Reduce Base budget assigned to Community Grants	Health	A *	-0.150			
Efficiency savings and Restructures within Corporate Services	Corporate	A *	-0.300	-0.250		
Review Terms and Conditions	Corporate	A *	-0.300	-0.100	-0.100	
Shared services review	Corporate	A *			-0.200	
Improved Debt Recovery and correcting budgeted court costs income targets to reflect actual levels	Corporate	A *	-0.290	0.225	0.050	0.050
Capital Programme Review	Corporate		-1.000	1.000		
Member allowances and reduced mileage	Corporate		-0.030			
Reduced travel and supplies and services for Early Help services	Children		-0.026			
Reduce pensions budget to match latest forecasts	Corporate		-0.140			
Review of corporate subscriptions	Corporate		-0.035	-0.015		
Flexible Resourcing for Service Delivery for Regulatory Services	Environment		-0.050			
Urban Grass Cutting	Environment	A *	-0.100			
Improving customer experience – Highways correspondence	Environment	A *	-0.100			
Transfer of Congleton Visitor Information Centre	Environment		0.001	-0.020	-0.010	-0.020

Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes	OSC			2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Regulatory Services and Environmental Health ICT procurement	Environment				-0.009		
CCTV migration to wireless networks	Environment				-0.085		
Constellation Partnership	Environment			-0.040			
				1.780	2.523	3.769	4.164
<b>Maximise commercial opportunities for the Council</b>							
Orbitas income and management fee	Environment			0.032	0.021		
Public Rights of Way Resources (Revenue implications of Capital)	Environment			0.010			
Everybody Sport and Recreation Annual Management Fee	Health	A	*	-0.043	-0.042	-0.041	-0.040
Commercial Workstream	Corporate	A	*	-0.100			
Commercialisation of the Highway Service Contract	Environment	A	*	-0.080			
Brighter Futures Together Programme Customer Experience	Corporate	A	*	-0.120	-0.133	-0.081	
Contract savings in the Peoples Directorate	Health			-0.500			
Client Income in the Peoples Directorate	Health			-0.100			
Establish an Education Psychologist traded service to enable a proactive early support and intervention offer	Children				-0.025	-0.075	
Establish a traded service for non statutory elements of Attendance Service	Health				-0.035	-0.035	
Review of governance of ASDVs and seeking increased opportunities for savings/ commercial opportunities	Environment			-0.315	-0.225	-0.100	
Increase income from hire of Children's Centres	Children			-0.010			
Ansa income generation and efficiencies - Food Waste Recycling	Environment			-0.259			
Strategic Leisure Review	Health			0.000	-0.250		
				-1.485	-0.689	-0.332	-0.040
<b>Support and develop our workforce to be confident, motivated, innovative, resilient and empowered</b>							
Infrastructure Investment Programme (Revenue implications of Capital)	Corporate			0.310	0.410	0.520	
Unified Communications (Revenue implications of Capital)	Corporate			0.251	0.283	0.296	
People Directorate - ICT Procurements 2020-24 (Revenue implications of Capital)	Health			0.060	0.063	0.066	0.019
Place Directorate - ICT Procurements 2020-24 (Revenue implications of Capital)	Corporate			0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
Corporate Directorate - ICT Procurements 2020-24 (Revenue implications of Capital)	Corporate			0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Productivity and Efficiency in Adult Social Care	Health	A	*		-1.000		
Estates Transformation - Office Accommodation	Corporate			-0.044	-0.100	-0.460	
Prevention and Early Help Service – Locality working and changes to the management structure of the Family Service	Children	R	*		-0.140		
Neighbourhood Estate Review	Environment			-0.090	-0.260		
Increased Useage of Digital Technology	Corporate			-0.125			
To review of use of School Improvement Grant to provide capacity to support maintained schools	Children			-0.060			
Reduce central training budget	Corporate			-0.080			
				0.235	-0.731	0.435	0.032
<b>Open</b>				<b>0.660</b>	<b>1.103</b>	<b>3.872</b>	<b>4.156</b>

Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes	OSC			2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
<b>Reduce health inequalities across the Borough</b>							
Pathfinder Cheshire East - Cheshire Community Action	Health	A	*	-0.100			
Mental Health Floating Support	Health	A	*	-0.120			
				<b>-0.220</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Reduce the reliance on long term care by improving services closer to home and more extra care facilities, including those with dementia</b>							
Investment in Adult Social Care	Health			4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Growth for Care Fees in Adult Social Care	Health			2.441			
Extra Care Housing – Catering / Restaurant Provision	Health			0.300			
Investment in Advocacy Service	Health			0.112			
Direction of travel for the Communities Team to focus more on the Intervention and Prevention Agenda to make cost savings, growth and future cost avoidance	Health	A	*	-0.750	-0.750		
Fund the Cygnet programme for cared for children from pupil premium	Children	A	*	-0.015			
Day Opportunities, Redesign, Strategy and Savings	Health	A	*	-0.030	-0.070	-0.150	
Mental Health Services Review	Health	A	*	-1.000			
Review agreements linked to intermediate care beds	Health	A	*	-0.268			
Reduced capacity in Family Information Service	Children			-0.050			
Electronic Call Monitoring Reclamation	Health			-0.245	-0.030		
Cheshire Care Record	Health			-0.138			
Review the use of the Cheshire East Lifelong Learning Service grant to reduce the requirement of Council funding	Children			-0.110			
To reduce costs of School Liaison and Governance service with less use of external support	Children			-0.010			
				<b>4.237</b>	<b>3.150</b>	<b>3.850</b>	<b>4.000</b>
<b>Safeguarding our children from abuse, neglect and exploitation</b>							
Increase capacity in SEND service to meet continuing demands on the service	Children			0.100			
Move to Integrated Early Help Locality Service model	Children	R	*	-0.167			
Learning Disabilities Future Service Development and Review	Health	A	*	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	
Reduced travel and supplies and services for Early Help services	Children			-0.032			
Reduction in cost of external placements for cared for children	Children	A	*	-0.435	-1.571	-2.007	
				<b>-1.534</b>	<b>-2.571</b>	<b>-3.007</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Increase the life opportunities for young adults and adults with additional needs</b>							
Development and Partnerships Service	Health	A	*			-0.300	
				<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.300</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Be the best Corporate Parents and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people</b>							
Investment in Cared for Children and Care Leavers	Children			1.300	1.300	1.300	
				<b>1.300</b>	<b>1.300</b>	<b>1.300</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes	osc			2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
A collaborative way of working with partners and families to support children to achieve their full potential							
Reduction in contribution to Cheshire Youth Justice Service	Children			-0.045			
				-0.045	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fairer				3.738	1.879	1.843	4.000
A great place for people to live, work and visit							
Development of a Transit Site (Revenue implications of Capital)	Environment			0.027			
Tatton Park	Environment			0.000	-0.006	-0.028	-0.046
Asset / Service Transfer	Environment			-0.150	-0.030	-0.020	
				-0.123	-0.036	-0.048	-0.046
Welcoming, safe and clean neighbourhoods							
Fixed Penalty Income target	Environment			0.118			
Housing Services	Environment			-0.045			
				0.073	0.000	0.000	0.000
To reduce the impact on our environment							
Waste Contract Inflation and Tonnage Growth	Environment			0.810	0.644	0.657	0.613
Environment Strategy and Carbon Neutrality	Environment	A	*		0.020	-0.081	
Tree Risk Management	Environment				0.500		
Carbon Reduction - Replacement of existing illuminated signs and bollards with LED units	Environment	A	*		0.030	-0.004	-0.031
				0.810	1.194	0.572	0.582
A transport network that is safe and promotes active travel							
Parking Strategy (Revenue implications of Capital) - Subject to separate consultation	Environment	A	*	-0.327	-0.955		
Local Supported Buses - Subject to separate consultation	Environment	A	*	-0.117			
Community Transport	Environment			-0.025			
				-0.469	-0.955	0.000	0.000
Greener				0.292	0.203	0.524	0.536
Total Proposed Budget Change				4.689	3.185	6.239	8.692

Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes	OSC			2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Increased Council Tax Base - % increase planned at 1.99%	Corporate			-4.567	-4.694	-4.835	-4.979
Increase Council Tax Base - New Homes	Corporate			-1.838	-2.365	-2.412	-2.461
Central Pension adjustment based on Actuary results	Corporate			-4.567	-1.900	1.500	
Use of Earmarked Reserve - Collection Fund deficit	Corporate			-2.000			2.000
Use of (-) / Contribution to (+) Earmarked Reserves - General	Corporate			2.237	-0.881	-0.820	
Deficit on Collection Fund due to COVID-19	Corporate			2.147			-2.000
Minimum Revenue Provision	Corporate			2.000	3.977	1.024	1.000
Capital Receipts Income removed from base budget	Corporate			1.000			
Reduced commercial growth in Business Rates Retention Scheme	Corporate			0.700			
Bad Debt Provision	Corporate			0.200			
Contribution to General Reserves	Corporate				1.000		-1.000
Change to New Homes Bonus funding estimate	Corporate				1.679	1.427	1.213
Central Budget Items				-4.689	-3.185	-4.116	-6.227
Funding Deficit				0.000	0.000	2.123	2.465
Funding Deficit - Cumulative Position				0.000	0.000	2.123	4.589
*Important Note: Proposals marked RED / AMBER have been identified as those only being considered for consultation and any subsequent implementation if the Local Government Funding Settlement does not sufficiently increase the funding to Cheshire East Council. RED items would be removed first where possible.							

This page is intentionally left blank





*Working for a brighter future together*

Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

---

**Date of Meeting:** 25 January 2021

**Report Title:** Cheshire East Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CESCP)  
Annual Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Kathryn Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

---

### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides the Committee with the first annual report of the new Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP). The report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Annual Report provides the Committee with a detailed account of the work undertaken by the CESCP throughout the year, progress made against the priorities contained within the CESCP Business Plan and the outcomes achieved.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Committee is recommended to note the report.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. The local authority has a key duty to work together with other partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Receiving the annual report from the CESCP provides the Committee an overview of the effectiveness of these arrangements.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. The Committee could consider scrutinising this activity on a more frequent basis, but that would not provide the broader performance and themes provided by an annual report.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. The statutory guidance, *Working Together 2018 (WT18)*, requires each area to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. This report sets out what the CЕСCP has done over the past year, along with plans for next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.
- 5.2. *Working Together 2018 (WT18)* established that Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) be replaced by new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in local areas established by three statutory safeguarding partners (the Local authority, the Police and the local Clinical Commissioning Group). In 2018-19, Cheshire East's LSCB worked towards meeting and publishing new partnership arrangements. These were published in June 2019 and implemented in September 2019. The LSCB then became the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership (CESCP). This is the first annual report from the CESCP.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the local authority is under a duty to make arrangements to promote co-operation between itself and organisations and agencies to improve the wellbeing of local children. This co-operation should exist and be effective at all levels of an organisation, from strategic level through to operational delivery.
- 6.1.2. The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, strengthens this already important relationship by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. Specifically the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.
- 6.1.3. The CESCP works within the extensive legislative framework around safeguarding children. *Working Together 2018 (WT18)* is the statutory document that provides a detailed guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1. The annual report sets out the financial position of the board.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. There are no current policy implications.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no current equality implications.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no current HR implications.

### **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. It is essential to identify, analyse and prioritise risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Partnership's plans. The Partnership maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed. The Annual Report sets out a number of 'open' risks and the actions in place to mitigate against these.

### **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

### **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1. The overall role of CЕСSP is to coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together.

### **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. Services have had to adapt their offer in response to the global pandemic Covid-19.

### **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. The CЕСSP works across all wards in Cheshire East.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. The Annual Report contains information on the CЕСSP's consultation and engagement activity.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. The following information supports this report:

9.1.1. Appendix 1 – CЕСP Annual Report 2019-20.

## **10. Contact Information**

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

Name: Alistair Jordan

Job Title: Project Manager, Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Email: [Alistair.Jordan@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Alistair.Jordan@cheshireeast.gov.uk)



# **Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2019-20**

## Contents

Foreword from the Partnership Chair .....	3
Summary .....	3
Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership.....	4
Background .....	4
The Partnership.....	4
Independent scrutiny.....	5
Our Vision for the Children and Young People of Cheshire East .....	6
Governance.....	7
Key Roles.....	8
Partnership Key Lead Areas .....	8
Partnership Membership and Attendance .....	9
Financial Arrangements 2019-20.....	9
Children and Young People in Cheshire East .....	10
Our Child Population.....	10
The Child's Journey in Cheshire East .....	11
Cheshire East Consultation Service .....	11
Early Help .....	11
Children in Need and Child Protection .....	13
Assessment timescales .....	13
Children in Need .....	13
Child Protection .....	13
Cared for Children.....	15

Care Leavers.....	15
Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people.....	17
Review of Priorities for 2019-20 .....	19
Improvements against the Priorities .....	20
Improving SCP's engagement with frontline staff .....	20
Neglect .....	21
Continuing to drive developments around Child Exploitation .....	22
Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children .....	24
Continuing to drive developments around children in a home with domestic abuse .....	26
Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism .....	28
Developing our Early Help Strategy .....	29
Learning and Improvement .....	30
Strengthening Partnerships .....	30
Covid 19 .....	38
2019-20 Annual Reports .....	41
Summary of reports .....	41
Key Priorities for 2019-20 .....	51
Risks and Issues .....	51
Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Structure	54
Appendix 2: Executive Membership and Attendance .....	55
Appendix 3: Partner Contributions. ....	56

## Foreword from the Partnership Chair

This is the first annual report of the new Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership, it covers the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. We want to first recognise that at the end of this period the global pandemic COVID 19 affected everyone in the Cheshire East community.

