

# Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

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**Date:** Wednesday, 5th August, 2020

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

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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 22 June 2020.

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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. **Declaration of Party Whip**

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 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.

Members of the public wishing to make a statement should provide notice in writing at least three clear working days before the meeting takes place.

6. **Covid-19 Education Update** (Pages 11 - 24)

To consider a report on the impacts of Covid-19 to education and schools in Cheshire East.

7. **Review of Fostering Service** (Pages 25 - 36)

To consider an update on Foster4 and the wider development work within the Fostering Service.

8. **Regional Adoption Agency Integrated Services Agreement**

To consider a presentation update on the Regional Adoption Agency, Adoption Counts, and the decision due to be taken by Cabinet on 8 September 2020 to approve that the council enter into an integrated service agreement and associated support agreement with its partners.

9. **Member Frontline Visits** (Pages 37 - 46)

To consider the plans to reinstate Member frontline visits.

10. **Youth Zone Update**

To consider an update on the potential for an externally funded capital development Youth Zone in Crewe.

11. **Forward Plan** (Pages 47 - 58)

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

12. **Work Programme** (Pages 59 - 68)

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, N Wylie

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

held on Monday, 22nd June, 2020 (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, S Handley, A Moran, L Smith and N Wylie

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor K Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mark Palethorpe- Executive Director People  
Jacquie Sims- Director of Children's Social Care  
Jacky Forster- Director of Education and 14-19 Skills  
Alison Stathers-Tracey- Director of Prevention and Early Help  
Lauren Conway- Improvement and Development Officer

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2020.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

There were no whipping declarations.

## **5 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present wishing to speaking.

## **6 RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People introduced the item to the Committee, he set the context for the report and overview which included the lockdown period, the lead up to it and the move to recovery.

Mark thanked officers, partners, and elected members for all the support given towards children and families across the borough throughout the lockdown period. In terms of day to day business, the service had taken a significant shift but that essential services had continued and offered support to the most vulnerable children in the borough to remain safe. Vulnerable children had been supported to attend school and family care had been delivered differently this included meetings and contacts remotely.

The Committee heard that care leavers are one of the most vulnerable groups and that lockdown will have had an impact on cases of hidden harm which will have a future impact on those children and young people.

Midwifery services had been provided through children services, although several early year settings had been closed and staff had been furloughed.

The Committee were advised that the legacy of the pandemic was an increased demand for services (particularly mental health), capacity and costs for next year. It was acknowledged that the pandemic had caused a challenge in terms of dedication of staff both capacity and emotionally.

The Committee were invited to ask questions, and a number of comments were noted:

- Support for foster carers had been provided for those who had incurred additional costs via virtual school £185k had been projected until November 2020;
- Children who were on a child protection plan, received visits during the lockdown period. Virtual visits had commenced when the visit had been risk assessed and deemed safe. The goal was the return of physical visits for all children with staff safety;
- Older young people had enjoyed virtual meetings and built stronger connection with more frequent meetings. Agencies e.g. schools had done the same thing with vulnerable young people;
- More frequent virtual meetings are being scheduled for children with disabilities as it might not be safe to arrange a physical meeting with this cohort yet;
- The Committee acknowledged how useful briefings had been throughout the lockdown period, and also that not all residents and

vulnerable families had good connectivity to internet and in these instances telephone might be the only option;

- Visiting with children and families had varied considerably, from a telephone conversation to the video on screen, and be able to see inside the home, to doorstep visits and can talk in the garden, socially distanced walks, although high risk cases retained the need for the visit to go ahead as it would normally. Every child had been risk assessed and kept under review;
- Some Early Help cases had escalated into social care when risk could not be managed safely;
- 739 devices (laptops, 4G dongles for internet access) had been dispatched to vulnerable families;
- Short break carers had stopped and the authority, had to become creative by looking at short break providers to work on an offer for over the summer holidays;
- Members discussed the need to look at the financial impact of the pandemic separately and in detail;
- Domestic abuse was being considered in partnership with Cheshire Without Abuse who had received £300k funding in order to deal with the impact of hidden harm;
- An increase in the severity of referrals had been recorded, and concerns about this had led to a reshaped offer to enable an appropriate response;
- Initially only special schools and those with complex needs were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the advice from the Department of Education was that PPE should not be worn unless there was a child with symptoms in the school and then only the carer for that child in school should wear it. All schools have been issued a supply of PPE however this could not be continued in the long term and the school would need to source their own or come back to the authority if there was an emergency; and
- There had been a gradual increase in schools opening, guidance had changed and schools had explored what could work according to the size and shape of the accommodation.

The Committee had a discussion about the recommendations contained within the report and concluded that there was not enough financial detail to support the recommendation at the start of the report.

The Committee agreed that any application for funding to central government will need to have a strong evidence base.

Visiting Member, Councillor Janet Clowes, advised the Committee that during the last Corporate Scrutiny meeting, it was decided that a sub-group of Corporate Scrutiny and Audit and Governance be formed to monitor all the Covid-Coded expenditure as requested on a monthly basis by Central Government.

Mark Palethorpe advised that the authority had received £19.7 million funding however there had been a loss of income from other services (e.g. carpark charges).

The Committee agreed it would be helpful to see the results of how schools are transitioning children to secondary school, especially the emotional transition.

**RESOLVED:**

That

the progress to date and issues outlined in the report be received and noted;

any funding relating to the Covid-19 pandemic be fed into an itemised report to Corporate Scrutiny as part of the Corporate/Audit and Governance sub-group; and

Members be provided with a briefing to explain how schools were dealing with students transitioning into High School, especially the emotional transition.

## **7 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan. There were three items that related to this Committee. The proposed expansion of Wilmslow High School, and the Regional Adoption Agency Integrated Services Agreement for consideration by Cabinet in September. The support for Syrian Vulnerable person resettlement programme and unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children and Asylum Seekers dispersal programme was expected to go later as September was not an appropriate timing as no travel was permitted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

## **8 WORK PROGRAMME**

Visiting Member, Councillor Rachel Bailey advised the Committee that funding had been announced from central government to help young people catch up on lost time through the pandemic. There had been a varied response from schools for various reasons. Councillor Bailey requested that the Committee consider an overview that related to pupil performance and performance of schools, and how the Local Authority looked at the skill set of those leaving school on the cusp of high school.

The Committee were advised that an additional meeting in August would be necessary to ensure the appropriate level of scrutiny was given to the items on the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) Helen Davies add an item to the Committee's Work Programme to scrutinise the lost time for young people leaving high school and on the cusp of high school.
- b) Helen Davies advise the Committee of the scheduled date for the August meeting.
- c) Children and Family and Corporate Scrutiny Officers to liaise re: Covid-Coding finance.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 3.34 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)

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

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**Date of Meeting:** 05 August 2020

**Report Title:** COVID-19 Education Update

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

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

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### **1. Report summary**

- 1.1. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report in June regarding how Children's Services, working together with our partners, have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are unprecedented times for the Council, and for our children, young people and families.
- 1.2. This report provides an update on the work that has been undertaken in Education in response to this national and international public health emergency in line with the government decision to reopen schools.
- 1.3. We have many challenges ahead. COVID-19 is and will continue to have a significant impact on our children, young people and families. The strain of COVID-19 and lockdown has increased pressures for families. The mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families has been affected. Children and young people have missed out on education. Lockdown has reduced the visibility of children, allowing harm to remain hidden. The likely economic recession that will follow as a result of COVID-19 will increase the number of children living in poverty and will exacerbate the current inequalities. The legacy of this will be an increased demand for services over the next year but also in the longer term, with an increased cost to the Council and our partnerships.

## **2. Recommendation/s**

- 2.1 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note:
- the progress to date; and,
  - the issues outlined in this report.

