

Children and Families Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 14th February, 2022
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PLEASE NOTE –This meeting is open to the public and anyone attending this meeting will need to wear a face covering upon entering and leaving the venue. It is advised that this only be removed when speaking at the meeting.

The importance of undertaking a lateral flow test in advance of attending any committee meeting. Anyone attending is asked to undertake a lateral flow test on the day of any meeting before embarking upon the journey to the venue. Please note that it can take up to 30 minutes for the true result to show on a lateral flow test. If your test shows a positive result, then you must not attend the meeting, and must follow the advice which can be found here:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/testing-for-covid-19.aspx

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 top of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making 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

To note any apologies for absence from Members.

For requests for further information

Contact: Josie Lloyd

Tel: 01270 686 466

E-Mail: josie.lloyd@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 January 2022.

4. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

In accordance with paragraph 2.24 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules and Appendix on Public Speaking, set out in the [Constitution](#), a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to put questions to the committee on any matter relating to this agenda. Each member of the public will be allowed up to two minutes each to speak, and the Chair will have discretion to vary this where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to speak are required to provide notice of this at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

5. **Covid-19 Schools Update (Verbal Update)**

To receive a verbal update on the Covid-19 situation in schools.

6. **Schools Funding Formula and Early Years Funding Formula 2022/23** (Pages 13 - 34)

To approve the schools funding formula and early years funding formula.

7. **Progress update on the Children and Families Mental Health Spotlight Review** (Pages 35 - 40)

To receive an update on progress against the Mental Health Spotlight Review completed by Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. **Work Programme** (Pages 41 - 42)

To consider the work programme and determine any required amendments.

9. **Minutes of Sub Committees** (Pages 43 - 50)

To receive and note the following minutes of sub committees:

Local Authority School Governor Nomination Sub Committee – 15 September 2021
Corporate Parenting Committee – 2 November 2021

10. **School Organisation: New Nantwich Primary School (Kingsley Fields) – Authority to Enter into a Construction Contract Inclusive of Pre-Construction Services** (Pages 51 - 60)

To consider a report on the new primary school in Nantwich.

11. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This item on the agenda has been withheld from public circulation and deposit pursuant to Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that the matter may be determined with the press and public excluded. The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

12. **Draft School Specification Document (Kingsley Fields)** (Pages 61 - 82)

To note the draft school specification document for the new primary school in Nantwich, Kingsley Fields.

Membership: Councillors M Addison, L Anderson, M Beanland, J Buckley, C Bulman (Vice-Chair), D Edwardes, K Flavell (Chair), S Handley, G Hayes, I Macfarlane, J Saunders, L Smetham and L Smith

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children and Families Committee**
held on Monday, 10th January, 2022 in the Council Chamber, Municipal
Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)
Councillor C Bulman (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Addison, L Anderson, M Beanland, J Buckley, A Critchley
(substitute), D Edwardes, G Hayes, J Saunders and L Smetham

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Kerry Birtles, Director of Children's Social Care
Mark Bayley, Acting Director of Education
Deborah Nickson, Legal Team Manager (People) and Deputy Monitoring
Officer
Joanne Wilcox, Head of Financial Management
Steve Reading, Principal Accountant
Louise Hurst, Head of Child Protection and CIN
Heather Baron, Head of Early Help and Prevention
Josie Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Handley, I
Macfarlane and L Smith. Councillor A Critchley attended as a substitute for
Councillor Smith.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

42 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 be approved as
a correct record.

43 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

44 COVID-19 SCHOOLS UPDATE (VERBAL)

Mark Bayley, Acting Director of Education, provided an update on the current Covid-19 position in schools. It was noted that the recent autumn term had been the most challenging period during the pandemic so far due to high case rates. Schools were thanked for their hard work in remaining open throughout these pressures. While case rates currently remained high, there had been a fall from the recent peak in school age children. The rollout of the second dose of the vaccine for the 12-15 cohort was due to begin on 11 January in schools and it was noted that this was also available to access through vaccination clinics.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

45 UPDATE ON THE OFSTED INSPECTION

Kerry Birtles, Director of Children's Social Care, delivered a presentation on the recent Ofsted inspection which took place in November 2021. This was noted to have been a positive experience for Cheshire East and progress was identified as well as recommendations for further improvement. The rating of requiring improvement to be good would remain until it could be assessed at the next full inspection. The committee thanked the team for their work.

A request was made for information to be brought to the committee on the impact of Covid-19 on the service area to put performance data into context.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

46 CHESHIRE EAST SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The committee received the report which provided an update on progress against the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership priorities over 2020-21, as well as plans for the partnership for the next year.

A query was raised regarding the 518 cared for children referenced on page 26 as it appeared the breakdown in percentages did not total 100%. It was agreed that a written response would be provided to clarify this data.

A further question was raised about data on page 26 regarding the 148 children who had ceased to be cared for by the local authority as the figures provided did not refer to all 148 children. A written response would be provided.

It was noted that members of the committee were welcome to engage in frontline visits and could arrange this through the Chair.

A request was made for future reports to include comparative data from other local authorities for context.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

47 SCHOOL ORGANISATION: UPDATE ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINGSLEY FIELDS, NANTWICH, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

The committee received the report which provided an update to the previously approved committee paper, received by the Children and Families Committee on 12 July 2021, on the establishment of a new primary school in Nantwich.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. That the committee receives and notes the summary of the feedback received following the 5-week informal representation period (Appendix 1) which is a required stage in the DfE Free School Presumption process to allow the opening of a new primary school in Nantwich.
2. That the committee supports the progression of the prescribed free school process in the generation and submission of the draft specification (stage 3) to the DfE.

48 SCHOOL ORGANISATION: PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, BASFORD EAST, SHAVINGTON, CREWE

The committee received the report which outlined the proposal to progress with the free school presumption process to open a new primary school in Basford East, Crewe.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To proceed with the free school presumption process which will include undertaking a consultation with the local community, local schools, local councillors, town council and local MP. This is not the formal statutory consultation which sponsors are required to undertake.
2. To report back to committee the outcomes from the consultation process so that feedback is considered from the local communities.
3. To proceed with the transfer of the proposed school site into the Council ownership, as detailed in the Section 106 agreement, together with any other agreements associated with or ancillary to the transfer.

4. To progress with the process of attracting potential sponsors to run the new school and to complete any agreements or land transfers associated with appointing a suitable sponsor. Ultimately, the Secretary of State will approve the sponsor following due process.

49 **2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR REVIEW**

The committee received the report which provided a review of the 2021/22 financial year.

A concern was raised about establishing an Educational Psychologist traded service due to issues with the capacity to carry out statutory work and potential inequality of opportunity for children depending on the financial position of their school. Assurances were given that there was no intention to take capacity away from statutory work and that this area remained the priority.

A concern was raised about the increase in costs of external placements for cared for children, with a view put forward that the savings were not realistic.

A further concern was raised about relying on reserves which were believed to be low. The committee was advised that mitigations were in place as well as ongoing monitoring by officers with the aim of reaching a balanced position.

A question was raised regarding the accuracy of the forecast £0.4m overspend in the Place directorate and a written response would be provided to clarify this.