In March, overnight the partners had to change the way many of its services were delivered, to keeping schools open for key workers' children and vulnerable children, to working out how to keep services running without face to face contact, to ensuring key workers are able to operate safely within PPE and safeguarding requirements.

As this report is presented, the Council and its many partners working with children are, like all partnerships, dealing with an unprecedented public health crisis presented by the spread, and the many layered effects, of the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

This report recognises the progress the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) has made throughout the year and the challenges that remain that we will continue to address in 2020/21.

If you have any questions about the report or the information contained in it, please contact me at [CESCP@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:CESCP@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Mark Palethorpe Chair, Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Executive Director of People – Director of Children's Services & Director Adult Social Services, Cheshire East Council

## Summary

The Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to lead the safeguarding work of the borough. Much of this year has been spent developing a culture that supports the collaborative working arrangements needed to safeguard Cheshire East's vulnerable adults and children.

The SCP has engaged multiagency partners in the assurance process associated with delivery of the agreed work programme, encompassing core business and priorities relating to neglect, contextual safeguarding and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children. This has included partnership scrutiny, constructive check and challenge and the recent development of monitoring framework and scorecard. Evidence of actions arising from audits and SCRs have been reviewed and signed off by the QAG. Opportunities for learning and adopting good practice from peers has been reflected in the work programme.

Ofsted noted that "Since the single inspection framework (SIF) inspection in 2015 and the focused visit in October 2018 the local authority has made significant progress in some service areas. Arrangements in the integrated front door have been strengthened" and that it was "encouraging to see the development of opportunities for dialogue, growing mutual respect between all organisations, and an increased understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities. Strategic partnerships are mature and responsive to changing needs in operational conditions. This is demonstrated by strong and collaborative multi-agency work early help services; the integrated front door; the edge of care service; and strong contextual safeguarding arrangements."

# Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership

## Background

The statutory guidance [Working Together 2018](#) (WT18) requires each area to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. This report sets out what we have done over the past year and what we plan to do next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

The partnership published the new [multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements](#) in June 2019 and implemented these by September 2019 as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

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

A copy of this 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 Wellbeing 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 Partnership

[Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#) (SCP) consists of senior representatives from the statutory partners the local authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police. Also represented on the Executive are the Youth Justice Service, Probation, the CRC, Public Health, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and East Cheshire Trust NHS. The Executive members work together to keep children and young people safe from harm.

The SCP was responsible for scrutinising the work of its partners to ensure that services provided to children and young people actually make a positive difference.

The main role of the SCP is set out in its arrangements paper. It is to co-ordinate and to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Cheshire East.



## Independent scrutiny

Independent scrutiny is a statutory requirement, designed to provide assurance internally to partners and relevant agencies, their governing and scrutiny bodies; and externally, to the DfE, Ofsted, the CQC, HMICFRS, HMIP, and other inspectors' auditors or regulators. Working Together 2018 is clear that mutual holding to account, support and challenge is how the statutory partners and relevant agencies must operate, ensuring the partnership and its impacts are clear, co-owned, and contribute to progressively improving children and young people's lives.

The SCP continued with an independent chair during its first year to support the transition from the LSCB to SCP arrangements. The chair of the partnership is now held by the Cheshire East Council's Executive Director of People. It is intended to rotate the chair between the three statutory bodies.

The SCP had planned to conduct a peer challenge exercise with another SCP in the region and plans for this were well developed, unfortunately this was overtaken firstly by an Ofsted inspection and then by the requirement to respond to the Covid crisis. It is anticipated that an exercise like this will be conducted in the future.

An exercise was conducted with neighbouring SCP to share learning from conducting the Rapid Review process. Learning from this is being developed to adjust the local process.

Ofsted conducted an inspection of Children's Social Care Services in November 2019. They recognised 'significant progress' in Cheshire East Council's Children's Services and that the council has plans in place for further improvement in areas identified in the inspection report. The services were rated as 'requires improvement to be good'.

Some of the key areas of progress highlighted in the report were:

- Strengthened arrangements in the service's 'front door' - meaning that children at risk of serious harm are identified swiftly and action is taken to safeguard and protect them
- A comprehensive and well-developed early help offer for families
- Children at risk of domestic abuse have access to a wealth of support
- Well embedded systems to safeguard children missing from education or home educated
- The 'voice of the child' is a strength and social workers know the children well and work with them creatively to plan for their safeguarding and care

The SCP commits to an active involvement in the CEC Scrutiny arrangements, including the Chief Executive quarterly safeguarding meeting. This Annual Report will be the subject of a CEC Scrutiny Committee meeting.

## Our 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.
- ❖ Hold multi professional events to update the settings on the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership but also include them in delivering the key safeguarding objectives.

## Governance

**The SCP has three tiers of activity** (see [Appendix 1](#)): These new [arrangements](#) were implemented as part of the introduction of the Safeguarding Partnership in April 2019.

**The Executive** which consisted of representatives from the statutory partners and by Criminal Justice Services and Health Providers who are relevant agencies as set out in Working Together 2018. Executive members were sufficiently senior to ensure they can speak confidently and had the authority to sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency.

**Sub-groups and Task and Finish Groups (Cheshire East)** – these groups work on SCPs priority areas on a targeted and thematic basis. They report to the Executive. Operating at March 2020

Sub-groups

- Quality Assurance
- Learning and Improvement

**Task and Finish Groups** these all report to the Learning and Improvement Sub-group:

- Child Exploitation
- Child in Need
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children

**Subgroups (Pan-Cheshire)** – The SCP is working with the other Cheshire SCPs to maximise the opportunity for streamlined processes across our boundaries. The following Pan- Cheshire sub-groups were in operation:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Policies and Procedures
- Youth Detention
- Domestic abuse
- Contextual safeguarding

## Key Roles

**Independent Chair** – during the first year of the SCP the role of independent Chair, occupied by Gill Frame was retained. She was accountable to the Statutory Partners.

**Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)** – SCP 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 Local Safeguarding Adults Board (CELSAB)** - CELSAB carries out the safeguarding functions in relation to adults 18 years and over. Several members of the SCP also sit on CELSAB.

**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 CELSAB. 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 Chairs Meeting** - The Partnership chairs meeting is responsible for coordinating these locally.

## Partnership Key Lead Areas

Key partnerships agreed the following leads for shared priority areas:

Shared priority area	Strategic governance lead
Domestic Abuse	Domestic Abuse Partnership
Prevent	Safe Cheshire East Partnership
Reducing Offending	SCEP & Youth Justice Board
Anti-social Behavior	SCEP
Organised crime and Child Exploitation	SCEP/SCP
Hate Crime	SCEP
Substance misuse	HWBB
Mental Health	HWBB
Improving outcomes for children and young people	Children and Young People's Trust

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

**Partnership Membership and Attendance**

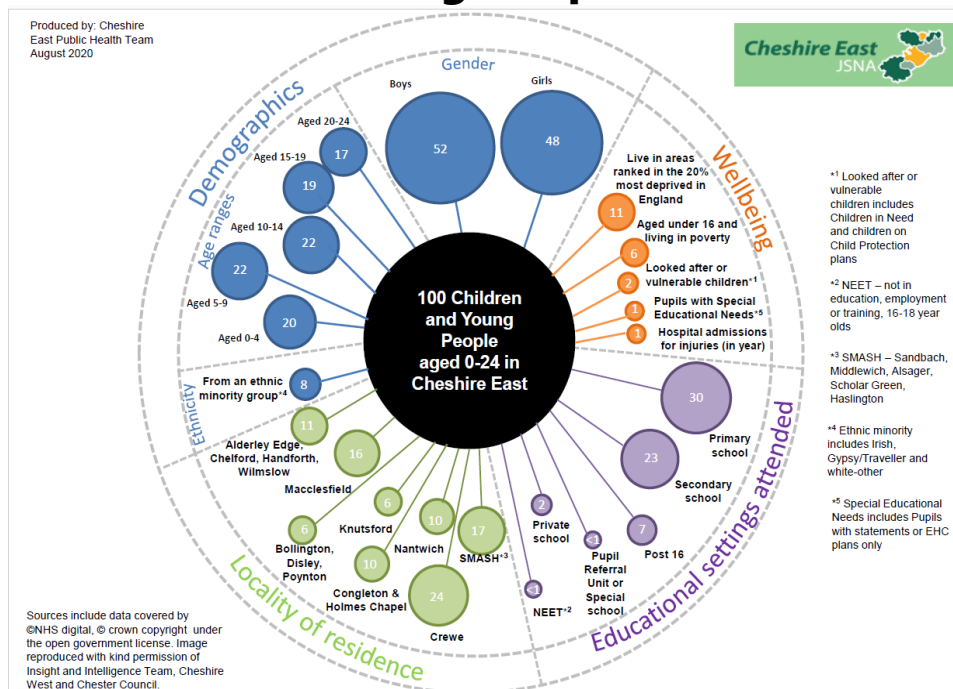
The Executive is well attended by key partners. A summary of Executive membership and attendance for 2019-20 is in [Appendix 2](#).

**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. SCP is represented on this Network.

**Financial Arrangements 2019-20**

The member contributions are in [Appendices 3](#)

# Children and Young People in Cheshire East



Cheshire East's population. Thirteen of these areas are in Crewe, with two in Macclesfield, one in Wilmslow, one in Alsager, and one in Congleton. Overall, relative deprivation has increased since 2010, as only sixteen areas were previously within the top 20% of most deprived areas.

There are approximately 75,400 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.

## Our Child Population

Cheshire East is a relatively affluent area and we know that most of our children and families experience good outcomes. However, there are areas where child poverty and associated deprivation is endemic and intergenerational.

Cheshire East has 18 areas which are within the top 20% of the most deprived areas in England, affecting 31,600 people or 8.5% of

# The Child's Journey in Cheshire East

## Cheshire East Consultation Service

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-located within the front door arrangements at ChECS 'front door' team are the police, multi-agency missing from home service, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service and domestic abuse hub.

Ofsted said that "Arrangements in the integrated front door have been strengthened ensuring that referrals about children for whom there are safeguarding concerns are almost always dealt with quickly and appropriately."

	Consultation activity	No. converted to referral
2016/17	10,432	3438 (33%)
2017/18	9536	2976 (31%)
2018/19	9418	2558 (27%)
2019/20	9824	2543 (26%)

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

There has been a 4% increase in consultation activity since last year. Conversion to referral has reduced by 1% to 26%.

## Early Help

### Prevention and Early Help Service

We continue to see increasing demand for Early Help support services with a significant 40% increase in demand during 2019-20. We are increasingly trying to intervene earlier through the partnership work driven forward by the Early Help Together Board and our emerging locality working model. However, we continue to see the issues that families are facing becoming increasingly complex - this was exacerbated by the Covid 19 Lockdown and the ability of partners to deliver home based and school-based work diminishing in quarter 4. The Early Help Brokerage Service is a service with a dedicated team whose aim is the 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 2019-20 ChECS received 9,824 contacts of which 2272 were signposted to an Early Help Service. Overall this was 23% of ChECS contacts.

CESCP will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of the front door and responses to early help in 2020-21 in the context of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown arrangements.

We have refreshed our Early Help action plan to focus on tackling neglect and understand the mental health challenges that have emerged through lockdown we intend to skill up our frontline practitioners to better respond to the needs of children and parents particularly those who will struggle to get back to school and college.

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. Much work in quarter 4 shifted to a virtual telephone or video contact service the impact of which we are starting to understand more as lockdown has eased.

The Local Authority remains committed to continuous improvement 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 our new Locality Support Officers and the Early Help Brokerage Service
- 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 Centres and across our 480 private sector providers and maintained, childcare settings with a focus on speech and language and readiness for school and learning.

- Early Start Hubs (clusters of Children's Centres and community venues) embed the Parent Journey consistently across all centres and we have continued to deliver this online support throughout the lockdown period.
- Family Support is offered across the continuum of need, and resources are aligned to need across level 2 Targeted and Level 3 Complex caseloads – although we are making positive strides to enable other agencies to lead Early Help Assessments and plans.
- Family Support services lead the council provision for parenting interventions.
- Supporting young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to access provision post 16.



## Children in Need and Child Protection

Local authority	Completed in 45 days		
	2016-17	2018-19	2019-20
England	83%	83%	NYA
North West	81%	84%	NYA
Cheshire East	88%	81%	86%
Statistical neighbour average	82%	86%	NYA

NB - Statistical comparison data for 19/20 will not be available until Nov/Dec 2020

### Assessment timescales

The total number of assessments completed in the year is 3129 compared to (2989) last year (3098 in 17/18). 86% of these were completed within 45 days.