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

- 3.1. To enable members to scrutinise arrangements for children to ensure we have the right support in place to help children achieve the best outcomes. To put on public record a summary of our response to date.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. Not applicable.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. At its meeting of 22 June, the Committee received a report regarding the response of Children's Services to the COVID-19 pandemic which provided the background to the coronavirus, the initial outbreak and the spread of the virus.
- 5.2 Children's Services continue to respond to the pandemic, and have continued to operate to ensure our children and families are effectively safeguarded and supported during this time.
- 5.3 We have worked closely with schools throughout this period. Guidance has been changing rapidly. Cheshire East schools have been very responsive and flexible to changing the way they work to accommodate pupils, including vulnerable children and children of keyworkers.

### **Support to Schools**

- 5.4 We have established a range of support for schools, including calls from a linked officer to offer support and check on their wellbeing, which initially were carried out daily and are now weekly. This has ensured we have strong communication, and concerns are shared and resolved together. Schools have reported that they feel supported and listened to and we are continuing to receive positive feedback from schools on the support and leadership from Cheshire East throughout COVID-19.

- 5.5 We have developed specific guidance for schools on a range of topics including safeguarding, risk assessments, testing and HR matters. Regular briefings are sent to schools sharing the latest advice and guidance. We are continuing to provide intensive support to schools to those that need it.

### **Phased Opening of Schools**

- 5.4 On 10 May, the Prime Minister announced the phased wider opening of education settings to specific year groups would commence from 1 June. Following this, we held extensive discussions with all key stakeholders; teaching unions, school heads and the Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum, to determine how we could safely implement this within Cheshire East. An Education Recovery group was established to plan for the phased wider opening of schools. This group includes all phases of education and the diocese.
- 5.5 We agreed a Cheshire East position on the phased opening which included a two-week period from 1 June to allow for preparation of classrooms and implementation of the significant changes that needed to be made to ensure safe working practices. This also included welcoming priority year groups back in a staged approach so arrangements could be reviewed after each stage and adjusted if needed.
- 5.6 Letters were sent to all parents and carers to communicate our plans and offer reassurance that the safety of everyone within our schools was our priority. All schools completed a risk assessment of their arrangements. For all our 68 maintained schools, we quality assured the risk assessments and ensured these were compliant with the government guidance. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was delivered to all schools and colleges in advance of the phased opening.
- 5.7 From 15 June, schools reopened to all eligible nursery-aged pupils on a limited and controlled basis where staffing capacity and space allowed. From 22 June, all Reception and Year 1 pupils were welcomed back to Primary Schools. Year 6 pupils returned on 29 June where schools had enough space to do so with social distancing in place.
- 5.8 We were pleased that over 2,300 pupils from Year 6 attended schools, which was a greater number than we originally thought would be

possible to accommodate. Many schools that did not have space for Year 6 pupils alongside other pupils were creative and used other ways to enable pupils to say goodbye, such as using school fields, twilight sessions and weekend sessions. Some secondary schools carried out online transitions and virtual tours to prepare Year 6 pupils for their start at their new schools in September.

- 5.9 From 15 June, secondary schools offered face to face support for Year 10 and Year 12\* pupils (\*Year 11 for alternative provision) in line with the government guidance. Schools were only allowed to have 25% of these pupils on site at any one time, so pupils attended on a rota basis. We asked schools to consider creating targeted provision for 'bubbles' of pupils who are vulnerable to underperformance or disengagement to help to support them in their education.
- 5.10 Pupils of special schools were encouraged to return to school from 15 June based on a review of their individual risk assessment. Priority was given to increasing places to children of key workers and children who have a social worker.
- 5.11 Where schools had capacity, a number also welcomed back pupils from other year groups before the end of term.
- 5.12 Over 11,200 pupils attended schools following the phased opening. The DfE has thanked us for our high attendance. Schools believe this is a result of the phased approach we agreed in Cheshire East, which allowed them to engage with parents and reassure them on all the measures that were being taken to make schools safe, and that our high attendance reflects parental confidence in the safety of our arrangements.
- 5.13 Following the phased opening, key worker pupil attendance increased week by week with over 3,800 key worker pupils attending. The number of vulnerable children attending also continued to increase, with over 1,500 attending, which was very positive, with the main area of increase being children with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP). Together with our schools, we successfully managed to accommodate these pupils alongside other year groups. The attendance team have been proactive in ensuring places are available for keyworkers and vulnerable children which supported good attendance from these groups.
- 5.14 The majority of pupils continued to receive remote education during the summer term. We asked schools to ensure that children who were

due to transition between schools in September were supported, and developed a minimum offer for our expectations on transition. We also asked schools to review their home learning arrangements and support for pupils' wellbeing, and ensure that they had regular contact with all children who were not invited back into school to encourage and support learning and wellbeing.

### **Summer Holidays**

- 5.15 The Secretary of State for Education confirmed that schools are not expected to be open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break to recharge and rest.
- 5.16 Following the government's announcement of the COVID-19 Summer Food Fund, schools have applied for the 6 week vouchers to support their free school meal pupils over the summer break.
- 5.17 All emergency contacts for schools have been refreshed in case schools need to be contacted over the holiday period. Link officers will continue to be available over the summer for schools to contact and a central inbox has been set up to receive and respond to any queries from schools.
- 5.18 The Education Recovery Group will continue to meet over the summer to discuss and resolve issues as they arise. School briefings will continue to be circulated with essential updates, although on a less frequent basis than during term time.
- 5.19 We have established a referral process for schools that have concerns about possible attendance in September, or for families that are anxious and need support to facilitate the return to school, so we can support these families over the summer to encourage attendance.

### **Return of all Pupils from September**

- 5.20 On 19 June, the Secretary of State for Education announced that schools would be fully open to all children and young people from September 2020.
- 5.21 The government also announced a £1 billion 'catch up' fund. This recognises that all young people have lost time in education as a result of the pandemic, regardless of their income or background.

£650 million will be shared across all state primary and secondary schools over the academic year 2020-21. Schools' allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis, providing each mainstream school with a total of £80 for each pupil in years reception through to 11. Special, AP and hospital schools will be provided with £240 for each place for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

- 5.22 £350 million will fund a National Tutoring Programme which will increase access to high-quality tuition for the most disadvantaged young people. This will help accelerate their academic progress and prevent the gap between them and their more affluent peers widening. The programme will comprise of at least 2 parts in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, including a 5 to 16 programme that will make high-quality tuition available to 5 to 16 year olds in state-funded primary and secondary schools from the second half of autumn term 2020 and a 16 to 19 fund for school sixth forms, colleges and all other 16 to 19 providers to provide small group tutoring activity for disadvantaged 16 to 19 students whose studies have been disrupted as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19).

### ***Safe Working Practices***

- 5.23 As with the phased opening, we have discussed and agreed arrangements for September with all key stakeholders; teaching unions, school heads and the Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum. The Education Recovery Group continues to meet to plan for the full opening of schools and agree a consistent approach across Cheshire East.
- 5.24 We are continuing to provide intensive support to schools around how to implement the DfE guidance to ensure we have a consistent and safe approach across all schools. Some of the changes needed are particularly challenging for schools, for example, the enhanced cleaning requirements. We are developing some principles for schools based on advice from Public Health. We are continuing to liaise with the DfE to clarify issues raised by schools and have continued to regularly update and circulate responses to frequently asked questions.
- 5.25 We have provided all schools with a new risk assessment checklist on their arrangements for pupils from September. Our 68 maintained schools were required to submit the risk assessment checklist before they finished for the summer to provide us with assurance that their risk assessment covers all the appropriate controls. We will ensure the

assessments for all 68 schools comply with the guidance as we did for the phased opening from June.