It was suggested that, for future reports, when referencing numbers of cared for children it would be useful to include the percentage of the population in Cheshire East that this accounts for, as well as the national position for context.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Children and Families Committee:

- 1.1. Notes the report of the Finance Sub-Committee, specifically the recommendations of that committee:

- 1.1.1. Finance Sub-Committee recommend Service Committees to:

- 1.1.1.1. note the financial update and forecast outturn relevant to their terms of reference.

- 1.1.1.2. note that officers will seek to improve outcomes and the financial outturn across all committees to mitigate the overall forecast overspend

of the council.

1.2. Notes Appendix 4 and the following sections specific to this committee:

- Changes to Revenue budget 2021/22
- Policy Proposals Update
- Corporate Grants Register
- Debt Management
- Capital Strategy
- Reserve Strategy

1.3. Approves the additional specific grant supplementary revenue estimate over £500,000 and up to £1,000,000 in Appendix 4, Section 3 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2.

Councillor Addison left the meeting and did not return.

50 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2025/26

The committee received the report which aimed to capture the committee members' responses to consultation on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022 to 2026. Comments were put forward on the following proposals:

Investment in Cared for Children and Care Leavers:

- This investment was welcomed and noted to be a good news story.

Increase capacity to support Statutory SEND service:

- Councillor Flavell acknowledged the deficit in SEND but welcomed the increase of capacity.

Revenue costs for Crewe Youth Zone:

- Councillor Flavell highlighted the positive impact for Crewe and that, if successful, this is something which could be rolled out wider in the long term.
- Councillor Saunders expressed a concern about the perceived inequality of access for young people depending on their geographical location due to a lack of public transport in some areas, particularly Macclesfield.
- Councillor Saunders expressed a further concern about the youth zone model not always being successful and the committee not having seen the business plan yet.
- Councillor Saunders raised a concern about taking £400,000 out of Early Help to fund this service and expressed the view that this was counter intuitive as it would have a negative impact on families elsewhere.

Safeguarding Children – legacy staffing pressure:

- The committee noted this proposal.

Growth in Children & Families Commissioning Contracts

- The committee noted this proposal.

Increase capacity to support Statutory Education Psychology Service:

- Councillor Hayes advised he was broadly in support of this in order to meet statutory requirements, although had concerns about what would happen at the end of financial year 2024 to sustain the increase in provision. A request was made for detail on what would happen from 2024 onwards.

A redesign of Early Help Services into a Locality model:

- Councillor Saunders raised a concern about the reference to change to items 10, 11, 50, 72 in 2021/22 budget (page 141) and requested that it is noted that what is being proposed to be taken out next year is greater than what was originally proposed. It was agreed that a written response would be provided for clarity on this.
- Councillor Hayes noted from other reports received today that more extreme and complex cases were coming through Early Help services resulting in additional pressure. Councillor Hayes expressed a concern that there could be a double risk of some children being missed by the system due to not having capacity and thresholds being reduced meaning less impact from Early Help.
- A question was raised as to whether there is there likely to be a reduction of frontline staff proposed through this saving and what that would look like for communities. The committee were advised that the proposals were not for a reduction in frontline capacity but that a written response would be provided with more detail.
- A further question was raised regarding the total of earmarked reserves and it was agreed that Jo Wilcox would circulate a full list to the committee.

Restructure Early Help Budget for Crewe Youth Zone:

- It was requested that comments detailed above regarding concerns about restructuring Early Help to fund the Youth Zone also be noted for this proposal.

School Transport:

- Councillor Saunders raised a concern that this proposal was unrealistic going forward as, historically, it had not been possible to achieve.
- The committee put forward the general concern about ongoing savings in school transport after next year.

Establish an Education Psychologist traded service:

- Councillor Hayes requested that concerns raised under item 10 be noted for this proposal, specifically the concern about establishing traded services while not meeting the statutory timeline and about creating inequality in the system.

Establish a traded service for non-statutory elements of Attendance Service:

- The committee noted this proposal.

Development and Partnerships Service:

- The committee noted this proposal.
- A request was made for a written response to provide detail on the saving of £300,000 in year 2.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Families Committee:

1. Review the MTFS 2022 to 2026 Consultation Document and provide feedback to the Corporate Policy Committee on the proposals relevant to the responsibilities of the Committee as outlined in the Constitution
2. Note those proposals that are rolling forward from the MTFS 2021-25 relevant to the committee
3. Note the impact of the local government financial settlement as provided at Appendix 2 on the MTFS Consultation Document.
4. Comment on any other element of the MTFS Consultation Document related to the responsibilities of the Committee (including WOC Business Plans, and Reserves levels).
5. Note that the minutes of this meeting will form the consultation response of the Committee for the consideration by the Corporate Policy Committee.

The committee adjourned for a short break. Councillors Beanland and Hayes left the meeting and did not return.

51 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WINTER 2021 ACTIVE GRANT BRIEFING

The committee received the report which provided an update on government grant funding for Children and Families, including active grants over the winter period (Household Support Grant and Holiday Activity Fund) and the impact of grants over summer 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

52 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2021-22

The committee received the report which set out the performance for Children's services for quarter 2 of 2021-22.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

53 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the committee's work programme.

Two items were requested to be brought to committee:

- The business plan for Crewe Youth Zone
- A report providing a detailed look at Children's Commissioning

It was suggested that focused, deep dive reviews of topics could be considered for the committee to participate in over the next year and further discussion of this would take place at a later date.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 and concluded at 13.33

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)



Working for a brighter future together

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 February 2022

Report Title: Schools Funding Formula and Early Years Funding Formula 2022/23

Report of: Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report Reference No: CF/24/21-22

Ward(s) Affected: All

Corporate Plan Priorities			
	Open	An open and enabling organisation	X
	Fair	A council which empowers and cares about people	X
	Green	A thriving and sustainable place	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.** This is an annual report to Committee to request approval of the schools funding formula and early years funding formula following recommendations from the Schools Forum.
- 1.2.** This supports the council's Corporate Plan objectives as follows:

An open and enabling organisation	Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.
A council which empowers and cares about people	Support all children to have the best start in life. Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable education that enables them to achieve their full potential.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The report sets out the process to:

- 2.1.1.** Determine the schools funding formula for 2022/23, and requests approval of the formula by the Children and Families Committee.
- 2.1.2.** Determine the early years funding formula for 2022/23, and requests approval of the formula by the Children and Families Committee.

2.2. It is a requirement for the Children and Families Committee to agree the schools funding formula following a recommendation from Schools Forum.

2.3. It is a requirement for the Children and Families Committee to agree the early years funding formula following agreement with Schools Forum.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Committee approves the following for the adoption of the schools funding formula 2022/23:

3.2. The use of a local funding formula that uses the national funding formula factors, uplifted for the Cheshire East area cost adjustment, and with any additional funding being allocated via the basic entitlement factor.

3.3. A transfer from the schools block to the high needs block of up to 0.5%. This is subject to approval by the Department for Education (DfE).

3.4. The use of +0.5% as the minimum funding guarantee percentage. This means that individual school funding levels should increase by +0.5% compared to the 2021/22 levels (subject to the items included in minimum funding guarantee protection) and excluding pupil number changes.

3.5. The Growth Fund at £0.8m.

3.6. That the Committee approves the following for the adoption of the early years funding formula 2022/23:

3.7. The continued use of the current funding formula and agrees to increase the hourly rates by the same percentage increase as the increased funding from the Department for Education.