### 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 the end of the year there were 2106 children with open episodes – this equates to 275.2 per 10,000 compared to 278.0 last year (our stat neighbour average was 287.1 last year)

### Child Protection

When the local authority receives a referral and information has been gathered during an assessment 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 882. The number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) undertaken in the year was 371

The percentage of S47's with an outcome of ICPC was 43% (please note that there is a small number of S47 completed within the year with the outcome of ICPC where the conference took place in 20/21 reporting year). The number of Child protection plans started in the year was 309.

### Child protection numbers 2017-20

Key Indicators	17-18	18-19	19-20
CPPs lasting 2 years or more	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%
CPP for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent time	18%	26%	22%
CP cases reviewed within required timescales	95%	98%	90%
ICPC within 15 days	84%	81%	78%

The collection of data measures in the table reflects that this year there has been a reduction in achieving the statutory timescales for multi-agency responses for children most at risk. For most children (78%) their needs and risk are considered in a timely way (15 days). We are aware of all the children where this falls outside the statutory timescales and the reasons for this are reported on a weekly basis. The impact for the child is minimised as an immediate temporary safety plan is agreed, and for those subject to review a plan is already in place. We are not outliers in the national performance framework but would want improvement so that children at risk have the right interventions in a timely way.

The measure for children on second plans is a priority indicator for the Partnership as although there has been a reduction in 19/20, this is higher than we want it to be. The impact for children this suggests is that we are not ensuring they remain safe when we remove them from a plan. We know that for most of these children, their risk relates to neglect. This is a task and finish priority for the Partnership this year.

The figure for plans lasting more than 2 years demonstrates over the

report period of 3 years, that we have remain fairly consistent with good performance. The impact for children is that there are not significant delays for them in the progress of their plan to keep them safe. When this is considered with the measure for 2+ plans however we may review whether we are removing from plans too early before sustained changed is evidenced. This may lead to an increase in plans for longer, but we would consider 2 years to be a trigger for potential delay, so would still want to see this performance maintained.

## Cared for Children

Cared for children are those that are looked after by the local authority either voluntarily or through a statutory order. As at 31 March 2020, 533 children and young people were being cared for by the local authority, an increase of 9.9% from the previous year.

- 22.7 % live outside the local authority area and over 20 miles from home;
- 7% live in residential children's homes;
- 1% lived in residential specialist school;
- 62% children and young people in foster placements (including friends and family approved foster placements)

During the 2018/19 year there have been 22 UASC in the care of Cheshire East and as at 31st March 2019 10 UASC were in the care of Cheshire East.

The figures show a number of young people live out of the area; 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.

Ofsted 2019 noted that "Most children are living in placements that are meeting their needs and helping them to make good progress, including those children placed out of area and in specialist provision."

In the last 12 months a total of 132 children have ceased to be cared for by the Local Authority. Of these, 17 children have been adopted; 15 children became subject of special guardianship orders; 60 individuals have left care due to turning 18.

Good practice alerts in the past year have increased and have centered around the efforts Social Workers and Personal Advisors

have made to form good working relationships with the children or young people they work with, in some case exemplary practice has been identified. Examples have included a social worker who attended a young person's graduation on her day off because she knew the young person had no parent who would attend, as well an alert relating to a social worker who worked extremely hard to progress a working relationship with a parent to ensure safe socially distanced contact could be promoted during the Covid-19 crisis. This was not only in line with the child's wishes but supported placement stability and the safety of the young person as it meant the young person did not go missing as she had previously.

This year IROs have also taken the time to identify good pieces of work such as a good assessment, care plan, pathway plan or Life Story work and recognised this via the practice alert system to support development and learning of social workers and provide a benchmark of what good looks like.

There is also recognition where social workers have really strived to advocate for the child and whilst most social workers would do this, the practice alerts recognise where above average efforts have been made or a difficult case where the social worker worked effortlessly to make progress in the child's plan.

## Care Leavers

Care leavers as at 31/3/20 – 3 relevant, 153 Former relevant and 121 eligible (not yet left care).

Ofsted 2019 noted that "The local authority has strengthened its accommodation offer for care leavers. Young people who wish to move to independence benefit from attendance at the Ignition panel, and they have the opportunity to discuss their individual

accommodation needs. Most care leavers live in suitable accommodation and are supported to achieve their unique goals as they transition into adulthood."

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

### Act Now Safeguarding event 2019

This annual event is organised by young people with support from the Safeguarding Children in Education (SCiES) team on behalf of the SCP and provides an opportunity for professionals to listen to children and young people about serious issues from their perspective. This year the subjects chosen were knife crime, mental health, teenage suicide prevention and neglect. The event was hosted by young people who did a fantastic job; whilst other pupils from the school dealt, very calmly and capably with the IT.

A number of local schools attended and representatives of CESCOP including the NHS, Social Care, Cheshire Police and community and voluntary sector partners.

BBC Radio Stoke interviewed a member of the SCiES team and pupils from two of the schools. The event was a tremendous success and gave our staff and our partners lots to think about and lots to 'Act Now' on.

### November Children's Rights Month

November Children's Rights Month is an annual celebration of children's rights across the borough. SCP members took part in a range of activities including the 'Reverse Take Over Menu' developed by young people for adults to experience life in their shoes based on the six outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan. 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 included:

- Reverse Take Over Month - professionals chose from a menu of the challenges set by young people and then completed an evaluation form at the end. The aim is to experience life as a child or young person;
- 'Step up Day' - teams were asked to use a pedometer to compete and find out who was willing to go the extra mile for children's rights. This challenge represented young people who often have to walk quite far to school or college and outcome 4 of the Children and Young People's Plan 'Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices'.
- The Take Over Challenge is where children and young people have the opportunity to become a professional for the day and run a specific area of business. Eleven young people took over being managers and directors for the day and gave their opinions to help shape services that affect their lives. This included taking over the role of
  - Police Youth Engagement Officer at Cheshire Police
  - Team Manager for the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Service. Activities included looking at the local offer, transgender policy and supervision with a Social Worker.

**Ofsted said:**

- "The contribution of the Children in Care Council to service design and development includes corporate parenting strategy, the care leavers survey and new services such as sexual health and residential services."
- "Children in care and care leavers have contributed to the development of the pledges to children in care and care leavers."
- "The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East."

**Good practice example****Cared for Children Nurse Specialist**

Covid-19 restrictions made it a difficult time to monitor young people's participation. The Cared for Children Nurse Specialist used telephone calls to:

- complete health assessments - carers and residential care workers have sat with the child and facilitated questions and answers by speaker phone. There have been some good responses this way and young people have engaged well.
- capture the voice of the child and children have said they felt "good" and "ok" with speaking to her this way.

This has been very effective with some hard to reach young people with challenging behaviours who don't always want to meet face to face due to the sheer number of professionals in their world already. One young person said they found they could say more over the phone about how they felt.

One young person with significant developmental trauma as well as physical disabilities was able to engage in their health assessment via their foster carer despite being very reluctant to talk directly to the nurse specialist, she was able to manage a video call with their foster carer at their side skilfully advocating really well on their behalf without taking over.

## Review of Priorities for 2019-20

The following three partnership objectives underpin the key plans for children and young people; the Children and Young People's Plan and the SCP 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**

**SCP agreed the following priorities to deliver these objectives in 2019/20:**

**We will improve frontline multi-agency practice through:**

- Improving SCP 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 the SCP business through:**

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is central to SCP business.
- Engaging children and young people in co-producing information and support relevant to them.
- Ensuring that the SCP 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 SCP's training programme.

**We will strengthen the partnerships through:**

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

## Improvements against the Priorities

### Improving SCP's engagement with frontline staff

#### SCP e-bulletins

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

- Child Criminal Exploitation Pack
- Partnership Challenge, Escalation and Resolution Process
- Changes to Single Agency Reports to Child Protection Conference
- Contextual Safeguarding
- referrals process for 0-16 & 16-19 CAMHS teams
- Contextual Safeguarding practice processes and tools
- Covid – 19 and safeguarding children advice
  - Home visits
  - Multi-agency meetings
  - Child safeguarding medicals
  - Training
  - Guidance for Child Protection Conferences and Cared for reviews
  - Cheshire East Council Covid-19 information hub

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



## Neglect

**NEGLECT AFFECTS  
1 IN 10 YOUNG PEOPLE**



[www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/neglect](http://www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/neglect)

During 2019/20 there were 566 contacts relating to 488 Children where neglect was selected as a reason for contact. Of these 78 were accompanied by a screening tool and 13 also has a Graded care profile completed at that point. 492 of these contacts went onto a referral which equates to 16% of the referrals having a screening tool

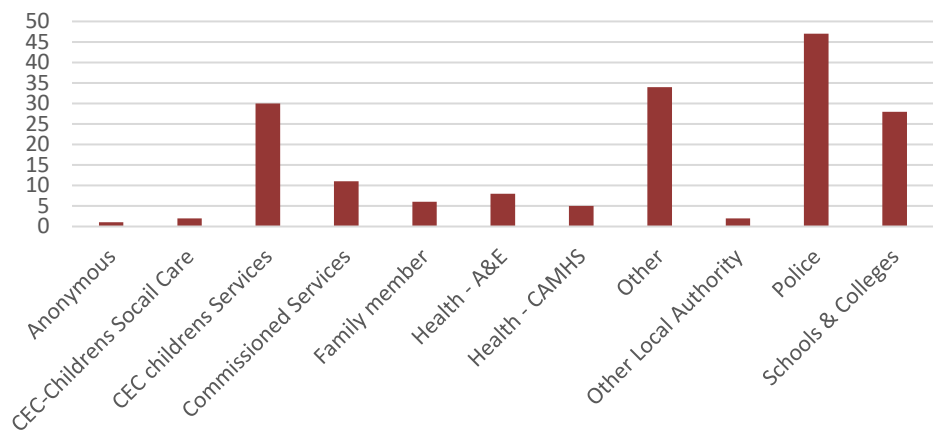
In November 2019 Cheshire East had an Ofsted inspection for Children's Services. The inspection recognised a number of areas of progress but also highlighted a small number of children who were open to neglect. These were the cohort of children open to neglect, on a plan and currently in proceedings. In February 2020 the partnership held a development session to review the business plan agreed make Neglect a priority.

# Continuing to drive developments around Child Exploitation

In 2019-20 there were 364 contacts to the front door where CSE was a factor affecting either the individual or a family member. This related to

- 287 separate children
- 162 of these (44.5%) were accompanied by a screening tool
- 174 of the contacts resulted in a referral to social care

Contacts resulting in a Child Exploitation referral to social care



A total of 16 individuals became subject to a CSE plan (15 females, 1 male) and a total of 10 individuals came off a plan. Overall within the year there were 20 individuals subject to a CSE (some of which had an earlier "at risk" identified).

In total in 2019-20 there were 57 individuals that were considered either to be at possible risk of CSE or made subject to a CSE plan. This was split 16 male and 41 females. Females were far more likely to be made subject to a formal plan.

The age range of individuals being identified at risk or made subject to a plan ranged from 10-17 – the average age being between 14-15 years of age.

During 2019/20 trafficking was identified as a possible risk factor in 11 assessments.

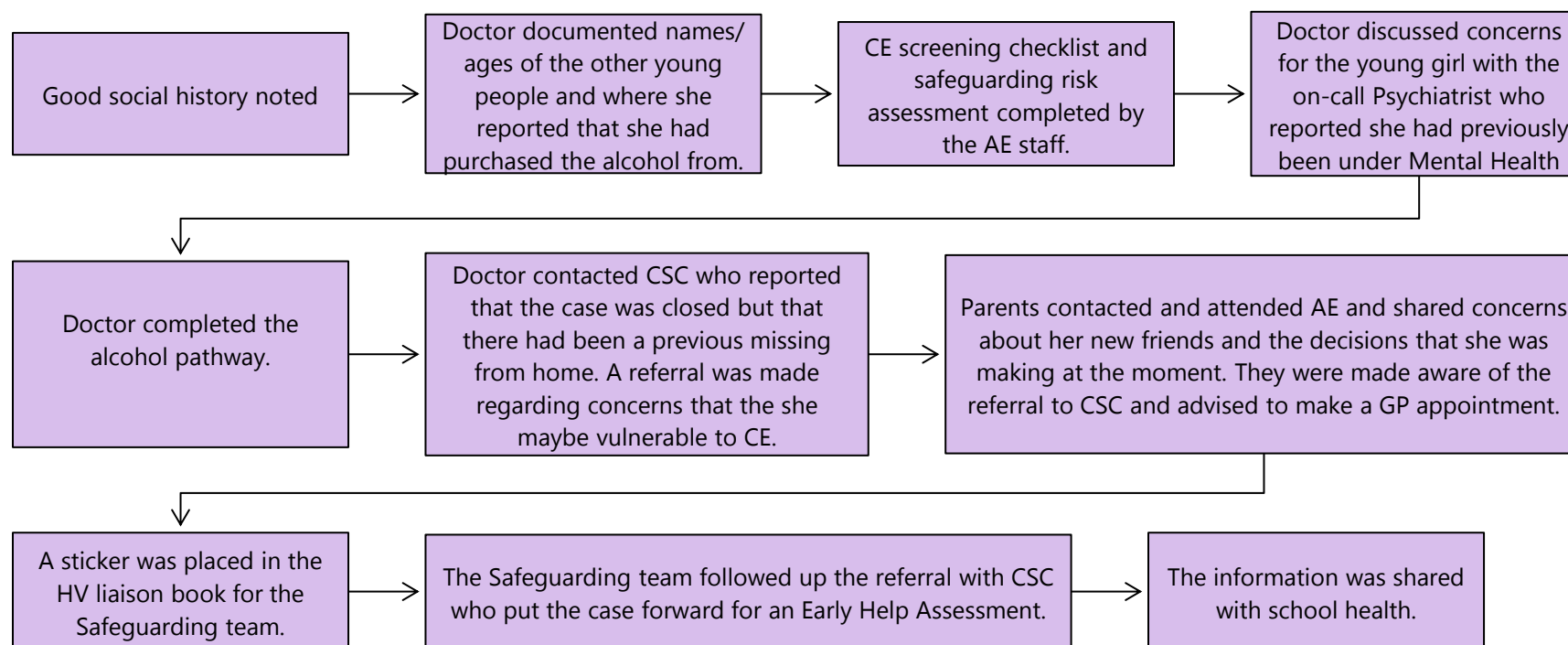
In Cheshire East the SCP has made contextual safeguarding a key priority for action for the next 2 years.