- 5.26 We have received condition bids from maintained schools and will look to consider some COVID-19 adjustments, if possible, for funding where this meets the eligibility criteria, for example ventilation.
- 5.27 We are establishing a process for schools to report positive cases of COVID-19 so we can manage potential outbreaks. We have attended a session on the local lockdown arrangements and we are linked into a sub group on local lockdowns for schools.

### ***Attendance and Pupil Support***

- 5.28 We are currently developing a set of principles around expectations on attendance for all our schools. We are aware that some parents and children may be anxious about the return in September. Our focus will be on working with families and schools to support children back into education.
- 5.29 We have provided schools with some template letters to adapt for children who have previously had low attendance or little engagement with school during the COVID-19 pandemic to offer reassurance on the measures that will be in place, and encourage attendance. We will be reintroducing fines for non-attendance in a phased way in the autumn to incentivise attendance, but fines will only be used as a last resort where we have exhausted all other ways to engage families.
- 5.30 We recognise the impact that COVID-19 has had on mental health and wellbeing. We will be developing an emotional wellbeing package for use in schools from September. This will include a suite of resources for schools to use with pupils and will provide clarity on the support that is available for schools and families. The pack will include resources for carrying out debriefings with pupils and parents on the impact of lockdown.
- 5.31 We are strongly encouraging schools to consider hot food options when providing free school meals from September as we are mindful that for some children and young people growing up in low income households, their school meal may be the only opportunity to have a healthy, hot meal each day.

***Curriculum and Learning***

- 5.32 Two school working groups have been established to review the approach to the curriculum in September, and preparation for remote learning if there is another lockdown. We will be setting minimum standards for schools on remote learning to ensure it is clear that they have a responsibility to deliver the curriculum remotely should another lockdown take place.
- 5.33 We are working with maintained schools to identify where curriculum support may be needed in September. A continual professional development programme will be put in place with a focus on remote learning, emotional wellbeing support for pupils, and catch up strategies.
- 5.34 The East Cheshire Association of Primary Heads (ECAPH) have collected information on what home learning has taken place to date. We will be completing a review of this and then will advise schools on best practice.
- 5.35 All schools have submitted grades in place of examinations for this year, and Ofqual are carrying out moderation. The grades will not be able to be used for comparison purposes.
- 5.36 There will be an opportunity to take exams in the Autumn for pupils that are contesting their grade and schools will need to consider entries for learners early in the autumn term. There may be some issues with venues for such exams as schools will be fully operational when these exams are due to take place.
- 5.37 A consultation will be taking place on adaptation to exams for 2021 which we will be responding to.
- 5.38 Ofsted have announced that they will be carrying out visits to schools and colleges in the autumn term. These visits will look at how schools and colleges are getting pupils back up to speed. The visits will be piloted with volunteer schools and colleges from September, with the full programme starting from October. Routine inspections are planned to resume in January 2021 but this date will be kept under review. We will be supporting our four inadequate schools with their preparations for the Ofsted visits.

***Transport***

- 5.39 The DfE guidance for full school opening from September 2020 sets out a new framework for supporting transport to and from schools from the autumn term. The guidance makes a distinction between dedicated school transport (services that are only used to transport pupils to school) and public transport services.
- 5.40 Following publication of the guidance, we have worked with schools to develop a set of principles for travel to school from September. These principles set out what the local authority and schools will do, along with expectations from parents and pupils.
- 5.41 Based on these principles, we have been working to establish the travel to school arrangements required from September 2020. Two surveys have been conducted with families; one for those who are eligible to receive home to school transport from the local authority; the other is aimed at secondary school pupils, in particular to identify those who use public transport. Based on the survey findings and current transport data a decision paper, including options, will be presented to Cabinet in early August.
- 5.42 Promoting active travel to schools remains a key priority. Schools are promoting travel to school by walking or cycling where possible. We are currently working with our Transport and Communication colleagues to look at a campaign around active travel in Cheshire East leading up to the full opening of schools.
- 5.43 Transport Service Solutions (TSS) are starting to organise transport for September, but will not issue the contracts until decisions have been made on travel to school options so that adjustments can be made where necessary. Officers will negotiate contract arrangements with each individual school.
- 5.44 The DfE guidance states that we should group pupils together on transport to reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school where possible. We have reviewed this with our schools and our providers and we are currently looking to create designated seating areas within transport for each bubble to limit mixing between them. The DfE has shared this proposal with other local authorities, most of whom are looking at a similar approach.
- 5.45 Transport for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is being prioritised to ensure 'meet and greets' can take place

between families and drivers to help children and young people feel settled and supported and arrive at school prepared to learn.

### **Impact and Challenges Ahead**

- 5.46 We have many challenges ahead. COVID-19 is and will continue to have a significant impact on our children, young people and families. The strain of COVID-19 and lockdown has increased pressures for families. We already know that the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families has been affected. The likely economic recession that will follow as a result of COVID-19 will increase the number of children living in poverty and will exacerbate the current inequalities.
- 5.47 We are already seeing increased need from children and families. Once all pupils return to school, this will increase the visibility of children and the impact of COVID-19 on all our children and young people will become clearer. There is growing evidence of a gap in knowledge between pupils who have completed home learning and those who haven't, and a need for an intensive review of the curriculum. We are yet to understand the impact of the lack of examinations for young people who would have taken their GCSEs and A Levels this year.
- 5.48 As a result, we expect to see an increased demand on services within Education, such as the Elective Home Education Service, Medical Needs Service, Alternative Provision and Excluded Support Team and the Attendance and Children Out of School Team, as well as wider Children's Services such as Prevention Services and Children's Social Care, and partnership services within health and early help. The legacy of COVID-19 will be an increased demand for services both over the next year but also in the longer term, at increased cost to the Council and the partnership.

## **6. 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 Some legislation allows us to relax some of our statutory requirements in order to support and manage the provision of services to children and families during this time. The Children and

Families Leadership Team have agreed that we will provide services to the higher original statutory requirements and will only apply the relaxations where it is in children's best interests to do so, with a clearly recorded rationale.

6.1.3 Other new legislation, such as the changes to SEND legislation, has brought new requirements for services, such as the requirement to outline what reasonable adjustments have been made during this time to provide the provision in children's Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Work is ongoing to ensure we are compliant with these requirements.

6.1.4 We have liaised with our Legal Services colleagues throughout the last few months, to assist with and support our understanding and implementation of all legislation and guidance that affects our services to children and families. We will continue to do so, as appropriate, as we move into the recovery phase.

## **6.2. Financial Implications**

6.2.1 Like many councils, Cheshire East continues to face increased costs and demand pressures at the same time as seeing a significant drop in income. The financial implications of COVID-19 for the whole Council are significant as the additional funding available to the Council for COVID-19 is not sufficient to meet all the additional costs being identified.

6.2.2 As time progresses, it is likely that the increase in costs as a result of COVID-19 will rise further. Some areas are still unknown and dependent on further guidance, including additional home to school transport costs.

6.2.3 We expect to see a rise in demand for services to Education, Prevention and Children's Social Care once more children return to schools and settings. This could result in a significant increase in demand to services over the coming year and in the longer term with significant cost implications.

6.2.4 However, unless the funding available for COVID-19 issues increases there will need to be an urgent need to challenge spend that is not affordable within the Council's level of reserves. The Section 151 officer will be actively monitoring the position and consider further action as required.