3.8. The new funding rates. The rates for 2021/22 are shown at **Appendix 4** and the proposed rates for 2022/23 are set out at **Appendix 5**.

- 3.9. The revised classifications for rurality are introduced from 1 April 2022. Three childcare providers would cease to be classified as Rural and should cease to receive funding for rurality from 1 April 2022.
- 3.10. Delegated authority to the Director of Prevention and Support to enter into revised contracts with providers in accordance with the Department for Education funding increase.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. The local authority is required to review the schools funding formula on an annual basis and consult with schools. The formula needs to be considered and approved each year by the Children and Families Committee.
- 4.2. Under the revised dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding arrangements introduced from 2018/19 there is an option to transfer funding between the DSG blocks. Such transfers must be agreed locally with the Schools Forum where they do not exceed 0.5% of funding. Where a higher percentage transfer is required or the Schools Forum do not agree with the transfer the council has the option of applying to the DfE to reverse that decision.
- 4.3. Given the rising pressures against the high needs block from additional numbers of children requiring support with an education, health and care plan the council has asked the forum each year for permission to transfer 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block.
- 4.4. The forum agreed to the transfer in 2018/19 and 2019/20 but has not accepted it since then.
- 4.5. In recognition of the pressures the council applied to the DfE to reverse that decision in 2020/21 and for 2021/22. The applications were not accepted by the DfE as funding for high needs had been increased and therefore schools should not lose any funding as a result.
- 4.6. It is acknowledged that the council has received above inflation increases in high needs funding for the last few years and that has also happened for 2022/23. That is welcome news but it is not enough to keep pace with demand pressures which are forecast to increase each year.
- 4.7. The Schools Forum did not recommend the transfer for 2022/23 and the council has once again applied to the DfE to reverse that decision. If the application is successful a transfer will go ahead. The council will ensure that all the necessary minimum levels of funding can still be achieved for schools when determining the amount to be transferred. The outcome of the application is expected to be known before the committee meeting.

- 4.8. The shortfall in high needs funding is a national issue and as such many schools forums are no longer agreeing to transfers to high needs as they do not feel that funding intended for schools should be used for that purpose.
- 4.9. The DfE has funded local authorities under the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) since April 2017 when the current formula was introduced on a phased basis during 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 4.10. The recommended formula continues to be in line with the national guidance, ensures sustainability of the childcare market and continues to target funds to 'narrow the gap' between children from disadvantaged areas and their peers.
- 4.11. Local authorities may retain a maximum of 5% of the allocation from the DfE. Cheshire East retains 5%. Therefore, a minimum of 95% of any increase in the funding from the DfE must be passed through to providers. Increasing the hourly rates paid by Cheshire East to providers by the same percentage increase as the hourly rates allocated by the DfE to Cheshire East ensures that the statutory 95% pass through to providers is maintained.
- 4.12. Eligibility for rurality is determined by a sixfold classification of rural/urban wards produced by Cheshire County Council. Given the changes that have occurred in the borough, the rural/urban classification requires updating. Cheshire East Council updated the classifications in 2015 using the same methodology as previously.
- 4.13. Seven providers not currently receiving rurality would become classified as rural. Three providers would cease to be eligible and lose 2% of their funding but this would be more than off-set by the 3.8% increase in the base rate. The proportion of the total funding allocated to rurality would remain largely the same.

5. Other Options Considered

The Schools Funding Formula:

- 5.1. The process to consider and consult on particular options for the schools funding formula was undertaken by a subgroup of the Schools Forum.
- 5.2. Given the local circumstances of being close to the national funding formula at school level and the expectation that the DfE will make that compulsory in the next few years then the options were intentionally restricted to different levels of minimum funding guarantee (MFG) percentage.
- 5.3. Full details of the different levels were provided to schools as part of the consultation and they preferred the +0.5% option which is being recommended.
- 5.4. Higher levels of MFG were considered as a further step towards the national funding formula (NFF) which uses +2% but without capping or scaling. That

cannot be achieved in Cheshire East at present due to affordability constraints.

- 5.5. The option to transfer funding from the schools block to the high needs block of up to 0.5% would require recalculations by finance leads depending upon the decision made. If not approved via DfE then this funding would remain within the schools block and distributed accordingly to schools based upon national formulas.

Early Years Funding Formula:

- 5.6. A range of factors for the funding formula were considered when it was introduced. These are set out within **Appendix 3**. The objectives have not changed, and the formula continues to be appropriate.

6. Background

Schools Funding Formula:

- 6.1. The Council receives dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding as a ring-fenced grant to pay for education. The grant is received in four blocks and local decisions are made on overuse of the blocks, transfers between them and the basis for allocation to schools.
- 6.2. The national funding formula (NFF) announcements mean that each DSG block is determined by a different national funding formula.
- 6.3. The Schools Forum continues to have the ability to recommend the formula funding to the Children and Families Committee. The forum follows a process of evaluation, consultation and debate to arrive at the final recommendation.
- 6.4. The final funding figures for 2022/23 were released on 16 December 2021. Further information is provided at **Appendix 1**. The recommended schools formula factors and values are set out at **Appendix 2**.
- 6.5. The outcome of the Children and Families Committee meeting will be reported to the Schools Forum on 17 February 2022. School funding levels have to be issued to schools by 28 February 2022.

Early Years Funding Formula:

- 6.6. From 1 April 2017, local authorities have been funded via the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF).
- 6.7. Following detailed modelling of the formula and consultation, a formula was implemented on 1 April 2017 that met a number of criteria and objectives.
- 6.8. Further details of the EYNFF are set out at **Appendix 3**. The current funding formula to providers is set out in **Appendix 4**.

6.9. The table summarises the hourly rates of funding from the DfE:

	2 year olds	3 and 4 year olds
2021/22	£5.44	£4.44
2022/23	£5.65	£4.61
Increase (£)	£0.21	£0.17
Increase (%)	3.860%	3.829%

6.10. Retaining the formula and increasing the hourly rates paid to providers by the same percentage increase as the rate paid by the DfE will ensure that the minimum 95% pass through rate is maintained and the objectives set by the formula continue to be met. The proposed funding to providers, effective from 1 April 2022, is set out in **Appendix 5**.

6.11. The proposal was presented to the Schools Forum on 9 December 2021 and was unanimously supported.

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1. Details of the local schools funding consultation are included at **Appendix 1**.

7.2. The Early Years Reference Group (EYRG), a sub-group of the Schools Forum which consists of nine members from across the early years sector, was consulted on 11 and 26 November 2021. Attendees of the meeting supported the proposed approach. The proposal was presented to the Schools Forum on 9 December 2021 and was unanimously supported.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

8.1.1. The local authority currently receives funding for schools through the dedicated schools grant. The local authority has the statutory responsibility under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations for allocating this funding to schools and must consult with the Schools Forum to determine the individual schools budget for all schools in the area and must have regard to DfE guidance: The national funding formulae for schools and high needs 2022 -2023 and early years funding 2022-2023.

8.1.2. The local authority must also determine a local funding formula, which is used to distribute the individual schools budget between local schools. The national funding formula for schools will determine how much each local authority in England receives and the local authority will still have the statutory responsibility for distributing this to individual schools in consultation with the Schools Forum.