### Good practice example

A 15-year-old girl was brought into AE by ambulance with a group of friends, she had been drinking with these friends in the street and had fallen over sustaining a head injury. Within the group the males were aged 18-20.

She disclosed that she'd drunk a large amount of alcohol, fallen from a 4-foot wall hitting her head, often binge drinks, that one of the males was her boyfriend and that they were sexually active, used MDMA, sometimes self-harmed and had anger issues. She was quite agitated and aggressive in AE. She reported she lived at home with her parents but did not want her mother contacting as she reported that they did not get on. A member of the group reported that he had used cocaine and a urine screen was positive.

### Good practice



## Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children

A multi-agency approach to support children living with mental health issues from vulnerable backgrounds and where safeguarding concerns have been identified is in development. This is building on existing and emerging mental health pathways to ensure a comprehensive and responsive offer of support is available for children across the Continuum of Need framework and ensure that services are better aligned to the range of children and young people's needs. We will care for our children and young people in such a way that they have all the opportunities to give them the tools for their future transitions and to be ambitious young adults.

To date three children's homes have been mobilised. The care planning service have undertaken a review of children who are being cared for in independent residential homes where their journey to these homes was either unplanned or as a result of being unable to identify a fostering home for them. In 20/21 the offer will be shaped from the homes and other professionals, identifying the pathways to accessing the right support and the right time, in line with our vision statement and the goals we want to achieve for our children and young people. This needs to specifically focus on the psychological well-being support, SALT, access to education, training and employment and defining the strategy around family time and meaningful relationships.

It is essential that we support our children and young people to make sense of their early experiences of trauma and to develop strategies with them for a successful future. Children and young people need to be afforded the opportunity to remain connected or reconnect trauma and to develop strategies with them for a successful future. Children and young people need to be afforded

the opportunity to remain connected or reconnect with family and friends as part of their own support and sufficiency in their future transitions. We will develop a strong Exit Strategy which includes a full menu of options for children and young people which may be to return home to family, a well prepared and fully supported transition to independence, a selective move into supported lodgings, rehabilitation into foster care (Mockingbird) or in some cases an extended period in residential care post 18. This belief needs corporate parenting buy in as well as further service development in order to provide a more robust offer. Cheshire East need to consider how this element of Bespoke can be mirrored to children and young people in external provision to avoid differentiation.

A group of children have been identified by specific education facing teams for inclusion in this tracking activity. They have all been identified as having mental ill health. They have been identified from the following cohorts:

- Currently receiving Medical Needs tuition
- Cared for children (via the Virtual school)
- Children who are electively home educated
- Children who are missing from education

The group of children does not, in any way, capture all the children with mental ill health. This group have been chosen so that we can see what their journeys have been so far in order to draw out learning from that, support our understanding and to inform developments.

A Multi-agency work stream across East and West LA have reviewed the existing 0-16 pathway and included notification to schools via

the SCiES team following an incident of self-harm. The draft pathway includes a patient information leaflet which describes the role of CAMHS and why and to whom the notification of the self-harm

incident will be shared with in school. The pathway has been presented to the CAMHS governing body in May 20.

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

Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (CEDSAP) remains focused on securing the safety and recovery of children impacted by domestic abuse and their families.

1. High Risk Cases - 696 children have been heard at MARAC in 19/20 - an increase of 21% and is almost entirely accounted for by an increase in police referrals. This is a marked change in the trend towards reduction in high risk cases but CEDSAP consider this is the outcome of a more proactive police response to victimisation; specialist officers are engaging and earning the trust of victims, they then have the confidence to report what is happening to them. These police teams are making additional welfare checks, liaising with IDVAs and commissioned services staff and providing additional clinics and practical support on a regular basis.
2. Specialist Services (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)) My CWA are present at all Initial Child Protection 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 47% of 171 notifications. In addition, a further 18% of referrals were known currently or recently to specialist services. There is a direct referral pathway from conference to specialist provision so that families are offered timely support.
3. The Domestic Abuse Hub is a key part of our Integrated Front Door liaising regularly with Early Help and ChECS to update on information and interventions for children and their families while IDVAs sit weekly alongside social workers and co-ordinate

their planning informally and formally through multi-agency meetings.

4. eMARAC – a huge improvement in the quality and timeliness of information sharing has also been seen through our now embedded eMARAC process by which key agencies sit twice weekly to review high risk cases.
5. 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
6. MyCWA are also commissioned to work with 20 children requiring behavior change work per annum. During 19/20 they supported 120. Over 150 children received safety and therapeutic support, almost doubling the target of 80.

87% of children and young people report a positive change in their health and wellbeing as a result and 93% adults report positive outcomes from shared adult/child recovery work. We have been particularly keen to promote safe relationships work with whole families and a target of 15 families receiving such help was exceeded by 46. While the volume of work is to be commended it cannot be sustained and a focus for the coming year will be on enabling others who have a good relationship

with families to undertake some of these interventions, supporting with tools, training and consultation. A highlight of the year, in this regard, has been the further launch of 'Monkeybob' early years tool which supports adults to encourage children to talk about their feelings and fears and to know what to do if these emotions relate to domestic abuse.

7. There were 63 referrals for children and young people to commissioned aftercare support for families affected by Child Sexual Violence. This is a decrease of 26% on the previous year.

The Provider (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service) promotes provision through training and publicity but we are not confident that all children and families who might benefit from this service, commissioned by the Council, Police and Health, are yet receiving it.

There was a total of 2261 contacts (on 1726 children) where domestic violence was identified as a possible factor which resulted in 712 new referrals referral. Of these contacts 63 were accompanied by a DV screening tool.

## Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism

The primary legislation which governs PREVENT activity is the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, supported by Channel Panel Guidance 2015.

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which provides support to children or adults who are at risk to being drawn into counter terrorism. The main element which CE manages those vulnerable to supporting extremism is through Channel Panel. The multi-agency forum has been developed particularly since the introduction of DOVETAIL in March 2019 and now holds regular monthly panel meetings, with the HUB being located in Liverpool and a Local Channel Coordinator serving both CE and CWAC Local Authorities. A North West Working Group provides information released from the Home Office and arranges training to Panel Chairs and members and continues to monitor feedback and progress of the operation of panels.

The Panel is chaired by the Head of Service for Adult Safeguarding within CE and an annual report has been produced awaiting sign off following its journey through the committee cycle. Within the last 12 months 11 individuals have been referred into Channel. 7 of which

were males and 4 females, the Panel have identified the common type of ideology is right wing. Case studies have been captured to evidence the positive outcomes achieved with 28% of cases resulting in the risk having reduced sufficiently to eradicate Counter Terrorism concerns. The majority of referrals to Panel have been made by Education though due to the COVID Pandemic there has been a reduction in new cases both nationally and in CE resulting from schools not operating to their full capacity.

CE has delivered PREVENT training to over 200 staff within CE and partners within the last year and work continues to develop the referral pathways for both children and adults. Partners are invited to attend HYDRA training delivered by the Home Office to improve their skills as panel members, together with attendance at Regional and National Conferences.

New Channel Guidance due to be published in 2020. Changes will include improvements in referral pathways and systems to support swift information exchange and promoting Independent Intervention Providers, who are specifically recruited to address ideologies in a positive way.



## Developing our Early Help Strategy

The Cheshire East Early Help Strategy for 2019- 22 was launched in this year. The purpose of this strategy is to set out how partners who work with children, their families and carers will deliver services in a way which enables children to maximise their potential, are kept safe and where appropriate, prevents escalation of needs that require targeted or intensive interventions from statutory agencies. The strategy sets out the ambition of all the partners in Cheshire East to 'get it right' for children, their families and carers by providing support and early help that enables children to thrive within their family environment and improve their long-term outcome and goals.

The strategy has 5 priorities:

1. The Partnership has the right infrastructure to support the development of early help services
2. Children and families get the right service at the right time: all

partners understand levels of need and referral pathways

3. Understand the training need required, to ensure that our practitioners are enabled to co-produce high quality assessments and plans
4. We understand the quality of our services and act on this to improve outcomes for children in order to respond quickly to any areas for improvement within our services we need to have a comprehensive overview of our partnership offer, which we regularly review.
5. We understand the needs of children and families in Cheshire East, and we have the right range of services to meet these that can be accessed locally

There is an action plan that sets out the key actions to achieve the priorities. This will be reviewed and updated quarterly by the Early Help Together Group to ensure the delivery of this strategy.

## Learning and Improvement

The Learning and Improvement sub-group have supported and improved safeguarding practice across agencies and have –

- Agreed its term of reference and chairing arrangements for the year.
- Created a virtual Policy and Procedure group
- Received the Annual Training Report from the SCP Training and Development Manager
- Training Charging Policy
- Overseen the work of the SCP Task and Finish groups working on
  - Children Living with Mental Health Issues
  - Contextual Safeguarding
  - Implementing the Serious Case Review recommendations actions

## Strengthening Partnerships

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

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

The 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

SCP has a comprehensive quality assurance framework, which can be found on our website. In 2019-20 this has provided SCP with a range of quantitative and qualitative information in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Cheshire East. SCP has strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

<b>Performance</b> A quarterly picture, showing a clear trajectory of progress. Allowing us to set targets and evaluate our performance against our statistical neighbours	<b>Feedback from Children and Young People, Parents and Carers</b> What children, young people and their families want and is important to them, what their experience is of our services.
<b>Qualitative Information</b> Detailed information on what is working well and areas for improvement for specific services, including what the causes of issues are.	<b>Feedback from Staff</b> What staff know would help them to work with families, what is working well, and what could work better.

## Performance Monitoring

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

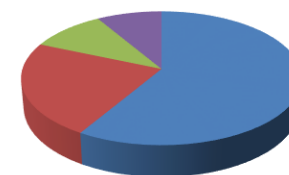
The SCP scorecard covers a range of measures from all partners and work was undertaken to align these with the areas of focus for the SCP. It provides oversight of safeguarding practice across the partnership.

The Quality Assurance Subgroup is effectively scrutinising and challenging partnership performance and are driving improvements to partnership working. The Quality Assurance subgroup has:

- Agreed its term of reference and chairing arrangements for the year.
- Undertaken audits on Mental Health, Children with a Multi-agency Child in Need Plan and Sign of Safety in Child Protection Core Groups
- Further developed the audit methodology which is much more comprehensive and inclusive with better practice-based findings and effective multi-agency debate and agreement on findings.
- Scrutinised and monitored the progress of agreed actions from audits and reflective reviews
- Scrutinised S175 submissions.

## Multi-Agency Audits

These audits consider three different themes 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 agreed improvements are then tracked to completion by the Learning and Improvement Sub-Group.