- 6.2.5 Schools are funded through the dedicated schools grant and this has continued to be paid in full throughout the COVID-19 period. Schools have been able to claim for a limited range of additional costs. All applications associated with the period March to July will be submitted in the first window, which closes on 21 July. This has been done at school level directly through to the DfE. Broad financial limits have been set for different sizes of school, as judged by pupil numbers. The DfE has advised that there will be a second application window in the Autumn for additional costs to schools.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1 Policies are being developed in line with the government guidance, in consultation with key stakeholders and with appropriate advice from Public Health, Legal services and Health and Safety.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1 Implications of the changes will continue to be reviewed. Public Health England published a report on 16 June 2020 'Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups. It concluded that there is clear evidence that COVID-19 does not affect all population groups equally. Death rates from COVID-19 were higher for Black and Asian ethnic groups when compared to White ethnic groups. The report concludes that further national work is required to ensure that COVID-19 recovery strategies actively reduce inequalities caused by the wider determinants of health to create long term sustainable change which is appropriately funded.
- 6.4.2 We have seen an increase in mental health issues, particularly for parents, as a result of the stress of lockdown. Many issues may still be remaining hidden and may only come to light as lockdown continues to lift.
- 6.4.3 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.

### **6.5 Human Resources Implications**

- 6.5.1 There have been HR implications to staff working in different ways. HR and Public Health have informed the guidance that has been provided to support schools.

- 6.5.2 There has been regular communication with schools on HR implications, including through the daily briefings, and good co-operation with the Trade Unions.

## **6.6 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.6.1 We have developed specific COVID-19 risk registers for Education and all of Children's Services. We are keeping Business Continuity Plans under review. 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.

## **6.7 Rural Communities Implications**

- 6.7.1 COVID-19 is having an impact across all communities, including rural communities.

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

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

## **6.9 Public Health Implications**

- 6.9.1 COVID-19 is a global pandemic and public health emergency. Public Health advice has been sought to ensure guidance complies with Public Health guidelines and enables schools to provide safe environments for pupils and staff.

## **6.10 Climate Change Implications**

- 6.10.1 The increase in people being educated and working from home, and the reduced travel, has had a positive impact on climate change. The current government guidance is to avoid public transport, so we are encouraging families to walk or cycle to school where possible.

## **7 Ward Members Affected**

- 7.1 All members.

## **8 Consultation & Engagement**

- 8.1 We continue to consult with the Parent Carer Forum, schools, the Diocese, and trade unions. Feedback from schools on our support during COVID-19 has 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)



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## Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 5th August 2020

**Report Title:** Review of Fostering Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Kathryn Flavell, Children and Families

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

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update regarding the response of Cheshire East Council to the Ofsted inspection in November 2019, when a recommendation was made to "improve the quality and consistency of support and engagement with foster carers". In January 2020 an independent fostering review was commissioned to inform our strategic approach and operational practice.
- 1.2. We have been working closely with our in-house foster carers and have already made positive changes after listening to their views. We want to give our cared for children the very best opportunity to maintain their familial networks and live within their local communities.
- 1.3. There is no more important function for a local authority than exercising our Corporate Parenting responsibility to ensure our cared for children and care leavers are well cared for and achieve good outcomes during their childhood and as they transition into adulthood.
- 1.4. Recruiting, retaining, supporting and developing skilled foster carers means that more Cheshire East cared for children live locally, experiencing high quality and stable care arrangements.

## **2. Recommendations**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1. Note the update and scrutinise development work and progress made to improve fostering services.
- 2.2. Agree that the ongoing monitoring and oversight of fostering services in Cheshire East will continue via the Corporate Parenting Committee.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. Improvements must be made to the services that we deliver to children, young people, their families and foster carers to ensure that the outcomes for our cared for children and care leavers is improved. We must increase the number of in-house foster carers as this enables cared for children to remain closer to their familial environments, ensures that other networks (for example health provision and school) remains consistent. We must improve the experience of our existing foster carers and place the Local Authority on a sustainable financial footing concerning current and future placements costs. The acceptance of these recommendations will support the service to achieve this.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. The only other option available at this point is to take no action following the recommendation of the Ofsted inspection 2019 and subsequent findings of the Independent Fostering Review. If we were to take this approach this would not improve services to foster carers, the cared for children living with them, our ability to recruit and retain foster carers and in addition would have a significant detrimental impact on the moral of the staff across the Fostering Service and wider Directorate. There would be a reputational risk to Cheshire East Council if we did not make progress on the Ofsted recommendation.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. In the November 2019 Cheshire East Children's Services received our 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)' inspection undertaken by Ofsted. One of the recommendations was to 'Improve the quality and consistency and support of our foster carers'. The need to focus on the development of our fostering service was also evidenced through

engagement and consultation with our foster carers and members of staff across the fostering and wider services since last summer. We decided that we should commission an independent review of our fostering services. It is important to say that this did not solely focus on the work within the fostering service, but also included all aspects of the reach of fostering across the wider council and colleague network, including the work undertaken within our recruitment and marketing collaboration Foster 4.

- 5.2. Ofsted's judgement found that overall, we 'required improvement to be good' and made the following statements as part of their inspection report; *'Sufficiency of in-house foster carers is a known service challenge. The number of approved fostering households has reduced and recent attempts to improve recruitment has not had the impact that the Local Authority had hoped for. The quality of foster carer assessment is good. The IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) for fostering is providing an effective level of challenge to ensure that carers continue to meet the standards for fostering. Foster Cares reported that they have access to a range of good training which supports them in caring for the children in their care'*. In addition, the inspection report said that *'A significant group of foster carers have raised concerns over a period of time and during the inspection about the support they receive from the Local Authority. Inspectors found that foster carers were not always well supported and that, in some cases, working relationships were at risk of breaking down'*.

- 5.3. The Independent Review of Fostering was undertaken by an expert in the field of Fostering and concluded that there was significant work needed to be undertake across both the directorate and corporate levels to improve our approach and delivery of fostering services and support at Cheshire East Council.

#### 5.4. The Development Journey

- 5.4.1. Our development journey since the Ofsted Inspection and independent fostering review has focussed on four specific areas, these are the **Strategic Commissioning and Corporate Parenting** functions for the service and for Cheshire East as a whole, the **Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers**, the **Fostering Service Structure and Supervision** and **Foster Carers Supervision and Support**.

#### 5.5. Strategic Commissioning and Corporate Parenting

- 5.5.1. Exercising duties as a corporate parent should be at the forefront of thinking for officers, managers and elected members. As such we must guard against the dangers of creating a culture which suggests that

corporate parenting is the sole preserve of social care or those employed in Children and Families.

- 5.5.2. Corporate Parenting is a duty which stretches across the Council and beyond to partner agencies who have a key role to play in ensuring the welfare needs of the whole child can be met. The Council's elected members, have made a commitment as corporate parents to our Cared for children and care leavers through the 'Pledges' that were signed up to in December 2018
- 5.5.3. We would very much like to see this commitment expanded through the Council committing to be a 'Foster Friendly' employer. This would see the Council providing additional incentives to all of the foster carers who are directly employed by Cheshire East Council, for example, providing paid time off for these carers to attend 'Cared for Reviews', Training etc.
- 5.5.4. The Fostering Network have developed the Foster Friendly Employer programme and we are currently engaged with them in informal discussions concerning how we could introduce this in Cheshire East.
- 5.5.5. The numbers of children being cared for nationally has been increasing in recent years. Cheshire East Council has also experienced rising numbers of cared for children at the same time, our numbers of in-house foster carers have decreased, this has led to an increasing reliance on the use of placements with Independent Fostering Agencies.
- 5.5.6. The combined effect of this for Cheshire East Council, and most specifically for our care for children and young people, is likely to be detrimental to the best outcome for some cared for children. The range of placements used often necessitates placement further away from the child's home which causes subsequent discontinuity in education, healthcare and family contact. Furthermore, the increase in external foster placements incurs additional expenditure, as many external foster placements are approximately twice the cost of in-house foster care.
- 5.5.7. It is therefore critical that Cheshire East Council increases its number of in-house foster carers as this offers the best outcome for the child or young person. This enables them to remain closer to their familial networks and provides for the most efficient use of our resources, both in terms of staffing and fiscal management.

- 5.5.8. We are developing our own marketing and recruitment capability in house to maximise our local foster carers. This is separate from the Foster 4 collaboration, which we will be leaving in September 2020.