8.1.3. The EYNFF funds the free entitlement to early years provision for disadvantaged two year olds as well as three and four year olds across all sectors, which is the authority's statutory duty under Section 7 of the

Childcare Act 2006. It also assists with the authority's delivery of its duty to secure sufficient childcare under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006. The authority funds providers under the terms of contracts approved by the head of legal services. This is based on a model contract issued by the Department for Education.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1. The schools funding formula is the mechanism through which the dedicated schools grant schools block is provided to schools. The NFF arrangements mean that all schools block funding will be delegated, except for the transfer to the high needs block of 0.5%, which will only go ahead if the council's application is accepted by the DfE.
- 8.2.2. The schools funding formula has no impact on the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 8.2.3. The EYNFF is funded through the dedicated schools grant. Mid-year adjustments are made to reflect January census data. All providers of the free entitlement will receive an increase in funding based on the proposed formula, including the three providers that will cease to be eligible for rurality. Centrally retained levels will continue to not exceed 5% in line with the guidance.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1. The council is supporting the priorities in the Corporate Plan:

An open and enabling organisation	Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.
A council which empowers and cares about people	Support all children to have the best start in life. Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable education that enables them to achieve their full potential.

- 8.3.2. One of the aims of the EYNFF was to create greater parity between the sectors in the payment systems via a higher and universal base rate.
- 8.3.3. Policy implications relate to the proportion of the base rate in relation to any supplements and how the supplements are targeted. The implemented supplements focus on 'narrowing the gap' between children from disadvantaged areas and their peers and sustaining provision in rural areas. Increasing the funding rate within the existing formula would continue to meet the policy objectives.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1.** The government NFF announcements include an equality statement. The local schools funding formula applies to all schools based on pupil characteristics. The NFF provides more funding to such characteristics so will help more vulnerable groups in due course.

8.5. Human Resources

- 8.5.1.** Changes to school funding levels may result in staffing changes at schools requiring HR support. Each school will need to consider the impact of using the existing local formula as opposed to NFF on their three-year financial plans and review their staffing establishment accordingly.

8.6. Risk Management

- 8.6.1.** Prompt agreement of the schools funding formula allows schools to receive their budget allocations in advance of the financial year. They can ensure their expenditure plans are in line with their available budget. 28 February 2022 is the date by which school block funding levels must be notified to schools.
- 8.6.2.** Given that a positive MFG is being used all primary and secondary schools will see an increase in funding (unless pupil numbers have reduced).
- 8.6.3.** Application of the EYNFF can result in spend being more than the allocated budget should participation increase beyond that forecast. However, the DfE adjusts funding in the following year to take account of fluctuating take up. Therefore, the risk is cash flow rather than overspend. Take up and spend is monitored closely on a twice termly basis by Early Years and Childcare Team and Accountancy Services. Any emerging issues are reported immediately to directors / senior managers.

8.7. Rural Communities

Schools Funding Formula:

- 8.7.1.** All maintained and academy schools in the borough are affected by decisions over total funding levels and the local formula used to allocate it to schools.
- 8.7.2.** The NFF contains a relatively small element of sparsity funding for remote schools meeting certain criteria.

Early Years Funding Formula:

- 8.7.3.** The current formula provides additional funding for provision in rural areas in recognition of their limited ability to attract the numbers of children

required to cover operating costs. The additional funding is paid to provision determined by a sixfold classification of rural/urban wards produced by Cheshire County Council. Given the changes that have occurred in the borough, the rural/urban classification requires updating. Cheshire East Council updated the classifications in 2015 using the same methodology as previously. The proportion of the total funding allocated to rurality would remain largely the same.

- 8.7.4.** Funding should continue to be awarded to rural areas. Removal of this additional funding may undermine the sustainability of provision and lead to the authority failing to meet its sufficiency duty.

	PVI	Nursery classes (MNU/Academy)	Total
Rural using latest classification	22	3	25
Currently receiving rurality	19	3	22
Currently receiving rurality and still classed as rural on the latest classification	15	3	18
Currently receiving rurality but not now classified as rural	3	0	3
Not currently receiving rurality but now classified as rural	7	0	7

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 8.8.1.** All maintained and academy schools in the borough are affected by decisions over funding levels and the formula to allocate funding.
- 8.8.2.** In addition to DSG schools block funding, schools continue to receive other grant funding such as pupil premium allocations for cared for children where they are eligible and universal infant free school meals funding.
- 8.8.3.** Adequate and equitable funding contributes towards sustaining sufficient levels of early years provision across the borough for children to access their free early education entitlement. This is a statutory duty for the local authority.
- 8.8.4.** Failure to distribute the funding allocation in an equitable way across all sectors could impact on delivery of the extended free entitlement for working families. Childcare providers nationally have voiced concern that

30 hours free childcare limits their ability to charge for additional hours; the Government becomes the primary “customer” at a prescribed rate.

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	<p>Schools Mark Bayley Acting Director of Education and 14-19 Skills mark.bayley@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>Early Years Alison Stathers-Tracey Director of Prevention & Early Help Alison.Stathers-Tracey@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p>
Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1: Setting the Schools Funding Formula 2022/23</p> <p>Appendix 2: Recommended Formula – Factors and Values 2022/23</p> <p>Appendix 3: Further Details of the Early Years NFF April 2017</p> <p>Appendix 4: Hourly rates payable to providers of the Free Early Education Entitlements.</p> <p>Appendix 5: Proposed hourly rates payable to providers of the Free Early Education Entitlements.</p>
Background Papers:	<p>Schools Forum papers for 2021 are held at http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schoolsforum</p> <p>The DFE released funding information for 2022/23 at this link</p>

Appendix 1 - Setting the Schools Funding Formula 2022/23

1. The Schools Forum are required to make a recommendation to the Children and Families Committee on the funding formula to allocate funding to schools for the next financial year.
2. The Schools Forum meeting on 7 October 2021 considered the approach to the 2022/23 funding formula. They agreed to convene a sub-group to consider the issues in more detail and consult with schools.
3. The sub-group met on four occasions (21 September, 14 October, 4 November and 2 December 2021) to consider the issues for schools and ran a consultation process from 9 November to 26 November 2021.
4. The consultation resulted in a 27% response rate from schools. Full details of the consultation results were reported to Schools Forum on 9 December 2021 and the results are summarised below:

Q1 Which Formula do you prefer ?					
Count of Schools as a %	MFG at +0.5%	MFG at +1.25%	MFG at +2.0%	Not sure / Don't know	Grand Total
Primary	37.5%	25.0%	7.5%	10.0%	80.0%
Secondary	15.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Grand Total	52.5%	30.0%	7.5%	10.0%	100.0%

Q2 High Needs Transfer				
Count of Schools as a %	No	Yes	Not sure / Don't know	Grand Total
Primary	52.5%	22.5%	5.0%	80.0%
Secondary	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Grand Total	72.5%	22.5%	5.0%	100.0%

Available Funding Levels

5. The initial DSG funding allocations released in July 2021 were used to inform the modelling work used in the consultation process. These figures allowed for the updated headline minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPF) for primary and secondary schools to be achieved with a relatively low MFG scaling percentage

of 4%. This increased to 15% for the 2% MFG option which remains low. Therefore, different MFG options formed the basis for the consultation.