## Mental Health

What are we worried about?	What's going well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help Assessment/Early Help and GP – do they want all the information shared</li> <li>• Appreciative enquiry required on child A as the audit meeting didn't consider that the case records provide a clear picture of the case.</li> <li>• Physiological neglect not evidenced and how can that be addressed is a specific adolescent emotional neglect tool required.</li> <li>• Schools are expected to have the knowledge and capacity to deal with what we deem serious mental health concerns/ suicide ideation/ risk of harm to self/others daily. Thresholds for CAMHS are such that school staff are left concerned that they are in the position of managing children who may/may not be fit to be in school.</li> <li>• A child will come into school after seriously self-harming the night before resulting in a hospital admission and school are not aware until the child tells them.</li> <li>• School support staff need more specialist knowledge on mental health issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of neglect-based approach – screening tool and GCP2. It is encouraging those practitioners are doing so.</li> <li>• Evidence of child's voice throughout most cases               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child's needs reviewed in each contact and views recorded clearly.</li> <li>○ Child was seen alone at appointments</li> <li>○ Child involved in decision making to work towards improved outcomes for the child</li> <li>○ Initially when Cheshire East Family Service (CEFS) were involved, the child didn't want mum involved so assessment done without mum</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good examples of Professionals working well together with agencies attending all meetings</li> <li>• Referral to Children's Social Care (CSC) for assessment – good example of appropriate escalation after the collation of further assessment evidence.</li> <li>• Good evidence of SOS working well with the family with the 'Three Houses' model being used, and a Safety Plan completed with the child and shared with agencies</li> <li>• Multiagency assessments that engaged with the family</li> <li>• Case recording in general was of a high quality and prioritises the child.</li> <li>• Awareness evident of the impact of the parent's mental health on the child.</li> <li>• GP advice given to parents.</li> <li>• An example of being able to discuss disagreement professionally with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) worker who carried out initial assessment.</li> </ul>
What do we need to do?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention Service are looking at auditing cases and consider if assessments can be completed quicker.</li> <li>• Consider with GPs if they need all the Early Help Assessment or an element of it.</li> <li>• Case mapping appreciative enquiry exercise required on a case as the audit meeting didn't consider that the case records provide a picture of the child</li> <li>• Raise school staff awareness of NHS thresholds and how they assess potential serious suicide ideations/ disclosures/ self-harm and/ or alarming behaviours; clarification of what denotes acute mental health disorders.</li> <li>• Consider if a CAMHS worker placed in every school or shared with Chimney House group to deal with extreme cases would be appropriate support.</li> </ul>	

### Children with a Multiagency Child in Need Plan

What are we worried about?	What's going well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP practices do not receive formal notification of CIN plans from the local authority and as such information about these plans is often lacking in the GP record.</li> <li>School Nurses are not systematically informed of CiN status and therefore may be unaware that a child is subject to that process.</li> <li>Routine escalation not happening.</li> <li>How we share (with partners and within agency) information/plans.</li> <li>No evidence of systematic use of tools.</li> <li>Administrative tasks of the CiN process are currently the responsibility of the Social Worker.</li> <li>CSC recording of invites/attendance at meetings to be clearer and detailed – theme today.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity of recording of meetings and up to date information on Liquid logic.</li> <li>When multiagency are together this works well – communication is improving.</li> <li>Child's voice continues to be evidenced</li> <li>No concerns around thresholds evidenced today – shows good partnership understanding</li> <li>Good examples on Liquid Logic of case summaries</li> <li>Majority of assessments judged good.</li> <li>Evidence of good practice shown via today's audit.</li> </ul>
What do we need to do?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider if the completion of tools i.e. Neglect Screening Tool should be a mandatory requirement at the start of a case and to inform multi-agency considerations at the point closure is being considered.</li> <li>CSC to improve the recording of invites/attendance at meetings to be clearer and detailed about which services are involved.</li> <li>Consider if GPs should be informed as a matter of course when a child has CiN status.</li> <li>Consider if applying a similar administrative support system that CP uses to CiN would improve the administrative element of that process.</li> <li>Partners to operate the escalation process.</li> </ul>	

### Sign of Safety in Child Protection Core Groups

What are we worried about?	What's going well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of other agencies to chair and minute core groups is not consistent and whilst a case had evidence of health doing the minutes this was an exception.</li> <li>Signs of Safety is not yet fully embedded across all areas. For example, it was unclear if commissioned services have adopted the Signs of Safety approach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core group minutes improving with evidence that they are being produced and shared.</li> <li>The group felt that it is clear from evidence provided that communication between agencies is improving</li> <li>There is evidence that professionals are expecting Signs of Safety to be the model used in Core groups and that it has improved the cohesiveness of professionals</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of scaling being used effectively in cases is not yet fully embedded</li> <li>• It was identified during the audit meeting that parents are not always clear on how the Signs of Safety model works, this maybe a consequence of them not having it explained clearly in advance of meetings.</li> <li>• Inconsistent evidence of escalation and challenge.</li> <li>• A case may have benefitted from a Group supervision to agree how to approach a challenging parent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On some cases seen on the audit today, there was evidence of scaling being used effectively</li> <li>• Screening tools were used, Neglect, GCP2 and Domestic Abuse ones were evidenced. In all cases where Health had an involvement, they completed a Health Assessment.</li> <li>• Health representatives identified that the SCP audit process highlighted a need to review their forms to integrate a Signs of Safety approach.</li> </ul>
<b>What do we need to do?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIN/ Core Group MEETING AGENDA to be used including item 9. Agree Chair and Minute Taker for next CIN/Core Group meeting. This should encourage a range of professionals to undertake these tasks.</li> <li>• Promote the use of Signs of Safety across all partners</li> <li>• Discuss with Commissioners how Signs of Safety can be embedded into commissioned services.</li> <li>• Refresh meeting agenda and minutes templates to include scaling consideration and recording</li> <li>• Develop a set of material for assisting practitioners in briefing parents on SoS.</li> <li>• Add an agenda item to the agenda template to cover any Escalations or challenges that have occurred.</li> <li>• Remind practitioners and front-line supervisors of the option to request a Group supervision</li> <li>• SCP to continue to promote the use of screening tools via bulletins and the website improvements.</li> <li>• Health to adopt a Signs of Safety approach within their documentation</li> </ul>	

### Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

The SCP has a SCR awaiting publication that has been delayed awaiting the conclusion of other processes.

### Rapid Reviews

There were 2 Rapid Reviews conducted in 19/20. Learning was identified and is being progressed. Neither case progressed to a Local Safeguarding Practice Review.

### Section 11 and 175/157

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 SCP partners completed audits and the findings were reported to the Quality and Outcomes Subgroup. This indicated that services areas are broadly compliant in relation to safeguarding arrangements.

The Section 11 audits are completed biennially in Cheshire East with the next being due to be completed in November 2020.

As part of the improvements and progression for the Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and in line with other audits, the process for the audits is being developed so that contributors can complete their submissions via an online tool.

In July 2019, the new audit tool for the Section 175 was launched to schools and colleges. This is an online tool and was developed in collaboration with the Director of Education, SCiES team, education representatives and ICT business planning team. A trial was then piloted before the launch in July that involved some of the schools in Cheshire East.

The purpose of the online tool being introduced was that we identified a need to streamline the process. This has made it much easier tool to use and reporting of findings was much improved due to the collaboration with Business Planning/Consultation Teams.

67% of schools completed the audit and the findings were shared with the SCiES team. The SCiES team completed a comprehensive report and shared this with the Quality Assurance Subgroup, where they advised they had identified actions and had followed up on them with individual schools. A report was also completed and presented to Quality Assurance around the process involved and how to improve compliance. The subgroup were assured that safeguarding in schools is monitored and any actions identified are being acted upon.

The Director of Education followed up with those schools who did not comply with the audit and it is our intention to have a 100% compliance in 2020. We will continue to promote the audit in School Bulletins and via the School Governors service, with emphasis on the

requirements for schools to comply. The audit in 2020 has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and will now be conducted in October 2020 instead of July 2020.

### **Joint Frontline Visits**

In November 2019, the CE Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Adults Partnership organised a series of visits jointly for SCP Members to partner agencies.

Although some of the visits were impacted and delayed due to a full ILACS inspection in Cheshire East, the general election in December 2019 and the Covid-19 pandemic, there were reports received.

There were a lot of positives identified within the partnerships with good awareness of safeguarding practices identified.

An area that was identified as a result of these visits is that we need to look at promoting links between Adults and Children's Services and these joint frontline visits to be completed annually on behalf of the SCP and LSAB, to be included in the Forward Plan. Further consideration is to be given at looking at other work that can be collaborated on between the SCP and LSAB to support these links.

### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

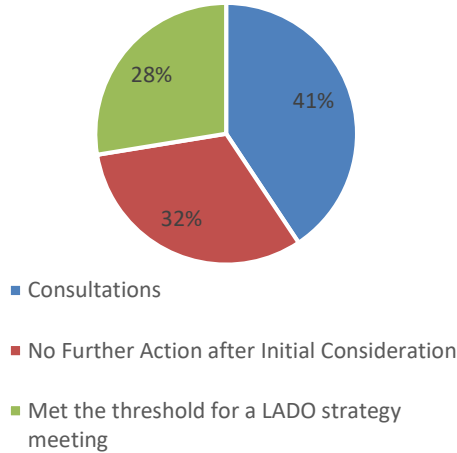
The LADO oversees individual cases, provides advice and guidance to employers, voluntary organisations and liaises with the Police and other agencies as required. The LADO has a responsibility to monitor the progress of individual cases to ensure they are dealt with quickly, fairly and consistently, as well as identifying significant patterns and trends across the workforce.

In Cheshire East there are currently two part time LADOs and one dedicated Business Support Officer; they sit within the Children’s Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit.

During 2019/20 there were 214 referrals to the Cheshire East LADO, which is an increase of 5 from 2018/19.

- Most referrals were from professionals working in the Education Sector (23%) which is a consistent trend and linked to the majority of referrals relating to education staff
- As a proportion, 28% of referrals met the threshold for a strategy meeting, which is largely consistent with previous years. The LADO role involves providing advice to employers and it is therefore expected that the threshold for a strategy meeting will not be met following every consultation/referral.
- The details of referrals that don’t meet threshold are recorded for future reference. This ensures repeated referrals regarding an employee’s/volunteer’s concerning behavior can be considered as potentially more serious and an indicator that they pose a risk of harm to children. This also helps to identify if a specific agency needs more support in understanding thresholds and the role of the LADO.

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**



The LADO continues to ensure allegations are managed consistently and in a timely manner; 59% of strategy meetings were held within 5 working days, 76% were concluded within 6 months and 23% within 12 months

**Child Death Overview Panel**

The death of any child is a tragedy. It is important that all child deaths are carefully reviewed. This is a Pan-Cheshire Panel and is made up of a group of professionals who met on five occasions between April 2019 and March 2020. The total number of child deaths notified across this footprint was 45, of those reported 16 were Cheshire East children.

The total number of child deaths the panel reviewed during this period was 45 of which 16 were from Cheshire East.



The Panel has a role to identify any trends or themes and to make recommendations to the SCP 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 SCP and produces an annual report that summarises the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year.

## Covid-19

As this report is submitted and published, the country and the Cheshire East face an unprecedented set of challenges brought by the spread of, the uncertainties fears and potential losses brought by the spread of Covid-19. It was clear from the opening of discussions across the SCP that safeguarding children was and would remain a priority matter for all partner organisations, and where possible the ongoing normal operation of services to ensure that. The response has been calm, determined, based on co-ownership of the issues and co-design and implementation of responses to them.

There has been acceptance of alternative processes of service delivery and decreased face to face contact with a number of vulnerable groups, including children looked after. As we move in the recovery/restoration phase, 'normal' service delivery is expected to resume and with this it is anticipated that we will see a surge in demand for safeguarding response across children and adult services, which includes: mental health issues; neglect; exploitation; disclosures of domestic abuse and disclosures of sexual abuse.

Communication across the SCP has remained detailed, factual, clear and calm. A Covid weekly meeting was introduced immediately to provide assurance to the partnership that the safeguarding of children and young people was a priority with partners lockdown planning. Evidence emerging so far is that a measured, future-spotting approach is underway, and that partners are responding in like fashion. As this report is finished and moves towards publication it is too early to tell what will happen in future waves of infection that could affect service providers as well as users and communities, but the sense being maintained is that public service values will lead the

way in all circumstances, including if (or when) things become very difficult.

A fuller reflection on the issues raised by this crisis that will have effects on Cheshire East will be presented in a future report. For the present, assurance is given that safeguarding, and having the best possible regard for ensuring the most vulnerable children and young people are at the centre of services' and partners' concerns.

## CELSCB Training and Development

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

Working Well	Worries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs of Safety 2-day training delivered to a further 317 participants across the workforce. Evaluations have been outstanding – there are excellent examples of partners using the tool across a range of services and making a difference to children and families.</li> <li>• All existing course have been redeveloped to include learning from serious case reviews.</li> <li>• Training bulletin continues to support learning opportunities about current issues.</li> <li>• New course sharing the ICON (babies cry, you can cope) message and a trainer's package delivered to 122 participants in 3 months. Further training has been delivered into single agency environments by health and family service practitioners.</li> <li>• Partners have offered venues free of charge in order to reduce venue costs particular thanks to Oakenclough Children's centre, Cheshire Without Abuse, and Pear Tree primary school. Delegates and trainers have been extremely well looked after.</li> <li>• Free E-Learning modules are now available through the CESC website, access to these courses has increased in the past year</li> <li>• Several requests have been made to CESC training manager to support the development of single agency training; this includes Crewe Alexander Football Club, Tatton Park, a local gymnastics club and Cheshire Police.</li> <li>• New evaluation forms have been designed and will be ready for use in April 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The voice of the child within the training environment could be stronger.</li> <li>• Paper data evaluation processes were discontinued due to software costs which means there is limited data available as revised evaluation forms have been unavoidably delayed.</li> <li>• GCP2 AND RASASC numbers have significantly dropped over the past year, numbers of completed tools and SARC referrals are also lower in 2019-2020.</li> <li>• All courses will need to be reviewed so that options for remote delivery are available to participants for an unknown period.</li> <li>• There are currently very few venues available to consider delivery of any face to face training activity.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work with the LSAB in order to support a partnership approach to learning and improvement across adult and children's services where possible and appropriate.</li> <li>• Development of learning and improvement opportunities for managers: mental capacity and Liberty Safeguards. Further development of pan-Cheshire learning opportunities.</li> <li>• Review of charging policy once new funding arrangements for the safeguarding partnership are known.</li> <li>• Review of SARC referrals to inform future course numbers.</li> <li>• Work with schools safeguarding forum to obtain the views of a range of children and young people across Cheshire East.</li> <li>• Single agency training standards to be further developed for CSE and Neglect.</li> </ul>	

- Continue to deliver 2-day signs of safety training to partners and consider refresher/ specific sessions for practice leads for 2020.
- Review of impact on practice data collection methods.
- Establish means to follow up e-learning course users.
- GCP2 refresher training.
- All courses to be available remotely with introductory courses available via e-learning where appropriate.
- Development of a charging policy which considers methods of delivery and appropriate charges to partners in the absence of face to face training.