#### **5.6. Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers**

- 5.6.1. We have already obtained a commitment from the Corporate Communication Team for a designated officer to work with us on our marketing, recruitment and communication. The officer identified had previously undertaken this role, prior to us joining Foster 4 and therefore has a wealth of knowledge and experience that is already proving to be invaluable.
- 5.6.2. We have already run two successful recruitment campaigns in the past few weeks via local radio and social media outlets and will continue to run campaigns alongside Foster 4 until September 2020
- 5.6.3. We have streamlined the process for all new applicants that provides a swifter transition through to their approval, this has seen a reduction of the assessment process from 20 to 16 weeks.
- 5.6.4. Decisions on whether to proceed with an applicant are now made within 48 hours of the initial visit and the case is allocated for assessment at that point, with a date for Fostering Panel presentation set. Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the assessment process are being undertaken concurrently with checks, references and Skills to Foster training all forming component parts of assessment discussions.
- 5.6.5. The amended process for managing new prospective carers has required a cultural and managerial shift from current practice. In particular the practice of having to attend an Information Session and the Skills to Foster training prior to having an assessing social worker allocated has been discontinued.
- 5.6.6. We have recently approved 6 new Foster Carers using the new process with another 9 currently being assessed. This is the largest number of new Foster Carers and Foster Carers in assessment that we have seen in the past couple of years and we hope that this is an indication of us 'turning the corner' in foster carers recruitment.

#### **5.7. Fostering Service Structure and Supervision**

- 5.7.1. The current structure of the Fostering Service in Cheshire East is unusual and presents some dilemmas and conflicts. It is acknowledged and accepted that the service has been subject to a high degree of

change in recent years, not least in having numerous changes of manager.

- 5.7.2. There is a need for a degree of specialism within the Fostering Service beyond that which is currently apparent and that the current structure creates potential conflicts and clashes when determining the relative priority of work tasks. For example, a court-imposed deadline may create a priority for a family and friends assessment over and above an assessment for a mainstream foster carer.
- 5.7.3. Proposals are being developed to implement a service re-design and restructure. With the impending withdrawal from Foster 4 there will be a requirement to undertake additional activities within the restructured service. The structure of the new service will see the establishment of a **Mainstream Recruitment and Assessment Team**, a **Mainstream Support and Supervision Team** that will incorporate our Children with Disabilities Short Break Carers, a **Connected Persons / Special Guardianship Assessment and Support Team**, our **Mockingbird Team**, and a specialist **Post 18 Team**, working with Care Leavers who remain in supported living, shared lives or staying put arrangements.
- 5.7.4. The development of the fostering service is being monitored through the monthly Fostering Development Meetings which are chaired by the Director for Children's Social Care. In addition, the performance of the service has been added to the quarterly performance monitoring focussed meetings that are held as part of the Social Care Leadership Team Meetings.
- 5.7.5. The Chair of the Foster Panel completes an Annual Report for Corporate Parenting Committee to update and encourage scrutiny of the role of the Foster Panel, for the first time we have also included an Annual Report of the Fostering Service to the forward plan for Committee to coincide with the report from the Fostering Panel Chair to add additional scrutiny to the fostering service development plan. This will be delivered to Corporate Parenting Committee in September 2020.

## **5.8. Foster Carers Supervision and Support**

- 5.8.1. Over the past few of months we have been working with a group of foster carers to develop a 'SharePoint' site to enable them to directly access all the information and advice that they might need, for example; The Foster Carers Handbook, Policies and Procedures (which are all being updated in co-production with another group of foster carers), Training and Events, Support and Resources (including

payments, allowances and expense claims), access to the Foster Carer Forum, our Newsletter and other useful contacts.

- 5.8.2. As part of the Foster Carer Forum's which have been reintroduced we have established several co-production groups with Foster Carers who expressed an interest to work on the development of services and support. This has included the Implementation Working Group for 'Mockingbird', working groups for policies and procedures, training and development, newsletter and publication and the fostering service steering group.
- 5.8.3. Cheshire East Council one of very few Local Authorities who made a successful bid to the Department of Education to develop a Mockingbird programme. In excess of 60 Local Authorities applied to be part of the programme and we were one of the 5 successful applicants.
- 5.8.4. Cheshire East Council are working with the Department of Education and the Fostering Network to develop Mockingbird, which is an extended family model of delivering foster care through a central hub, which supports the role of several foster carers linked to the hub. We believe that this will strengthen support for those carers, and we hope will be an attractive incentive for part of our recruitment of new foster carers.
- 5.8.5. Our Mockingbird programme is linking with 'Bespoke', which is our new in-house residential /edge of care programme based within 4 new children's homes that are spread across the authority. The role of Foster Carers is crucial to support those children and young people currently living in residential care to return to family living, whether that be through returning to the care of their own parents or wider family or moving into foster care.
- 5.8.6. There has also developed a 12 month development plan, which is monitored through the Fostering Development Board, which meets monthly and is chaired by the Director of Childrens Social Care.
- 5.8.7. Cheshire East Council has not completed a fee increase for foster carers since 2015. A consultation exercise has just been completed with all of our current foster carers, who have overwhelmingly accepted the fee proposals that have been put forward and we are now at the point of implementing the fee increase. This act alone has done much

to significantly improved the working relationship between us and our foster carers.

5.8.8. The department will be seeking feedback from foster carers via an annual questionnaire. In addition to this we have developed a fostering panel advice tracker, which amongst other things contains details of the experience of foster carers through both the recruitment and assessment process and as part of the ongoing support offered to carers by the service and by children and young people's allocated social workers.

5.8.9. The department has also developed an information gathering process from the feedback received as part of the annual review for foster carers.

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

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

6.1.1. Section 22G of the 1989 Children Act requires local authorities to take strategic action in respect of those children they look after and for whom it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation within their local authority area. In those circumstances, section 22G requires local authorities, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for those children that meets their needs and is within their local authority area.

6.1.2. The Memorandum of Understanding that exists within the collaboration has been amended to allow Cheshire East to step out of the collaboration on 30th September 2020 and to protect the Council from any liabilities arising after this date.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. For 2019/20 Cheshire East Council made an agreed contribution to Foster 4 of £82,110. This was made up of £37,311 for staffing and the remaining £44,799 going towards the overall marketing and collaboration activities. The Cheshire East contribution is 30% of the overall shared fostering budget.

6.2.2. For 2020/21 the Budget includes similar amounts, however the expectation is that half of the marketing and collaboration contribution will be available for re-investment in local provision and the full amount in 2021/22.

6.2.3. At this stage the expectation is that the benefit of cost sharing through the collaboration will be lost to achieve wider improvements. Therefore, some additional investment will be needed in addition to using the £82,111 identified above. This will be considered in terms of opportunities to allocate resources from elsewhere in the Children's Social Care Directorate given the overall pressure on funding.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. Our Corporate Parenting Strategy states that we are committed to ensuring that our cared for children live locally in a good, safe homes.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no specific equality implications contained with these recommendations.

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

6.5.1. Redesign and restructure of the Fostering Service will have Human Resource implications as current members of staff will move into the newly created teams. This will require staff consultation. There are no planned job losses within the restructure.

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

6.6.1. Regulatory Risks: The provision of sufficient and suitable foster placements is a key activity monitored by Ofsted during inspection, forming part of their judgement about services for Cared for Children.

6.6.2. Child Protection Risks: Failure to recruit or retain sufficient foster carers would be a child protection risk.

6.6.3. Reputational Risk: Recruitment of foster carers is a competitive market activity and has a high media profile.

6.6.4. Financial Risk: Cared for Children placements is largely a demand led activity. A failure to recruit and retain sufficient in-house carers will result in overall increased expenditure on placements for cared for children with an overall higher unit cost. Independent Agency Placements are high cost, and variations in the proportion of independent versus in-house placements can have significant and immediate impact on forecast spend.