6. All the modelling for the consultation used October 2020 pupil numbers.
7. The recommended model will be fully updated by the revised funding announcements from the DfE incorporating October 2021 pupil information that were released on 16 December 2021. These confirmed the additional number of pupils and the local growth factor and increased schools funding for 2022/23 to £254.7m.

Minimum per pupil funding levels

8. The compulsory minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) figures have increased by 2%.

Change to Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels	2021/22	2022/23	% change
Primary	£4,180	£4,265	+2%
Secondary	£5,415	£5,525	+2%

The Formula Option for 2022/23

9. Three formula options were consulted on. These were based on the same model using the national funding formula (NFF) plus area cost adjustment and all flexibility routed through the basic entitlement. Then three different levels of MFG were applied:

MFG at +0.5%

MFG at +1.25%

MFG at +2.0%

10. The Schools Forum voted in support of using the formula model with MFG at +0.5%.

The Transfer to High Needs

11. The pressure on the high needs block from an increase in education, health and care plans and rising costs of independent placements meant this issue had to be considered as part of the consultation.
12. The Schools Forum voted against the transfer to high needs. It was noted that a disapplication to the DfE had been made by the council to reverse this decision. The result of the application has not yet been released at the time of writing.

Setting the minimum funding guarantee percentage

13. MFG is a self-funding method of ensuring no schools suffer significant reductions to funding levels by scaling back funding from those schools set to gain.
14. Therefore, any models needed to consider the achievement of the MFG percentage and the resulting scaling back percentage. Previous years have seen high levels of MFG scaling, however that has reduced to less than 20% under the current funding arrangements.
15. The Schools Forum voted in support of setting MFG at +0.5%.

Growth Fund

16. The council is able to hold an element of schools funding back and use it to provide some extra funding to schools who have increased their published admission number in September or seen significant levels of in year pupil growth. This is called the Growth Fund.
17. The extra pupils are not funded through the main formula until the following year and the Growth Fund is intended to help schools manage the delay in receiving the formula funding. The Schools Forum have recommended setting the Growth Fund at £0.8m.

Timetable

18. The following key stages of the process will be followed:

Date	Event
Late December 2021	Final school and pupil funding announcements
Late January 2022	APT model submitted
	Circulate the list to schools as provisional
14 February 2022	Children and Families Committee – determine formula
17 February 2022	Schools Forum receive final school funding levels
28 February 2022	Source of funds issued to schools

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Appendix 2 - Recommended Formula – Factors and Values 2022/23

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	
	Description	Amount per pupil	
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,274.94	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,617.70	
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£5,204.07	
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil
2) Deprivation	FSM	£471.71	£471.71
	FSM6	£592.14	£868.14
	IDACI Band F	£220.80	£321.16
	IDACI Band E	£270.98	£426.54
	IDACI Band D	£421.52	£597.16
	IDACI Band C	£461.67	£652.36
	IDACI Band B	£491.78	£702.54
	IDACI Band A	£642.32	£893.23
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil
3) Looked After Children (LAC)		£0.00	
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£567.05	
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,535.55
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£928.36	£1,334.83
	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)
6) Prior attainment	Primary Low Attainment		£1,134.10
	Secondary low attainment (year 7)	64.53%	£1,716.21
	Secondary low attainment (year 8)	64.53%	
	Secondary low attainment (year 9)	63.59%	
	Secondary low attainment (year 10)	58.05%	
	Secondary low attainment (years 11)	48.02%	

Other Factors		
Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)
7) Lump Sum	£121,740.32	£121,740.32
8) Sparsity factor	£55,199.65	£80,290.40
Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity primary lump sum?	NFF	
Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity secondary lump sum?	NFF	
Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity middle school lump sum?	NFF	
Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity all-through lump sum?	NFF	
9) Fringe Payments		£0
10) Split Sites		£173,873
11) Rates		£2,164,360
12) PFI funding		£0
Exceptional Rents		£23,547
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)		£249,906,325
		98.43%

14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level	£3,996,756	1.57%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)	£253,903,081	100.00%
15) Minimum Funding Guarantee	0.50%	£108,145
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)	Yes	
Capping Factor (%)	0.50%	Scaling Factor (%) 2.91%
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied	-£108,145	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£253,903,081	
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)	£0.00	
Additional funding from the high needs budget	£0.00	
Growth fund (if applicable)	£800,037.00	
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)	£0.00	
Other Adjustment to 21-22 Budget Shares	£0	
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)	£254,703,118	
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement	77.68%	
% Pupil Led Funding	90.22%	
Primary: Secondary Ratio	1 :	1.27
22-23 NFF NNDR allocation	£2,164,360	
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding) after deduction of 22-23 NFF NNDR allocation	£252,538,758	

Appendix 3 - Further Details of the Early Years National Funding Formula, April 2017

1. The Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) aimed to:
 - Deliver fairer funding for local authorities.
 - Maximise funding to providers by requiring local authorities to pass through the majority of funding to providers.
 - Deliver a new Disability Access Fund that will award an annual payment of £615 to settings who support children aged three and four who are in receipt of disability living allowance and the free early education entitlement.
 - Provide funding for maintained nursery schools.
2. A range of factors for the funding formula were considered within the limitations of the operation guidance from the DfE:
 - Local authorities continue to have the ability to use funding supplements. These are given in addition to the base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives.
 - The total value of supplements must not be any more than 10%.
 - Deprivation is a mandatory supplement.
 - Discretionary supplements include: rurality/sparsity; flexibility; quality; and English as an additional language (EAL).
3. Following consultation, early years and childcare providers strongly favoured the majority of the funding via a universal base rate subject to the limitations of the guidance.
4. The DfE allocation to local authorities fluctuates based on the number of hours delivered. Therefore, the funding formula should be linked to the characteristics of the population rather than characteristics of the provider.
5. Supplements linked to characteristics of the provision rather than the child can create instability in the funding model as take up shifts across providers, as a result these are not used.
6. A formula that gives the provider the opportunity to alter their hourly rate each year could result in a significant overspend due to the high pass through requirement. Similarly, the authority could fail to pass through the minimum requirement if providers reduce their hourly rate.

7. This could only be controlled by revising the funding formula on an annual basis. This would not be practical and would prove an administrative burden on the local authority - as a result these are not used.
8. The funding paid to providers of the two year old Free Early Education Entitlement is not subject to a formula. Therefore, it is equitable to increase the hourly rate paid to providers by the same percentage increase as the hourly rate paid by the DfE.
9. Following detailed modelling of the formula and consultation, a formula was implemented on 1 April 2017 that met the following objectives:
 - High pass through rate of 93% in 2017/18 and 95% in 2018/19.
 - High proportion of the funding via the base rate.
 - Additional funding for children from disadvantaged areas.
 - Additional funding to support provision in rural areas.
 - All providers receive more funding than the previous formula.
 - An average hourly rate of at least £4.

Appendix 4 - Hourly rates payable to providers of the Free Early Education Entitlements

Funding Formula from **1 April 2021**:

	2020/21 (£ per child per hour)	% increase	2021/22 (£ per child per hour)
3 and 4 year olds			
Base rate	4.04	1.37%	4.10
Deprivation - group based provision	0.0057	1.37%	0.0058
Deprivation - childminder	0.068	1.37%	0.069
Rurality	0.071	1.37%	0.072
2 year olds	5.10 (5.096)	1.49%	5.17

All rates are applicable to all the children in the setting.