**The post course responses demonstrate that:**

94% of attendants would use the GCP2 tool even if they haven't had the opportunity to date in practice. All participants have stated that the tool will be helpful in their work with families where Neglect is a feature. Of the participants who have used the tool 100% said families liked and understood the assessment. This is consistent with previous years.

- "I have a greater understanding and can offer extra support and information when speaking to parents and children about keeping safe online."
- "Much better understanding of the use of tools available to help support practitioners when considering harmful sexualised behaviour. Able to use in supervision with staff particularly with CAMHS staff."
- "Yes - since the training we have adopted the signs of safety approach at Just Drop-In and have already seen the benefit of using it with young people accessing our service."
- "Yes, I am based in an adult mental health team, has influenced my practice when working with families.it has helped me to assess the level risk when dealing with vulnerable, complex families."
- "Yes: I feel that I have a better understanding now of the CP process and terminology."

# 2019-20 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 SCP, setting out any key achievements in the previous year.

Impact of Partners safeguarding activity against the Board's Key Business Plan Objectives	
1. Strategic Partnership Objective Improving frontline practice	
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Competent practitioners and consistent practice. Children and Families provided with the right level of support and intervention.
Cheshire Police	<p>Continual professional development training continues within the Public Protection Directorate (PPD) ensuring that officers skills and knowledge are at a high standard. The Public Directorate Investigators are trained to the nationally recognised standards set by the College of Policing. All officers receive training on a structured rotation to ensure operational competence is maintained.</p> <p>The police services nationally are professionalising the approach to public protection policing and investigations, specifically for senior leaders. The aim ultimately is to ensure that all senior officers in command of public protection assets in England and Wales are appropriately trained, experienced and skilled to carry out their roles.</p> <p>Tackling child exploitation is a priority and there has been significant involvement with the development of contextual safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>The implementation of a local Domestic Abuse focus to respond to all DA incidents has improved the service the police provide to vulnerable families. MARAC (eMarac) processes are firmly embedded into daily practice. Children and Families requirements are being addressed expeditiously.</p>
NHS Cheshire CCG	<p>Developed policies in preparation for the amalgamation to one NHS Cheshire CCG and aligned these with the 2 Local Authority areas</p> <p>Reviewed and strengthened the commissioning standards to include a focus on the emerging themes in Children's safeguarding</p> <p>Completed quality visits with colleagues from different organisations to review children's safeguarding processes</p> <p>Embedded the new e-MARAC processes and quality assured GP reports.</p>

	<p>Included quarterly recording of health providers attendance at strategy meetings to enable any exceptions to be monitored and action plans put in place.</p> <p>Continued to support and develop the Child Exploitation nurse role in line with the contextual safeguarding strategy in Cheshire East.</p> <p>Worked with partners to develop the Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and establish the health contribution to this agenda.</p> <p>Contributed to multi-agency work between health and the Local Authority to establish timely and good quality health assessments for Cared for Children. There has been further improvement and the work will continue.</p> <p>Through their Child Death Overview Panel professionals, been closely involved in developing a Pan-Cheshire approach to coping with and understanding infant crying using the ICON Programme (a national tool for prevention of Abusive Head Trauma). ICON has been embedded across all providers and in primary care. All the touch points of the programme have been implemented. We will continue to roll out and embed the ICON programme across all agencies in Cheshire.</p> <p>Capture and analyse escalations from health providers as part of the quarterly providers dashboard.</p> <p>Supported the Local Authority in a peer review of the Integrated Front Door and contributed to the Areas for Development plan.</p> <p>The CCG have established and have been leading a multi-agency subgroup to progress Priority Three of the Partnership business plan 2019/2022: Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children.</p> <p>Supported health providers and GP's to embed signs of safety into practice and policies.</p> <p>NHSE RCGP audit toolkit was introduced to ensure all GP practices are performing to gold standards re their safeguarding policies and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP report submissions to CPCC are monitored to ensure ongoing compliance with information provision.</li> <li>• The quality of GP reports submitted to CPCC are audited to ensure frontline practitioners are providing information that is beneficial to conference.</li> <li>• Ongoing provision of teaching and training to frontline GPs to ensure continual development of safeguarding skills.</li> </ul>
--	--

Education	<p>Schools engage in regular safeguarding staff training, involving staff such as midday assistants, office staff, caretakers, governors etc. They are involved in 3 yearly Basic Safeguarding Awareness and annual Safeguarding Refresher training which is reinforced in staff meetings. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) undertake enhanced training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Every year staff sign to say that they have read and understood "Keeping Children Safe in Education" which informs their practice.</p> <p>Engagement with Signs of Safety has supported education practitioners to identify risks, plan together to minimise risk and make a positive difference to the lives of children enhancing the quality of conversations, reducing problem admiration and supporting the effectiveness of outcomes.</p> <p>Many schools engage with and act on advice from the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCiES) team, the Attendance and Children out of school team, the Virtual school, the Medical Needs team and Early Help for support with cases where they are unsure of the appropriate level of support for the child and / or family. These teams provide information and may liaise with other partner agencies on behalf of the school to ensure the right actions are taken and things move forward positively for the child and family.</p> <p>Education and social care liaison meetings have supported the development of positive relationships and mutual understanding which is impacting positively on practice.</p> <p>Supervision provided to DSLs, from a range of partners, has supported them in identifying and reinforcing the positives, has allowed them to share their frustrations and concerns and to identify next steps.</p> <p>Twenty-three education settings commissioned a Safeguarding Policy in Practice Review with the SCiES team this year; schools did this as they wanted to ensure that their practice was as good as it can be. Where these have been undertaken, they have celebrated and reinforced achievements and identified areas for development leading to actions resulting in improved practice.</p> <p>This year schools have been offered an opportunity to be part of a Service Level Agreement with the Cheshire East Safeguarding Partnership which has included significant support from the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCiES). 93% of schools (not including independent schools) purchased the SLA with 74% of schools purchasing the Enhanced offer in the summer term 2020. As a result of purchasing the SLA schools have had opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attend and engage with termly meetings for DSLs and Headteachers where key Safeguarding information sharing takes place; these are always well attended, and learning/information is cascaded by those DSLs/ Headteachers within schools. Discussions</li> </ul>
-----------	--

	<p>take place within these meetings where questions can be asked, inconsistencies can be challenged, and a clearer understanding gained of processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• receive SCiES Briefing notes and One Minute guides which the DSLs use to inform their actions and use to keep staff up to date with new guidance and emerging themes; often circulating these and displaying them in staff rooms as a reminder for staff</li> <li>• receive monthly Safeguarding Scenarios which have been used to generate valuable discussions between staff as part of staff or team meetings. Using these has reinforced staff knowledge and understanding as well as expectations around practice, recording and procedures.</li> </ul>
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>CE CSC had an Ofsted inspection in November 2019. Although the grade remained 'Requires improvement' there were many positive examples of practice that were identified and are an improvement on the previous report, despite the standards having been raised: "the local authority has made significant progress in some service areas. Arrangements in the integrated front door have been strengthened."</p> <p>We have confidence in the arrangements at our 'Front door' following 2 independent reviews of those arrangements.</p> <p>As children progress through children's social care, we have good evidence that their views are sought, and their needs inform the plan for support and intervention.</p> <p>The areas of practice we want to be more ambitious about developing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of our assessments and ensuring these reflect a full partnership approach including partnership with parents and extended family, evidencing analysis that supports the plan.</li> <li>• Changing our culture together to keep children within their families and managing the risk with them and partners to ensure we achieve the best outcome for the child whilst maintaining them within their home and community.</li> <li>• Working closely with colleagues to prevent unnecessary escalation of concerns at the earliest possible point for the child and their family.</li> </ul>
National Probation Service (NPS)	<p>As per the 18/19 LSCB annual report the core NPS responsibilities have not changed. NPS provides, essentially, three levels of service to individuals convicted in adult courts of a sentence that is managed by one of the Probation Service Providers. This includes: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Court based services supporting Sentencers in making their sentencing decisions in relation only to adults;</li> <li>2. Management of individuals sentenced to offences of a serious violent and/or sexual nature largely covered by MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) processes and other high risk of harm offenders. The Management of individuals can be within the community, serving prison sentences or subject to hospital orders.</li> <li>3. A victim liaison Service offered to victims of serious violent and/or sexual offences for which the perpetrator has been</li> </ol>



	<p>sentenced to more than 12 months custody.</p> <p>As such it is unlikely that NPS staff either working in courts or offender management will come into direct contact with a child or children as part of their work but within these limitations the NPS has a responsibility to ensure that the voice of the child is heard. Offender Managers will on occasion see a child during a safeguarding meeting they are attending or during home visits to service users that are supervised. Children are not allowed on NPS premises.</p> <p>NPS's Victim Liaison Service have contact with victims through their Victim Liaison Officer (VLOs) network. Within this context VLOs will have a broader level of contact with victims, their families, children, and carers etc., including the families of offenders.</p> <p>Safeguarding training is a key priority and requirement of frontline staff within the NPS. Training, both internal to NPS and externally sourced through local safeguarding arrangements, is made available to staff. Staff are enabled to attend relevant training, and this is promoted. A record of training is kept locally, and this is repeated periodically. Cheshire NPS staff are performing highly with regards to completion of mandatory safeguarding training. The training is national mandatory NPS Safeguarding training for all staff, e-learning followed by classroom based – for face to face staff and their managers who work with offenders. All staff, including trainees, are expected to undertake it. Safeguarding training remains under regular review. NPS within Cheshire have identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each local team to promote and drive improvement. The champions meet regularly with the lead for safeguarding which ensure safeguarding remains a constant focus. Cheshire East safeguarding champions regularly report back to NPS lead for safeguarding that they are attending local training that is made available and relationships with safeguarding agencies is strong.</p> <p>Staff induction includes mandatory familiarisation of child safeguarding responsibilities, processes and procedures. Job Descriptions and staff appraisals include objective/s supporting the effective discharge of their child safeguarding duties.</p>
Cheshire and Greater Manchester CRC (CGM CRC)	<p>CGM CRC provide mandatory initial safeguarding training for all new staff which includes an overview of safeguarding responsibilities processes and procedures, as well as ongoing refresher training for all frontline staff. Staff also have access to the local multi-agency training events to support ongoing learning and continued professional development, and there is an expectation they attend one event per year. Safeguarding continues to be a priority in relation to staff supervision and appraisals and all front-line staff have a specific objective relating to their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. All cases that have known children that are subject to a child protection plan have their cases scrutinised via the Effective Management Oversight process.</p> <p>As CGM CRC move to a unified model with the NPS, they are moving to a consistent training package across both staffing groups. As</p>

	a result of this, the CRC will be rolling out the NPS safeguarding training package as highlighted above, in the last quarter of 2020.
Youth Justice Service	YJS is training all staff in trauma informed practices and is aiming to be a trauma informed organisation. This approach places the child firmly at the centre of all we do and is complementary to the Signs of safety approach in Cheshire East. An all staff workforce development event occurred in November 2019 with trauma informed practice as the focus-attended by approximately 80 YJS staff and volunteers.
<b>2. Strategic Partnership Objective - Listening to children and young people</b>	
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Outcome to be achieved - Children's views are strongly represented.</b>
Cheshire Police	<p>First responders are provided with consistent messages and training. The police have had an increased focus on completing of the VPA (Vulnerable Person Assessment) to ensure that child's voice, including officer observations around the child's lived experience are captured to ensure families are sign-posted for the appropriate support.</p> <p>Investigators are focussed on representing the child's views. These views are addressed in investigation updates and closure reports. Officers include the child's voice/views when consulting with the Crown Prosecution Services.</p>
NHS Cheshire CCGs	<p>The CCG have commenced a project around Self Care for young people. This will include students being involved in producing a video to guide young people on how to access the GP Practice, when to access the practice and what other information will be requested.</p> <p>The CCG continue to request evidence within the annual section 11 reports completed by the main health providers to demonstrate that care plans and service development are informed by the views of children and families.</p>
Education	<p>Many schools across CE have established a Safeguarding group with their children; or have safeguarding on the agenda for their school council evidence that the voice of the child is heard and valued. Key awareness raising activities have taken place on specific days such as Internet Safety, Mental Health and White ribbon. Children have contributed to regular safeguarding newsletters written by children for children in order to inform and inspire children in other schools to take similar actions.</p> <p>Primary schools have engaged with locality-based children's safeguarding conferences, in collaboration with SCiES, throughout the year. These opportunities have empowered children to talk about safeguarding issues which affect them, to learn about the safeguarding activities in other schools and to develop ideas for their own practice. The children have then been responsible for taking the key learning points and themes back into their own schools to share.</p> <p>Children from some secondary schools and alternative provisions engaged in the annual Safeguarding event; this year, due to Covid-19, this was done virtually; it was known as the CAN DO Conference 2020, The views of children living across Cheshire East, in relation</p>