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

- 6.7.1. Foster Carers as well as our cared for children and care leavers live within all our communities, including our Rural Communities

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

- 6.8.1. It is essential that we recruit and retain a sufficient number and quality of in-house foster carers within Cheshire East, to ensure as many of our cared for children as possible can live in a good family environment. This will ensure that these children can remain within their local networks, their local schools and continue to receive support services within our boundaries enabling them to feel safe, offering stability so that they can flourish and achieve their potential.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

- 6.9.1. There are no direct policy implications relating to public health as a result of the recommendations within this report. However, increasing the life chances of our children and young people through fostering will improve the impact on the indices of health deprivation.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.10.1. Recruiting in-house Foster Carers will reduce our reliance on external foster agency carers, who almost always live outside of Cheshire East. Having in-house carers living within Cheshire East will reduce travel for social workers, other professionals involved with the child or young person and their Foster Carer and will therefore reduce the associated carbon footprint.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

- 7.1. Foster Carers and Cared for Children and Young People live in all wards and therefore all members will be affected. In addition, all members have statutory responsibility as 'Corporate Parents for each one of our cared for children and young people.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

- 8.1. Consultation or Engagement has taken place with our current cohort of Foster Carers and will continue to do so as part of our Fostering Service Development Plan.
- 8.2. We have engaged with the other member Local Authorities within the Foster 4 Collaboration (Cheshire West and Chester, Warrington and Halton).

- 8.3. We will enter into a consultation exercise with the current members of staff employed within the Fostering Service concerning the proposed redesign and restructure.

## **9. Access to Information**

## **10. Contact Information**

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

Name: Jacquie Sims

Job Title: Director of Children's Social care

Email: [Jacquie.sims@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Jacquie.sims@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

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

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**Date of Meeting:** 5 August 2020

**Report Title:** Elected Member Frontline Visits

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

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe – Executive Director (People)

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report sets out the proposal to reinstate elected member frontline visits on a virtual basis following COVID-19.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
  - 2.1.1. Note the contents of the report.
  - 2.1.2. Endorse the proposal to reinstate member frontline visits virtually.

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

- 3.1. It is important for members to have an overview of the issues affecting frontline Social Work Teams. COVID-19 will have a significant impact on our children and young people, practitioners, and demand to frontline services, so it is particularly important that members are sighted on this as we move forward.
- 3.2. Members received training to undertake frontline visits in February 2020. Establishing visits was delayed due to COVID-19 and lockdown in March.
- 3.3. The Council has invested in equipping services and members to work remotely, so it is proposed that these visits should be reinstated remotely using Microsoft Teams.

#### 4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. There is the option for members not to visit the frontline, and instead to receive reports from officers and independent reports, e.g. peer reviews. However, this would not provide members with direct contact with frontline practitioners and managers to allow them to have an overview of the effectiveness of these services.
- 4.2. There is the option to continue to delay frontline visits until these can be carried out in person. However, this could lead to visits being suspended for a considerable period of time. Services and members are working effectively remotely, so we feel these visits could be conducted effectively through an online meeting. This is an unprecedented time for our families and services, and we feel it is critical that members are sighted on the issues for families and teams during this period.

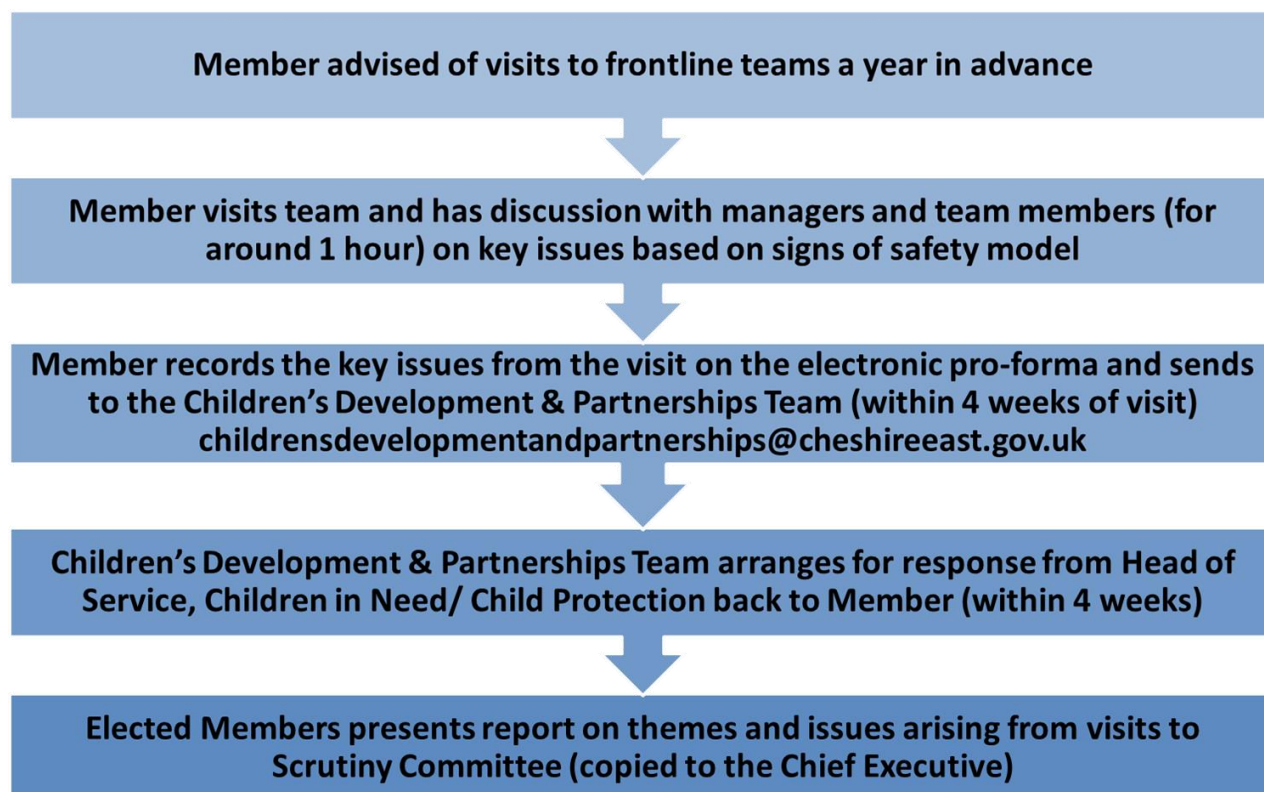
#### 5. Background

- 5.1. Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié resulted in a range of recommendations. One of these (Social Care Recommendation 41) states that:

*"Arrangements must be made for senior managers and councillors to regularly visit intake teams in the Children's services department and to report their findings to the Chief Executive and Social Services Committee" (para 5. 193).*

- 5.2. This recommendation remains 'best practice' and is still considered as part of any Ofsted Inspection. In Cheshire East, our 'intake teams' (the teams that deal with new referrals) are the:
  - Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS)
  - Child in Need and Child Protection Service in Crewe
  - Child in Need and Child Protection Service in Macclesfield
  - Children with Disabilities Team.
- 5.3. Frontline visits to the cared for and care leaver services are being considered by the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- 5.4. A number of elected members were trained to carry out visits to frontline teams in February 2020.

5.5. A summary of the procedure is set out below:



5.6. During their visits, members meet with managers and team members to discuss the following:

- Staffing situation (vacancies/experience/skills/attendance levels)
- Workloads and performance monitoring (outcomes for children)
- Referral, monitoring and management systems
- Staff support systems, eg IT, office accommodation, communication.