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Appendix 5 - Proposed hourly rates payable to providers of the Free Early Education Entitlements.

Funding Formula from **1 April 2022**:

	2021/22 (per child per hour)	% increase	2022/23 (per child per hour)
3 and 4 year olds			
Base rate	£4.10	3.829%	£4.25 (£4.257**)
Deprivation - group based provision	£0.0058	3.829%	£0.006
Deprivation - childminder	£0.069	3.829%	£0.072
Rurality	£0.072	3.829%	£0.0748
2 year olds	£5.17	3.860%	£5.37

All rates are applicable to all the children in the setting.

** The base rate paid by Cheshire East has increased very slightly over time due to rounding up of the DfE increase to the nearest 1p. This has increased the percentage pass through from 95% in April 2018 to 96%. Rounding up the base rate calculation of £4.257 would continue the slow creep above 95%. A base rate of £4.25 would relieve the increasing pass through but maintain the expectation of 16p average increase to providers (base rate plus supplements) (95% of 17p increase in DfE allocation = 16p).

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Working for a brighter future together

BRIEFING REPORT

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 February 2022

Report Title: Progress update on the Children and Families Mental Health Spotlight Review

Report of: Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director Children's Services

Corporate Plan Priorities			
	Open	An open and enabling organisation	
	Fair	A council which empowers and cares about people	X
	Green	A thriving and sustainable place	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update Children and Families Committee members on progress made against the recommendations approved in October 2020 as a result of the Spotlight Review into Children and Families' Mental Wellbeing Services.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report reflects the progress made in responding to the recommendations of the spotlight review report and findings in the context of delivering services while responding to a global pandemic.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 24 February 2020, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a spotlight review day to consider the effectiveness of both the council's and NHS provision of wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people.

- 3.2** The report and recommendations were formally approved by Cabinet on 6 October 2020. The committee made a total of 23 recommendations following its findings from the spotlight review. The full list of recommendations is set out below, and where possible an update on progress delivered to date is included against each recommendation.
- 3.3** This update report on each of the recommendations made by the committee should be read in the context of the global pandemic which has significantly changed both the delivery landscape of both the way that children's mental wellbeing services have been delivered and commissioned, but also the impact on the wellbeing of children and young people as they have missed out on education, routine, social contact and structure.
- 3.4** Recommendations and progress made against each proposal are list below:

Rec no	Agreed action	Progress update
1	That the council and partners endeavour to create a clearer pathway and screening tool for assessing the needs of children and young people presenting with mental health issues, with standardised outcome measures across services to make it easier to identify where other improvements may be made in the future.	The Cheshire and Merseyside Transformation programme for children has agreed mental health review as a priority workstream. The metrics for measuring effectiveness of wellbeing services is being designed in line with this recommendation. The work programme will include new pathways, screening tools and outcome measures that will report/be adopted by summer 2023.
2	That commissioners review the current service provision, and access to services, with a view to ensuring that services are commissioned for children and young people up to the age of 25.	This was a specific request in respect of CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service) which is commissioned by NHS England. We understand that NHS England have commissioned a revised strategy for addressing children's mental wellbeing services and Cheshire East Council is part of the consultation process to agree the strategy. One of the recommendations we will make is that the service extends to support young adults up to the age of 25 where they have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND). The strategy is due for adoption in March 2022.
3	That a review be undertaken of the Cheshire East Live Well programme, and that as part of this, the council specifically considers access and availability to wellbeing support services for children, young people and their parents/carers	The council reviewed the layout of Live Well in September 2020 in order to make the site more accessible. This has included the children's mental health and wellbeing sections.

4	That Cabinet look to use and prioritise the Troubled Families process to improve the level and breadth of support available for parents and carers of children and young people experiencing mental health issues.	The Troubled Families national programme has been renamed the Supporting Families programme in April 2021 with funding extended up to 2024. One of the agreed outcome measures for the new programme and associated funding will be to measure improved mental wellbeing for families. The funding will support the ongoing funding of our targeted youth work activity that is tailored to support young people who are struggling with their wellbeing.
5	That commissioners be asked to provide a further update to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2021, on the progress of implementing the Thrive model and an update on service accessibility	This action will be overtaken by the establishment of the strategy for Cheshire and Merseyside integrated care system as referenced above. An update on the strategy could be brought back to committee after publication in March 2022.
6	That commissioners and providers ensure that the eligibility and accessibility criteria for services is clear and transparent for children and young people and their families/carers	As per update above.
7	That Cheshire CCG, CAMHS and the council ensure that all staff who support both children's and adults' services, undertake transition training to secure safe and reasonable handovers of cases when young people leave children's services and enter the adult social care system	Adults Social Care are leading a piece of work to review transition cases between children's mental health services and adults to advise on a revised training programme and pathway for staff. This work is ongoing and is being led by the director of adult social care.
8	That commissioners endeavour to ensure that services provided by Visyon are equitable and available across the whole borough of Cheshire East.	Counselling services for children are available now across all wards of Cheshire East delivered by a range of local providers including Visyon, Just Drop in and CWP. Kooth online support is also available across the whole of Cheshire East.
9	That Cabinet reviews the council's commission for the Emotionally Healthy Children Programme, with a view to ensure that there is a single commissioning strategy that is aligned to the CCG Mental Health Trailblazer project and make it easier to secure future funding	The Emotionally Healthy Child programme is due to run up until April 2022 with the learning from the programme to be fed into the new Children's Mental Health Strategy.

10	That the Leader of the council write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Minister for Education, to request further investment to improve the access to therapeutic support services for children and young people in Cheshire East.	Action complete
11	That the council and NHS partners work together to review the way in which data relating to children and young people's mental health is collected, to more consistently align to national targets and measures	The Cheshire and Merseyside Transformation programme for children has agreed mental health review as a priority workstream. The metrics for measuring effectiveness of wellbeing services is being designed in line with this recommendation. The work programme will include new pathways, screening tools and outcome measures that will report/be adopted by summer 2023.
12	That the Leader of the council write to the Department of Education to request that funding for the Adoption Counts service be continued and prioritised, and encourage each of the partner authorities receiving the Adoption Counts service to do the same, to lobby for more funding for this important service.	This action has now been resolved with a three year contract in place until 2024.
13	That full Council be asked to ensure its Budget is adjusted to accommodate the cost required to re-commission Adoption Counts, provided that the other local authorities put forward their contributions also.	Complete. See above
14	That the council and partners ensure that the joined-up working arrangements relating to adoption are sustained and properly funded, to secure positive long-term outcomes for adoptive children and families in Cheshire East	Complete and ongoing as part of the North West approach to support adoption. Local work is underway to agree Early Help services are sustained to support families who adopt children and live in Cheshire East.
15	That the outcomes of the council's Bespoke Project be reviewed, and its successes be used to inform future commissions and projects.	The Bespoke project and the progress around our residential homes is ongoing and reported on a regular basis via the children's services scorecard and into the Corporate Parenting Committee.