	to a variety of themes such as exploitation, trauma and self-harm were captured from a range of schools including mainstream, special and alternative provisions. The viewing of these videos has been promoted across education settings and the services that are part of the CЕСCP; resulting in clear expectations of the adults from those services to reflect upon their own practice in relation to what they see and hear.
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>We have evidence that we place children at the centre of what we do. Ofsted commented that: "The voice of the child is a strength. Social workers are creative in their direct work with children."</p> <p>We want to improve how we evidence the views of children about the plan that is there to safeguard and support them and demonstrate that we have worked with them to understand the impact that the plan is having for them, so we can adjust it and prevent delay of harm.</p>
National Probation Service	<p>If applicable Pre-Sentence Reports and risk assessment processes recognise and incorporate 'The Voice of the Child'. MAPPA and MARAC meetings incorporate victims and child safeguarding considerations. 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.</p> <p>NPS offender assessments capture details of children at risk; NPS are also required to identify children at the point of sentence. Work has been completed to raise the profile of recording children's information and the impact of their parent receiving a custodial sentence and this is audited frequently.</p> <p>NPS have rolled out toolkits to support an adult facing service in recognising child related concerns and there is a home visiting protocol and guidance about how to record any direct contact with children. NPS has internal management oversight process where the voice of the child will be considered, and managers will ensure staff reflect on their observations and when to share a concern about a child.</p> <p>NPS staff always have representation at Child Protection and CIN meetings and within their reports will ensure the voice of the child is captured.</p>
CGM CRC	<p>CGM CRC provides the management of 70% of the offender population in Cheshire East. They manage individuals who are assessed as Medium and Low Risk of serious harm in the community including individuals on licence following their release from custody. In addition, they deliver both structured Interventions and Community payback within their intervention delivery model, this includes specific domestic abuse interventions.</p> <p>Their main contact is with the offender themselves and therefore CGM CRC have minimal contact with children. This may occur during</p>

	home visits but in the main offender appointments take place with individuals on CGM CRC premises where children are not allowed to attend. However, our commitment to child safeguarding is a continued focus in terms of our practice and continual development.
Youth Justice Service	YJS is conducting research with Chester University and others into the lived experience of children in justice system under Covid, and more 'normal' times.
<b>3. Strategic Partnership Objective Strengthening partnerships</b>	
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Outcome to be achieved - Strong safeguarding culture across the system, effective scrutiny, and challenge and evidence of improved outcomes</b>
Cheshire Police	<p>The police are committed to safeguarding. Senior police command take an active interest and have embedded a culture which prioritises safeguarding across all strands of policing.</p> <p>The police are actively involved in all areas of safeguarding. Senior police management attend all strategic and operational safeguarding groups/sub-groups. The Chief Constable chairs the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board and there is strong leadership and governance around all areas of vulnerability.</p> <p>There is good working relationship between partner agencies and clear escalation policy. The development of the Bi-Monthly managers meeting is well represented from all statutory partners and ensures best practice is identified and disseminated. This group scrutinises and escalates concerns which are retained for auditing purposes.</p>
NHS Cheshire CCGs	<p>Continued to contribute to partnership working through the Health and Well-Being Board, the SCP and its subgroups and the Pan Cheshire CDOP.</p> <p>Continued to work with partners to review the Partnership scorecard for safeguarding assurance</p> <p>Worked with partners to review and further develop the escalation policy to improve communication between agencies.</p>
Education	Schools continue to demonstrate good safeguarding practice as evidenced in Ofsted reports; practice includes: ensuring children 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 for staff and positive engagement with the SCiES team.

	<p>At times schools will identify concerns around the actions being taken to support children, and are becoming increasingly more confident in offering professional challenge underpinned by evidence. They have discussed their concerns and have worked with others to overcome any barriers. They are aware of and are using the escalation policy; at the same time, they are aware that any delay or inaction from themselves may result in professional challenge and will act accordingly.</p> <p>The role of the school in relation to safeguarding children has become ever more apparent during Covid-19; as restricted numbers of children have attended school and parents have not always wanted their children to be in school; partner agencies have noted the drop in referrals and completion of screening tools; information which they would normally get from schools about the lived experience of the child has not been as easy to obtain. Schools have worked hard to maintain contact with families and have been innovative at times in the ways in which they have engaged with those families. There are many examples of schools sharing key information around changes in circumstances for children, working with partner agencies to get sight of specific children, ensuring there were places for children in school and ensuring families had access to food parcels; often taking these out themselves. Schools stayed open during bank holidays and annual school holiday times to support their children and to share the responsibility for engaging with those children along with other key agencies.</p>
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>CSC have achieved a great deal with partners, we are proud of the lead we have had in domestic abuse services and child exploitation in particular, both strategically and operationally, and the evidence of the difference this partnership working is making in children's lives. The audit and performance scrutiny process is well established both across services and with our Members. The QA framework provides a robust structure within we can have confidence that we understand ourselves and our practice and that this drives improvement.</p> <p>We have also, through SOS, developed a model for appreciative enquiry and group supervision which supports best practice; the understanding when we have achieved good outcomes for children and a shared problem-solving approach for our most complex children and families.</p> <p>Over the next year we have a focus on developing this in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change to the scorecard so it is better aligned with the priorities and easier to see the trajectory of improvement</li> <li>• Make sure the right level of information is available at the right level on the right indicators</li> <li>• Make sure that figures are supported by qualitative information and children's outcomes</li> <li>• Support Team Managers in particular to understand and use the performance data in a way than enables them to have a clear view on practice.</li> </ul>

National Probation Service	<p>There is a National Director who has a lead for Safeguarding and within each Region there is a senior manager who has the regional lead for safeguarding. Cheshire Cluster of the NPS has a designated lead and have taken the additional step of identifying champions in each team.</p> <p>The Safeguarding lead for NPS Cheshire plays an active role in attending the SCP and now participates in new safeguarding arrangements as well as identifying a Manager lead for relevant subgroups. NPS identifies relevant staff to contribute to SCR, DHR and multi-agency audits where relevant.</p> <p>Efforts to improve multi-agency working between the NPS and CSC have been championed by the NPS with work to visit and build relationships with the front door of children's services. The NPS along with the CRC have also improved engagement with structures to assess and manage risks presented by Child Exploitation.</p> <p>The NPS North West is subject to an annual inspection and has achieved a 'Good' rating in its most recent inspection - the standards incorporate safeguarding children considerations.</p> <p>NPS and CRC senior managers have moved to a model whereby they represent each other's organisation at safeguarding meetings to work towards the Probation unified service which is scheduled to be in place by June 2021. There is strong representation at the required meetings.</p>
CGM CRC	<p>Safeguarding forms an integral part of our assessment of an individual's Risk and we work closely with Children's social care colleagues to ensure our assessments are accurate and a true reflection of the potential risk of children. we are also actively involved in ongoing risk management throughout engagement with Child protection and Child in need processes.</p>
Youth Justice Service	<p>YJS has clear evidence of challenge to other partners as well as internally in both criminal justice and child welfare systems. YJS has participated in several 'learning circles' and also requested specific multi-agency reviews of cases they have been involved with. YJS maintain an 'Escalations' spreadsheet which logs escalated cases of concern made by YJS to partners and how they have been resolved.</p>

## Key Priorities for 2019-20

The local arrangements for Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership have been agreed by the partnership and published on its [website](#). CЕСSP has agreed shared priorities for our partnership and have adopted these as their initial plan for supporting the protection and wellbeing of children and young people in Cheshire East.

Improve frontline multi-agency practice through working on:

- Our approach to Contextual Safeguarding
- Improving the quality and effectiveness of our approach to Neglect
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children
- Embedding the New Arrangements

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.

## 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 SCP's plans. The Executive maintains a risk register which is reviewed and updated bi-monthly with action updates at each meeting. During the year the following risks were on the SCP Risk register.

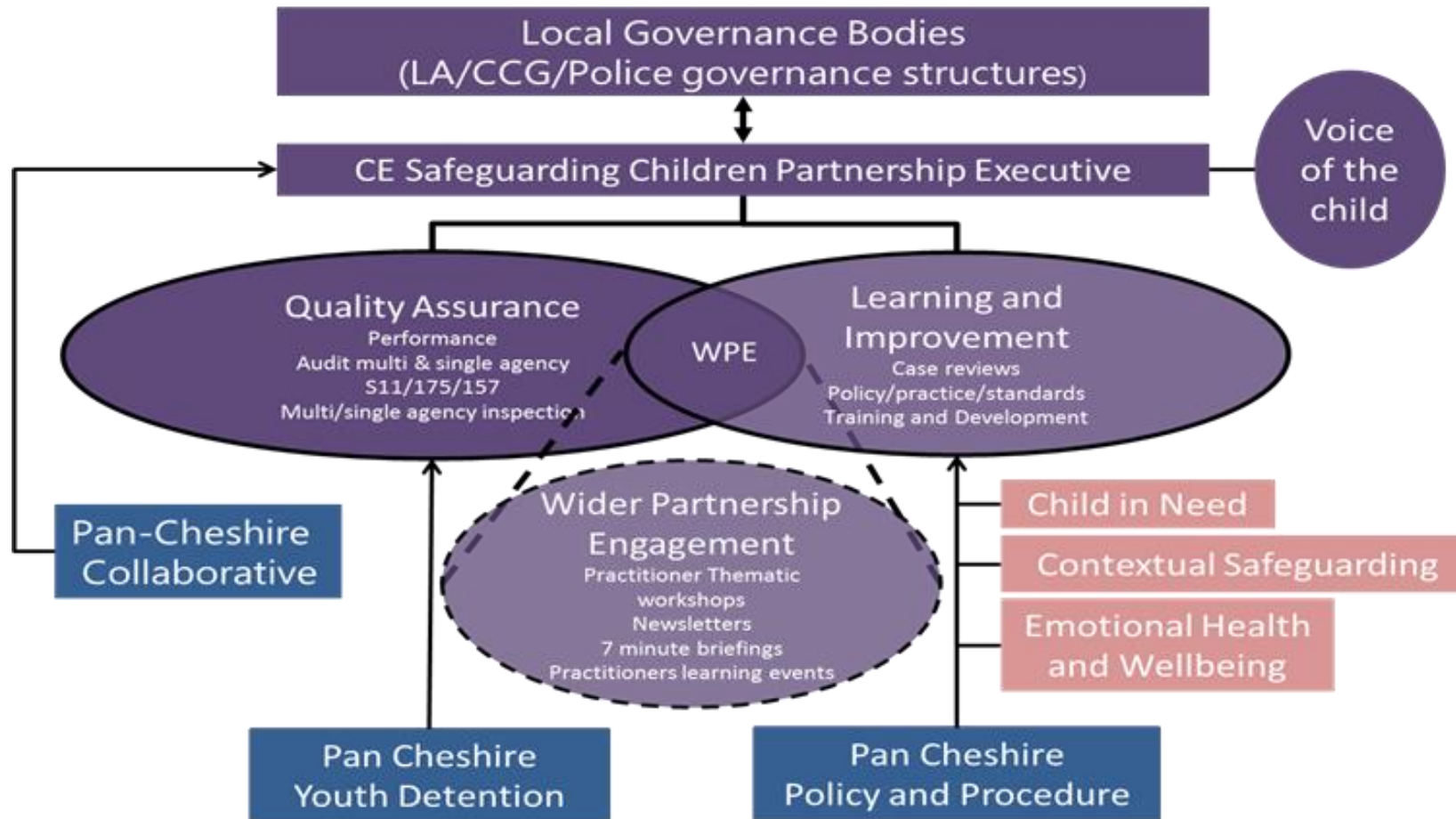
Registered	Risk	Actions	Status year end
May 17	Changes in membership of the Board through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restructures within partner organisations impact on the continuity of the business and pace of change needed to improve,</li> <li>• uncertainty in relation to the future model of safeguarding partnership arrangements (Wood</li> </ul>	Continue to strengthen the Pan Cheshire approach. Agreement in principle from Cheshire Senior Leadership group to look at opportunities for alignment of LSCB's.	Closed

	Review); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emerging Pan Cheshire Structures that could impact on partner's capacity.</li> <li>• will impact upon the Boards ability to fulfil its functions</li> </ul>		
Feb 18	The need to improve the Effectiveness of Multi-agency Child Protection Plans/Children in Need has been identified in LSCB audits.	The effective use of a suite of evidence-based practice tools for assessments, direct work and planning to be agreed. Signs of Safety model implementation.	Closed
May 18	The effective implementation of the two SCR multi-agency/single agency actions plans, for E & A	Multi-agency audits of the themes from the SCRs will be conducted in 2019 Frontline staff briefings are being held to ensure the learning and actions from the SCRs are understood. Changes to practice as required by the action plans are being addressed.	Open
Sept 18	Strengthen the engagement of the LSCB and support provided to Schools with key safeguarding activity	Actively engage with schools' forums on the development of the Future Arrangements as these are a key relevant agency. Review the school's contribution in line with the work on the development of the Future Arrangements LSCB Chair to meet with Independent Schools Heads teachers/Designated leads.	Closed
Sept 18	The effective provision of services for children who are held in police detention overnight.	Pan-Cheshire protocol to be up-date to include the escalation procedure.	Closed
Sept 18	The LSCB reduced School contributions and has not increased other partner's contributions for the last two years. During this time, it has been using its reserves. Several schools are indicating that they will not contribute financially to the current level in 19/20.	CE Safeguarding Partnership Task and Finish group to review budgets for 18/19 and 19/20	Closed
Aug 19	Sufficient financial resource to effectively embed and deliver the new Safeguarding Children Partnership	Statutory Partners to have in place an agreement to cover any year end shortfall.	Open