5.7. The proposal for future virtual visits is set out below:

- All elected members who received training in February will be approached to see if they wish to be part of the rota for frontline visits.
- All members who wish to be part of the rota will be offered training on Microsoft Teams which members can take up if needed.
- The Children's Development and Partnerships Team will set up a rota for visits for the year, liaising with members and the service.
- Members will be sent the form to complete during the visit (Appendix 1), and the guidance (Appendix 2) one week before the meeting.

- Visits will be carried out through a Microsoft Teams meeting. As before, members will meet with the Service Manager initially, then with three or four practitioners. The Service Manager will invite the practitioners to join the meeting once their section of the meeting is finished using the chat function.
- As outlined in the procedure, members will complete and return the form, and will receive a response from the Head of Service.

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

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1. We advise that all members who are undertaking the frontline visits also complete the member GDPR training.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1. None.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1. Elected members may raise issues from frontline visits that have policy implications. These would follow due process.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1. There are no equality implications.

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

- 6.5.1. This proposal involves elected members visiting frontline teams. Previous feedback from staff is that this process makes them feel valued.

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

- 6.6.1. If frontline social work teams are not staffed and equipped to deal with the demand on their services, there is a risk of death or serious harm to children and young people that are not effectively safeguarded.
- 6.6.2. Carrying out visits virtually will help us to manage the risk of infection from COVID-19.

### **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. Frontline visits are part of our quality assurance framework, ensuring that services are equipped to meet the needs of children and young people.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. Carrying out visits virtually will help us to manage the risk of infection from COVID-19.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. Carrying out visits virtually will also enable us to reduce our carbon footprint.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. There are no direct implications for individual wards.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. Not applicable.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. There is no additional information.

## **10. Contact Information**

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

Name: Jacquie Sims

Job Title: Director of Children's Social Care

Email: [Jacquie.Sims@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Jacquie.Sims@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Appendix 1:

## ELECTED MEMBER FRONTLINE SAFEGUARDING TEAM VISITS FORM



Please read the document 'Elected member frontline safeguarding team visits guidance document' before completing this form.

<b>Names of Elected Members</b>	
<b>Date of visit</b>	
<b>Service visited</b>	
<b>Names of staff involved in visit</b>	

NB Only insert commentary where you have gathered information.

	What are we worried about/ barriers?	What is working well?	What needs to happen?
Outcomes for children			
Support for teams			
Any other areas			

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How has COVID-19 impacted on your work (e.g. needs of families/ impact on relationships/ working as a virtual team)

Comments

Completed By:	
Date:	

Head of Service Feedback

Completed By:	
Date:	

Please forward this completed form to the Children's Development and Partnerships Team Inbox within 4 weeks of the visit:  
[childrensdevelopmentandpartnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:childrensdevelopmentandpartnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Appendix 2:



# **Guidance to Member Frontline Safeguarding Team Visits 2020**

## Elected Members Frontline Safeguarding Team Visits

Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié resulted in a range of recommendations. One of these (Social Care Recommendation 41) states that:

"Arrangements must be made for senior managers and councillors to regularly visit intake teams in the children's services department and to report their findings to the Chief Executive and Social Services Committee" (para 5. 193)

### Local Procedure

1. Within Cheshire East it has been agreed that the 'intake teams' for these purposes are the teams dealing with new referrals, ie:
  - **Cheshire East Consultation Team (ChECS)**
  - **Child in Need/Child Protection Team in Crewe**
  - **Child in Need/Child Protection Team in Macclesfield**
  - **Children with Disabilities Team**
2. Visits will be undertaken to each team **every four months**, with the Service Manager of the appropriate team. These visits will be arranged a year in advance.
3. Visits will last approximately **1 hour** and consist of:
  - Discussion with **Service Managers(s)/ Team Manager(s)**
  - Discussion with **team members** (as available)

4. The visits will be based on the **Signs of Safety model**, which poses the following three questions:

- What are we **worried about**?
- What is **working well**?
- What **needs to happen**?

5. Members are asked to consider these questions against the following areas (**always starting with what is working well**):

### Outcomes for children

- ✓ How are you making a real difference for children?
- ✓ How do you know?
- ✓ How are you building and developing good relationships with families?
- ✓ How do you keep children at the centre of your work?
- ✓ How is multi-agency working supporting good outcomes?
- ✓ What are the barriers to achieving good outcomes for children (e.g. workloads, processes, etc.)
- ✓ What changes would help you to achieve better outcomes?

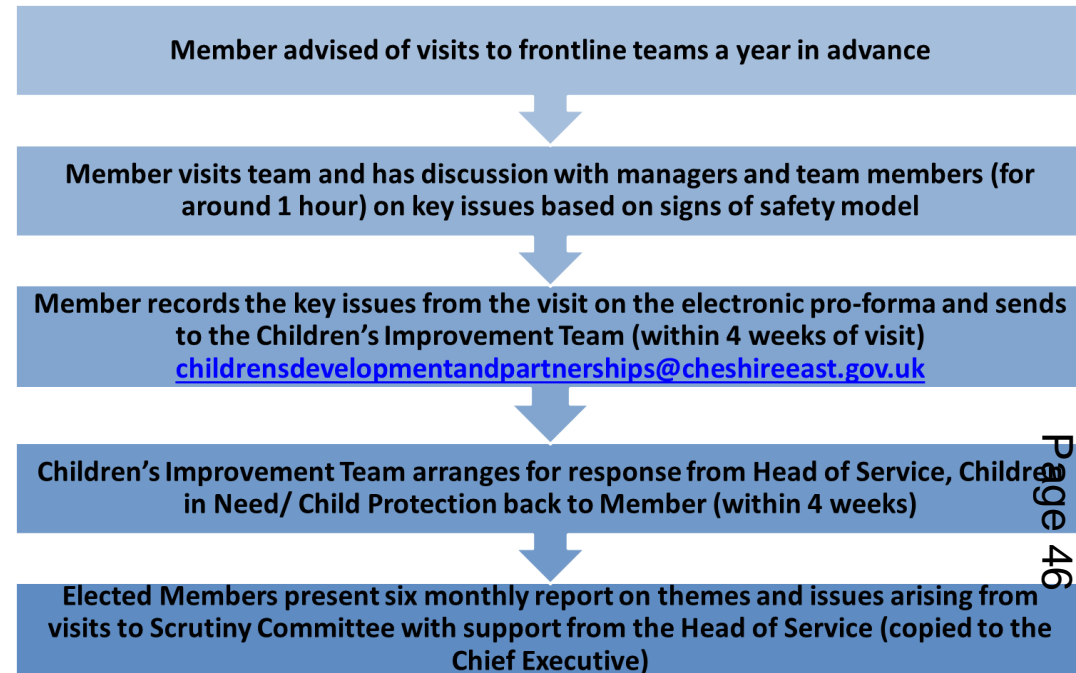
### Support

- ✓ How are you supported to achieve good outcomes for children (e.g. management support, training opportunities, ICT equipment/ environment, communications).
- ✓ What's good about how we support you?
- ✓ How can we support you more effectively?
- ✓ What's it like to work in your team at the moment – what is morale like?

### Other areas

- ✓ Are there any other areas the team wanted to raise, or that came up during the discussion that impact on providing effective services to safeguard children and young people?
- 7. Elected members will record the **key issues** from the visit on the electronic form and send to the [childrensdevelopmentandpartnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:childrensdevelopmentandpartnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk) who will arrange for the relevant **Head of Service** to provide a response to issues raised.
- 8. The **themes and issues** arising from visits and the service response to these will be **presented** to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee **six monthly** by the Head of Service (copied to the Chief Executive).