16	That a review be carried out to ascertain best practice in areas where a 24/7 crisis offer is already in place, and how this type of crisis service could be provided in the most effective, joined-up way in Cheshire East.	A review has taken place of the best practice in relation to crisis care across the Merseyside and Cheshire region and funding has been identified by NHS England to fund Cheshire Wirral Partnership to establish an Urgent Care Mental Health service here in Cheshire. The staffing model and team are being recruited to currently and an operating base is being sourced with support from Cheshire East Council. The work of this new urgent care children's mental health team is modelled on work that is undertaken in Wirral and will be operational by March 2022.
17	That the council and Cheshire CCG work together to ensure that commissioning and contract management arrangements are more closely and effectively integrated	This will be monitored by the new Integrated Care Board arrangements in 2022 and onwards.
18	That the council monitors the impact of alternative education service provisions to support young people and reduce rates of exclusions.	The ongoing provision of alternative education will be monitored by the Director of Education and exclusion rates reported to the committee via the quarterly scorecard measures
19	That CAMHS and commissioners urgently review the support provided to children and young people who are unable to leave their homes to attend their scheduled appointments	See response to recommendation 16 above. The newly established urgent care team will offer support beyond standard clinic appointments in response to need.
20	That commissioners consider the commissioning of specialist health visitors to support schools in their teaching and managing of students' mental health and wellbeing	Specialist Health Visitors for addressing Mental Health issues in children and parents now in place as part of the refreshed 0-19 contract. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.
21	That CAMHS, Cheshire CCG and the council work together to review and improve the way in which support is targeted and provided to young people that do not attend school, college, training or work due to their mental health struggles	See response to recommendation 16 above. The newly established urgent care team will offer support beyond standard clinic appointments in response to need. Also the extension of the Supporting Families programme means that we are able to continue our targeted youth support work to children for whom school environment compounds their poor mental health.
22	That the council and partners work together to make sure that the offer of online support services is refreshed and promoted, and that it is equitable for all young people in the borough	Action completed - Kooth is now available to all wards of Cheshire East. A whole range of online digital support is in place plus the creation of a 24/7 phone line has been put in place in response to increased demand for

		talking support throughout the pandemic operated by Cheshire Wirral Partnership.
23	That schools in Cheshire East be asked to use a consistent title for the designated Mental Health Leads	Action to be progressed beyond current Covid crisis via schools' forums.

4. Implications

4.1. Legal

4.1.1. No implications.

4.2. Finance

4.2.1. No implications.

4.3. Human Resources

4.3.1. No implications.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Ali Stathers-Tracey Director Early Help & Prevention Alison.stathers-tracey@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07870603585
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None

Work Programme – Children and Families Committee – 2021/22

Reference	Committee Date	Report title	Purpose of Report	Report Author /Senior Officer	Consultation and Engagement Process and Timeline	Equality Impact Assessment Required and Published (Y/N)	Part of Budget and Policy Framework (Y/N)	Corporate Plan Priority	Exempt Item and Paragraph Number
CF/30/21-22	24 Mar 2022	12 Month Report on Member Frontline Visits to Safeguarding Teams	To receive an update on the findings from member frontline visits carried out over the last 12 months.	Director of Children's Social Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/44/21-22	24 Mar 2022	All Age Carers Strategy	To approve the All Age Carers Strategy.	Director of Commissioning	Yes	Yes	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/26/21-22	24 Mar 2022	Children and Families Scorecard Q3	To consider key performance measures.	Interim Director of Children's Services	N/A	N/A	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/48/21-22	24 Mar 2022	Children's Care at Home Recommission	To approve the arrangements to recommission Care at Home services.	Director of Commissioning	TBC	Yes	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/47/21-22	24 Mar 2022	Covid-19 Schools Update (Verbal Update)	To receive a verbal update on the Covid-19 situation in schools.	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	N/A	No	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/25/21-22	24 Mar 2022	School Capital/Organisation - New School/Expansions	To consider and approve proposals around school capital/ organisation.	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	TBC	TBC	Yes	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/23/21-22	24 Mar 2022	Self-Evaluation of Children's Services	To receive the self-evaluation of services which shows the quality and impact of services.	Interim Director of Children's Services	N/A	N/A	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	

Reference	Committee Date	Report title	Purpose of Report	Report Author /Senior Officer	Consultation and Engagement Process and Timeline	Equality Impact Assessment Required and Published (Y/N)	Part of Budget and Policy Framework (Y/N)	Corporate Plan Priority	Exempt Item and Paragraph Number
CF/52/21-22	May 2022	Family Hub Bid	To receive a report on the Family Hub Bid.	Executive Director Children's Services.	TBC	TBC	TBC	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/51/21-22	May 2022	Corporate Parenting Strategy	To receive the Corporate Parenting Strategy.	Director of Children's Social Care	TBC	TBC	TBC	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/28/21-22	November 2022	Annual report on SEND Recovery Plan	To receive an update on the impact of work over the last 6 months in regards to SEND.	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	N/A	N/A	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/27/21-22	TBC	Home to School Transport Policy	To approve the operational home to school transport policy.	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	TBC	TBC	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/18/21-22	TBC	DSG Management Plan	To receive an update and monitor delivery of the high needs management plan.	Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	N/A	N/A	No	A council which empowers and cares about people	
CF/39/21-22	TBC	Transition - Support the Council Gives to Disabled Young Adults	To approve the proposal around transition and the support the Council gives to disabled young adults.	Director of Adult Social Services	N/A	Yes	Yes	A council which empowers and cares about people	

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Local Authority School Governor Nomination Sub-Committee** held on Wednesday, 15th September, 2021 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor S Carter (Chair)

Councillors D Edwardes, A Harewood and G Hayes

Officers in attendance

Mike Harris, Service Manager, Governance and Liaison

Su Garbutt, Senior Governance Officer, School Governance and Liaison

Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Steve Carter be appointed the Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Steve Carter be appointed as Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M Beanland.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interest of openness, all members declared that they knew the applicant for Westminster Nursery School as they were a fellow Councillor.

In the interest of openness, Councillor Hayes, and Councillor Harewood declared that they knew the applicant for Elworth Church of England Primary School as they had previously been an elected member of the Council.

In the interests of openness, Councillor Harewood declared that she knew the applicant for St John the Evangelist Church of England Primary School.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

7 LOCAL AUTHORITY NOMINATIONS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

The Panel considered the report which detailed the current Local Authority Governor vacancies within Cheshire East maintained schools and academies, along with the position at national level on local authority governor vacancies, and recommended individuals for nomination and re-nomination to identified local authority governor vacancies.

RESOLVED

That, having regard to the statutory guidance in making nominations, the following be approved:

Nominations for Appointment

BRIDGEMERE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Joanne Edwards

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY
SCHOOL
Deborah Tomlinson

THE DINGLE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Deborah Fallon

WESTMINSTER NURSERY SCHOOL
Connor Naismith

WRENBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Alison Barber

Nominations for Re-appointment

ELWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Gill Merry

WILMSLOW HIGH SCHOOL
Sam Beythoun

8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The panel agreed future meeting dates as

Wednesday 24 November 2021
Wednesday 16 February 2022
Wednesday 8 June 2022

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.25 pm

Councillor S Carter (Chair)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee**
held on Tuesday, 2nd November, 2021 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)
Councillor J Saunders (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Asquith, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Holland, D Jefferay
and D Marren

ALSO PRESENT

Annemarie Parker – Head of Service: Cared for Children and Care Leavers
Keith Martin – Head of Service: Children with Disabilities and Fostering
Laura Rogerson – Head of Service: Inclusion
Emma Lawton – Youth Justice Service
Nicola Booth – Adoption Counts
Jenny Foulkes – Children's Society
Josie Lloyd – Democratic Services Officer

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bailey, J Barber, S Handley and G Hayes. Councillor J Buckley, already in attendance, acted as a substitute voting member for this meeting.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

15 CORPORATE PARENTING PROGRESS REPORT

The committee received the report which advised how the service was delivering the priorities for cared for children and care leavers as set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

It was noted that the care leavers survey closed last week and that the data from this should be shared at the next meeting.