	Arrangement	Work with schools to develop an SLA regarding contribution.	
Aug 19	Effective engagement with schools as part of the new Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Engagement with Independent School sector and Colleges is a gap.	Open
Aug 19	Effectively embedding the new arrangements for Safeguarding Children	Continue to work with Pan Cheshire safeguarding partners to agree the governance and that will inform the local arrangements. To undertake a Peer Review/Challenge session with Tameside SCP Formal reflective session on the new arrangements - this will be incorporated into the Development Day in January 2020 and include the wider partnership. Safeguarding Partnership events at locality level to be determined. Formal agreement to be in place across the 3 statutory partners.	Open
Mar 20	Lack of coordination/communication between the Pan Cheshire work programmes and the local arrangements	Map current CE representation on the Pan Cheshire Groups Establish formal reporting arrangements - CE reps to provide a formal report to the Executive Endorse the Pan Cheshire Work programmes on behalf of CE Receive an annual overview of the work of the Pan Cheshire Groups to include analysis of impact to inform the Annual Report.	Open
Mar 20	Covid-19 is impacting on partners capacity to deliver services.	Front line eBulletin to be circulated stating the partnerships position in relation to the impact of Covid-19	Open

## Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Structure



## Appendix 2: Executive Membership and Attendance

Meetings 2019 - 2020			05.07.19	18.09.19	01.11.19	10.01.20	19.03.20
Chair	Independent Chair CЕСCP		✓	✓	✓	Development Day	✓
Local Authority	Executive Director of People		✓	✓	A		A
	Director of Children’s Social Care		✓	✓	✓		✓
	CE Head of Safeguarding		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills		✓	A	A		✓
	Interim Director of Public Health & Communities			D	A		A
Police	Cheshire Constabulary		✓	✓	✓		✓
Youth Justice	Head of Service – Youth Justice Service		A	✓	A		✓
Probation	Senior Operational Support Manager - NPS						D
	Cheshire and Manchester - CRC						A
Health	Executive Director of Quality, Patient Experience and Safeguarding	Cheshire CCG	✓	✓	✓		R
	Associate Director for Safeguarding						✓
	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children						✓
	Designated Doctor		✓	A	✓		A
	Director of Nursing and Quality, East Cheshire Trust NHS		✓	A	✓		A
	Director of Nursing	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	R	✓	✓		R
	Named Nurse for Safeguarding						✓
CESCP	Business Manager		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Business Administrator		✓	✓	✓		✓

✓ = Attended, A = Apologies, R = Designated Rep, D = Did Not Send Apologies

OFFICIAL

### Appendix 3: Partner Contributions.

	<b>CESCP Partners</b>	<b>2019-20 contributions</b>
Health	Eastern Cheshire NHS	£5,000
	Mid Cheshire Hospitals	£6,772
	CCG	£37,556
	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	£4,093
	Wirral Community NHS Trust	£5,500
Criminal Justice	Probation Service (NRC)	£1,700
	Probation Service (NPS)	£992
	Police	£25,000
	HMP STYAL	£2,000
	CAFCASS	£550
LA	Local Authority	£44,300
Education	Schools Service Level agreement	£30,000



## **FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expects to take over the period indicated above. The Plan is rolled forward every month. A key decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

"an executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

*For the purpose of the above, savings or expenditure are "significant" if they are equal to or greater than £1M."*

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents, may be viewed at any of the Council's Offices/Information Centres 5 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from, these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:

Democratic Services Team  
Cheshire East Council  
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ  
Telephone: 01270 686472

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

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

This Forward Plan also provides notice that the Cabinet, or a Portfolio Holder, may decide to take a decision in private, that is, with the public and press excluded from the meeting. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, 28 clear days' notice must be given of any decision to be taken in private by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder, with provision for the public to make representations as to why the decision should be taken in public. In such cases, Members of the Council and the public may make representations in writing to the Democratic Services Team Manager using the contact details below. A further notice of intention to hold the meeting in private must then be published 5 clear days before the

meeting, setting out any representations received about why the meeting should be held in public, together with a response from the Leader and the Cabinet.

The list of decisions in this Forward Plan indicates whether a decision is to be taken in private, with the reason category for the decision being taken in private being drawn from the list overleaf:

1. Information relating to an individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including to authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal and professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If you would like to make representations about any decision to be conducted in private at a meeting, please email:

Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer  
[paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Such representations must be received at least 10 clear working days before the date of the Cabinet or Portfolio Holder meeting concerned.

Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 clear day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as soon as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made. Any decision made in this way will be published in the same way.

Forward Plan

Key Decision and Private Non-Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 19/20-42 Congleton Leisure Centre Redevelopment Project	<p>Conditional upon an amendment being made through planning to the internal layout of the facility, the Portfolio Holder for Communities is being asked to:</p> <p>1      approve the issue of the Notice to Proceed and entry into the construction contract with Rock Merchanting Limited (T/A Pulse Design &amp; Build); and</p> <p>2      approve the temporary complete closure of the Leisure Centre in order to accelerate the construction.</p>	Portfolio Holder for Communities	Not before 22nd Dec 2020		Paul Bayley	Fully exempt - para 3

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-11 Procurement of Facilities Management Service and the Council's Energy Supply	To approve the re-procurement of facilities management services, to include maintenance, statutory compliance and energy supply management and to authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	12 Jan 2021		Denise Griffiths	N/A
CE 20/21-18 Vision for Children and Young People in Cheshire East	For Cabinet to endorse and adopt the Vision for Children and Young People in Cheshire East.	Cabinet	12 Jan 2021		Lauren Conway	N/A



Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-7 Covid-19 - Update on Response and Recovery	<p>To receive an update report on the Council's response to Covid-19 and the Recovery Plan.</p> <p>To note the financial effects of Covid-19 on the Council, as regards additional expenditure and loss of income, and to consider the potential options for managing residual financial implications within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>An update report will be presented to each successive Cabinet meeting up to and including 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.</p>	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-8 Carbon Action Plan Key Decisions	To authorise Officers to take all necessary actions relating to land allocation and procurements for initial projects contributing to sustainable energy generation and green sequestration.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A
CE 20/21-16 Third Quarter Review (Finance) 2020/21	To note and comment on the three quarter year finance and performance position, and to approve any supplementary estimates and virements.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021			N/A
CE 20/21-19 Procurement of Occupational Health Contract	Decision to procure a contract for the provision of Occupational Health Services for the Council, Schools and ASDVs. Following the necessary procurement process, that the Executive Director of Corporate Services be authorised to award the contract to the successful bidder.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Craig Hughes	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-20 Orbitas Bereavement Services Contract Extension	Contract extension to Orbitas Bereavement Services to allow completion of contact review work paused due to Orbitas role as a key frontline provider as part of the Council.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	Fully exempt - paras 3 and 5
CE 20/21-21 Policy on the Pre-purchase of Graves at Cheshire East Cemeteries	To approve a new policy with regard to advance purchase of graves in Council-managed cemeteries.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-25 Day Opportunities Strategy and Redesign	Agree and authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal for the development of a co-produced opportunities strategy and redesign of the Council's current day opportunities services offer across Cheshire East.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021			N/A
CE 19/20-50 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25	To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 incorporating the Council's priorities, budget, policy proposals and capital programme. The report will include the capital, treasury management, investment and reserves strategies.	Council	17 Feb 2021	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 February 2021 Cabinet – 2 February 2021		N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-24 Local Development Scheme 2020-2022	That the draft updated Local Development Scheme ("LDS") for the period up to 2022 be approved and published.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	February 2021		Jeremy Owens	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-3 Flowerpot Junction Improvement Scheme	To approve procurement of works to improve Flowerpot Junction, utilising the NPIF allocation from DfT and local funding contributions from s106 contributions and council match funding. Authorise the preparation and making of a CPO relating to land required for the junction improvements where this cannot be acquired through negotiation, and delegate authority to the Director of Infrastructure and Highways, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Transport to finalise the scheme details and enter into an agreement with the Council's appointed Highways Term Services to deliver the scheme.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021			N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-22 Housing Repairs and Adaptations for Vulnerable People Financial Assistance Policy	To approve the Housing Repairs and Adaptations for Vulnerable People Financial Assistance Policy 2021-2026, and to authorise Officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Karen Whitehead	N/A
CE 20/21-23 ASDV Review	To approve the recommendations within the report and authorise Officers to take all necessary actions to implement them.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Richard Hibbert	Fully exempt - paras 3 and 4

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 20/21-26 Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) Submission	To approve the submission of the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document to the Secretary of State for independent examination by an appointed Planning Inspector.	Cabinet	13 Apr 2021		Jeremy Owens	N/A
CE 18/19-60 The Minerals and Waste Development Plan	To seek approval to consult on the first draft of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.	Cabinet	4 May 2021		David Malcolm	N/A





*Working for a brighter future together*

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

---

**Date of Meeting:** 25 January 2021

**Report Title:** Work Programme

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

---

### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. To review items in the work programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by committee members.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. To approve the work programme, subject to the agreement to add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity.

### **3. Reason for Recommendation**

- 3.1. It is good practice to regularly review the work programme and update it as required.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1. The committee has responsibility for updating and approving its own work programme. Scrutiny liaison meetings – held between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee, alongside the portfolio holders and key senior officers – ensure that there is continued awareness and discussion of upcoming policies, strategies and decisions within the committee's remit area.

### **5. Determining Which Items Should be Added to the Work Programme**

- 5.1. When selecting potential topics, members should have regard to the Council's three year plan and to the criteria listed below, which should be considered to determine whether scrutiny activity is appropriate.

5.2. The following questions should be considered by the committee when determining whether to add new work programme items, or delete existing items:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority?
- Is the issue of key interest to the public?
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation?
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends or underspends?
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service?

5.3. The committee should not add any items to its work programme (and should delete any existing items) that fall under any one of the following:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere by another body (i.e. this committee would be duplicating work)
- The matter is sub-judice
- Scrutiny would not add value to the matter
- The committee is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within a specified or required timescale

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

6.1. There are no implications to legal or financial matters, equality, human resources, risk management, or for rural communities, children and young people or public health.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. All.

## **8. Access to Information**

8.1. The background papers can be inspected by contacting the report author.

## **9. Contact Information**

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

Name: Joel Hammond-Gant

Job Title: Scrutiny Officer

Email: [joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

Date: <b>25.01.21</b>	Date: <b>22.03.21</b>
Time: 12.30pm	Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting	Venue: Virtual Meeting

The Committee considers a young persons story at the start of every meeting

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Update on Covid-19	To receive a standing update at the beginning of each committee meeting on Covid-19, it's impacts and how the council is responding to support children and young people in the borough.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families  Public Health and Corporate Services	Committee	Scrutiny	People live well and for longer.  A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Standing update until further notice
Refresh of the Self-Evaluation Framework	To provide the Committee with a service performance position post-lockdown, ahead of any potential Ofsted Inspection:  - Self-evaluation of Children's Social Care and Early Help Services) - Self-evaluation of SEND - Self-evaluation of Education and Skills	Director of Prevention and Early Help  Director of Education and 14-19 Skills  Director of Children's Social Care	Children and Families	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	25.01.21

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Pre-Budget 2021/22 Consultation	To consider the 2021/22 Budget proposals relating to Children's Services.	Executive Director of People  Director of Finance and Customer Services	Children and Families  Finance, IT and Communications	Committee	Budget scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation  People live well and for longer  People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	25.01.21 (moved back from Nov 2020)
Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report	To consider the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) Annual Report 2020/21.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive	25.01.21
Children's Services Performance Scorecard – Quarter 3 (2020/21)	To give consideration to the Children & Families quarterly performance scorecard	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	22.03.21 (moved back from Jan 21)
Annual Education Report	To give consideration to the Annual Education Report	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	22.03.21
Six-Monthly report of Member Frontline Visits	To review the Member Frontline Visits Report covering a six-month period.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	People have the life skills and education	22.03.21 (moved

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
						they need in order to thrive	back from Jan 21)
Update on School Organisation and School Capital	To consider an update on School Organisation and School Capital in Cheshire East.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	22.03.21
Update on SEND	To receive a six-monthly update on SEND.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	22.03.21

**Items to be passed on for consideration for the forthcoming service committee from May 2021:**

- Children's Services Performance Scorecard – Quarter 4 (2020/21)
- Early Help Strategy (an update on the strategy post-Cabinet decision)
- Lifelong Learning (an overview of the impact of lifelong learning)
- Update on the Kickstart Programme (progress update)
- Integrated Front Door Update (progress update)

This page is intentionally left blank