### Summary of Procedure





## **FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

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

<b>Key Decision and Private Non-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 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.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	July 2020		David Malcolm	N/A
CE 19/20-42 Congleton Leisure Centre Redevelopment Project	To seek authority to enter into the construction contract with Rock Merchanting (T/A Pulse Fitness) for the redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre.	Portfolio Holder for Communities	July 2020		Paul Bayley	Fully exempt - para 3
CE 19/20-55 Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document	To seek approval to consult on the first draft supplementary planning document for houses in multiple occupation.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	Not before 31st Jul 2020		Jeremy Owens	

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 19/20-36 Middlewich Eastern Bypass - CPO Powers to Acquire Revised Land for the Scheme	To authorise the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land and rights required for the construction of the scheme, reflecting the revised land requirement that has now been established.	Cabinet	7 Jul 2020		Chris Hindle	N/A
CE 19/20-43 Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes at the Garden Village, Handforth	To authorise the appropriation of Council-owned land for planning purposes at the Garden Village, Handforth.	Cabinet	7 Jul 2020		Geoffrey Dyson	N/A
CE 19/20-54 Level Access Showers Framework	To approve the procurement and establishment of a framework to commission level access shower works on behalf of residents with disabilities.	Cabinet	7 Jul 2020		Karen Whitehead	N/A
CE 19/20-56 Local Growth Fund Cycleway Schemes	To seek approval for the procurement of works to construct new cycleways to serve North West Crewe and Wilmslow, utilising the Local Growth Funding allocation from C&WLEP; and to seek authority to prepare the Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme.	Cabinet	7 Jul 2020		Richard Hibbert	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 20/21-2 Covid-19 Financial Support to Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust	To seek approval to provide financial support to Everybody Sport and Recreation Trust as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.	Cabinet	August 2020		Paul Bayley	N/A
CE 19/20-31 Proposed Expansion of Wilmslow High School	Subject to the School Organisation Sub-Committee approving the proposed expansion of Wilmslow High School at a meeting to be held on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020, Cabinet will be asked to authorise the Executive Director People to enter into a construction contract to facilitate the provision of additional places at Wilmslow High School.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020		Val Simons	N/A
CE 19/20-51 New Homes Bonus Community Fund - Review of Round 1 and Future Options	To consider a review of round 1 of the New Homes Bonus Community Fund and to consider the options for the future of the Fund.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020		Jill Stenton	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 19/20-52 Regional Adoption Agency Integrated Services Agreement	To approve that the Council enter into an integrated service agreement and associated support agreement with its partners.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020			N/A
CE 19/20-58 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 19 Flood Investigation - Poynton 2019	To authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the findings, actions and recommendations of the formal Flood Investigation Report.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020			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 20/21-1 Digital Cheshire	To continue and extend the Connecting Cheshire rollout of broadband technologies and digital business support via Digital 2020 and a £6.3m programme (to be known as 'Digital Cheshire'), by approving that the Council enter into an ERDF grant agreement with MHCLG to accept approximately £3m of grant funding; delegating authority to enter into a contract with a supplier for main delivery (over £1m); and authorising officers to take all necessary actions to implement the new programme.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020		Peter Skates	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- 4 Microsoft Licence Agreements	Authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal to consolidate all current Microsoft licenses into one overarching agreement to secure license discounts for the organisation.	Cabinet	8 Sep 2020		Gareth Pawlett, ICT Manager	
CE 19/20-21 Site Allocations and Development Policies Document	To decide the next steps in progressing the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document to public examination.	Cabinet	6 Oct 2020		Jeremy Owens	N/A
CE 19/20-59 Youth Zone Partnership for Crewe	To authorise officers, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, to take forward the establishment of a formal Partnership with the National Charity Onside to develop a Youth Zone for young people based in Crewe.	Cabinet	6 Oct 2020		Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Early Help and Prevention	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 19/20-53 - Future High Streets Fund Grant Support for Crewe Town Centre Regeneration	To determine whether to accept a government grant to support a range of measures to support the regeneration of Crewe town centre; to approve a supplementary capital estimate to facilitate expenditure utilising this grant; and to authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	10 Nov 2020		Jez Goodman	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	1 Dec 2020			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 19/20-49 Council Tax Base 2021-22	For Cabinet to consider the Council Tax Base for Cheshire East and identify any changes to the calculation of the tax base for 2021-22 with a view to recommending the amount calculated to Council.	Council	16 Dec 2020		Paul Manning	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			N/A

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*Working for a brighter future together*

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

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**Date of Meeting:** 05 August 2020

**Report Title:** Work Programme

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

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### **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)

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Date: <b>05.08.20</b> Time: 9.00am Venue: Microsoft Teams Meeting TBA	Date: <b>28.9.20</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: <b>23.11.20</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: <b>25.1.21</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: <b>22.3.21</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields
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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>
Foster4 Update	To receive an update on Foster 4 and the wider development work.	Director of Children's Services	Children and Families	Chairman	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Covid-19 Update	To receive a report on the Covid-19 impacts on Education and schools including transport and current guidance.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Post-February Spotlight Review	To receive the final report following the February Children and Young People's Mental Health Spotlight Review.	Chairman	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	People live well and for longer	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 <b>ON HOLD</b>
Adoption Counts	To receive an update on Adoption Counts.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020

<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>
Member Frontline Visits	To consider the report outlining plans to reinstate Member frontline visits	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Children's Services Performance Scorecard – Quarter 1 (2020/21)	To give consideration to the Children & Families quarterly performance scorecard from the first quarterly reporting period of 2020/21.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
SEND reforms Task and Finish: Cabinet comments	To review the comments back to the committee from Cabinet in respect of the SEND reforms Task and Finish group	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Update on Ofsted Inspections.	To receive a report on the new arrangements for Ofsted ILACS inspection and SEND Revisit/Inspection.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Ofsted Development Plan	To receive a progress update on the ILACS Action Plan	Director of Children's Social Care	Children and Families	Director of Children's Social Care	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

<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>
SEND: Written Statement of Action.	To receive a progress update following agreement of the Written Statement Of Action in preparation for the SEND revisit.	Director of Education	Children and Families	Director of Education	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Vision for Children's Services	To receive an update on the development and future development work for Children's Services	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Children and Families	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 or 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 TBA
Youth Zone	To receive an update on the potential for an externally funded capital development Youth Zone in Crewe.	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Children and Families	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2020/21	To review the Corporate Parenting Annual Report for 2020/21.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	Chairman agreed for the committee to receive electronically (November 2020)
Annual Adoption Report	To give consideration to the Annual Adoption Report 2020/21.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	Chairman agreed for the committee to receive electronically

<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>
							(November 2020)
Domestic Abuse	To receive a report on the current impact of Domestic Abuse and Hidden Harm during the Covid-19 Lockdown Pandemic.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre-decision scrutiny	People live well and for longer	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Children & Families Budget Proposals	To give consideration to the budget proposals that fall within the remit of the Committee.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Early Help Strategy	To update the committee on the strategy post Cabinet decision.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Portfolio Holder	Pre decision scrutiny	People live well and for longer	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
High Needs Funding	To update the committee on progress towards a new model for how high needs funding to schools is allocated.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre decision scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Refresh of the Self Evaluation Framework	To provide the Committee with a service performance position post-lockdown ahead of any potential Ofsted Inspection.	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Children and Families	Director of Prevention and Early Help	Overview	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Items for the Work Programme to be rescheduled.**

<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>
Lifelong Learning	Overview of the impact of lifelong learning.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Performance monitoring	People live well and for longer	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020-To be rescheduled
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 they need in order to thrive	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report	To give consideration to 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	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report	To give consideration to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	People have the life skills and education they need in order to thrive.	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Integrated Front Door Update	To receive an update on progress relating to the Integrated Front Door.	Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
Quarter Two: Children and Families Quarterly	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.	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020

<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>
Performance Scorecard							
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.	<del>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021</del>
Quarter Three: Children and Families Quarterly Performance Scorecard	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.	<del>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021</del>
Quarter Four: Children and Families Quarterly Performance Scorecard	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.	TBA- June 2021