A question was raised, regarding paragraph 5.6, as to the vaccination figures. It was noted that the vaccination programme had only recently been rolled out in schools but it was agreed that the data would be shared with the committee when available.

A further question was raised regarding paragraph 5.6 and what consideration was given to the wishes of the child when establishing consent for the vaccine. It was noted that this was considered on an individual basis and rationale was being recorded.

A concern was raised regarding staff who were unvaccinated and why this was not a requirement of agency staff. The committee were advised that Cheshire East staff were encouraged to have the vaccine and it was not thought that having the vaccine can be made a requirement for agency staff. It was noted that there was a shortage of care staff nationally. It was agreed that Annemarie Parker would take away a request to check whether having the vaccine can be legally made a requirement when recruiting. Assurances were given that there were risk assessments on children's files where a risk would be posed due to unvaccinated staff.

A question was raised regarding the reporting of NEET figures and it was requested that in future the cohort referred to would be stated alongside the figures in the report.

A further question was raised regarding paragraph 8.5 which referred to the 41% of cared for children who do not live in Cheshire East and whether this was due to a lack of suitable foster carers. It was agreed that a breakdown would be brought back to the committee.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the results of the care leavers survey would be shared at the next meeting.
3. That data on vaccination in cared for children be shared with the committee.
4. That Annemarie Parker take away a request to check whether having the vaccine can be made a prerequisite when recruiting staff.
5. That future reporting on NEET figures show which cohort they refer to.
6. That a breakdown be brought to the committee of the 41% of cared for children living outside the borough.

16 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The committee received the report which advised how the Children's Society has delivered the service over the past year, providing an overview of the work undertaken from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

It was noted that referrals into the service were low although Cheshire East was higher than the national average. A question was raised regarding the target figure for referrals and it was agreed that Annemarie would look into this and share with the committee. An additional question was raised regarding the reason for the lack of referrals and it was agreed that Annemarie would take this away as an area to work towards understanding.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Annemarie look into the target figure for referrals into the service and share with the committee.
3. That Annemarie take away the request to work towards understanding the reason for the low number of referrals.

17 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

18 VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The committee received the Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report for 2020-21.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted and endorsed.

19 YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PRESENTATION

The committee received a presentation on the Youth Justice Service.

RESOLVED –

That the presentation be noted.

20 ADOPTION COUNTS ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND ADOPTION PANEL CHAIRS' SIX MONTHLY REPORT

The committee received the Adoption Counts Adoption Service Annual Report and the Adoption Panel Chairs' Six-Monthly Report.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 16:00 and concluded at 18:30

Councillor K Flavell (Chair)

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Working for a brighter future together

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 February 2022

Report Title: School Organisation: New Nantwich Primary School (Kingsley Fields) – Authority to Enter into a Construction Contract Inclusive of Pre-Construction Services

Report of: Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report Reference No: CF/43/21-22

Ward(s) Affected: Nantwich North and West
Nantwich South and Stapeley
Willaston and Rope

Corporate Plan Priorities			
	Open	An open and enabling organisation	
	Fair	A council which empowers and cares about people	X
	Green	A thriving and sustainable place	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Following the approval of the Children and Families Committee at the meeting on 12 July 2021 to proceed with the free school presumption process and seek a sponsor for the proposed new one form entry primary school at Kingsley Fields in Nantwich, and to transfer the site into council ownership, initial design development work has been commissioned through the Estates Property Projects Team for RIBA Stages 0-2 to cover initial feasibility and survey work on the proposed site.
- 1.2. Following completion of this initial phase of work, which is due to be completed at the end of February 2022, approval is sought to tender for and appoint a design and build contractor to further progress the proposal with a view to overall completion for the commencement of the 2024-25 academic

year. The next steps would involve further design development and pre-construction services including submission of a formal planning application, prior to award of a formal construction contract.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. As stated above.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That committee gives approval:
- 3.2. To provide authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to award a construction contract for the provision of a new one form entry primary school in Nantwich, inclusive of any other agreements associated with or ancillary to the contract.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. The proposed increase in primary school places in Nantwich will enable Cheshire East to meet its statutory obligations. As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area and a commitment to allow local children to attend their local school wherever possible.
- 4.2. Chapter 2 (page 50) of the constitution states that '*Directors and Statutory Officers may not take decisions unless specifically provided for within the Constitution or specifically delegated by a Committee or Sub-Committee*'. Therefore, this paper seeks approval to proceed to award a construction contract as outlined.
- 4.3. The Education Directorate want to ensure that the progression of contractual arrangements are undertaken in a timely manner in order to meet the proposed timescales as outlined within the presumption process. Progressing contractual arrangements alongside the publication of the specification will show integrated decision making from relevant parties including the views of the approved sponsor as required.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. Alternative proposals to the new primary school were considered in detail in the [report to the Children and Families Committee on 12 July 2021](#) (Report Reference number CF/01/21).

6. Background

- 6.1. On 12 July 2021, the Children and Families Committee gave approval for the service to proceed with the free school presumption process which includes

undertaking a pre-launch consultation, in accordance with the Department for Education process. The five-week consultation period ran from 6 October 2021 to 10 November 2021, and a public drop-in session was held on 19 October 2021. During the five-week representation period a total of 26 responses were received:

- 24 did support the proposal and left comments
- 2 did not support the proposal and left comments.

It should be noted that several respondents may have made more than one comment in their comments hence the figures quoted will not necessarily equate back to the respondents' figure.

- 6.2.** The service was also given permission by the committee to proceed with the transfer of the proposed school site into the council's ownership, and to progress with the process of attracting potential sponsors to run the new school - this will form part of the free school presumption process.
- 6.3.** The Estates Property Projects Team were commissioned by Children's Services on 25 October 2021 to appoint consultants to develop the proposal through early concept design and feasibility stages (RIBA Stages 0-2) including a few surveys which would assist in due diligence for the land transfer to Cheshire East. It is prudent for searches, surveys, and investigations to be carried out to ascertain the availability of necessary services and access to be required at the site prior to acceptance of the transfer.
- 6.4.** The design development process will run parallel to that of attracting potential sponsors to run the new school and to complete any agreements or land transfers associated with appointing a suitable sponsor. Ultimately, the Secretary of State will approve the sponsor following due process.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1.** In accordance with the free school presumption departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers issued by the Department for Education (November 2019) to open a new school, the local authority must follow the free school presumption process. This was considered in detail in the report to Children and Families Committee on 12 July 2021.
- 7.2.** Prior to launching the competition to identify the sponsor to run the new school the service undertook consultation and engagement sessions. Feedback from this was considered in [the report to Childrens and Families Committee on 10 January 2022.](#)

7.3. As part of the consultation and engagement process the local authority has undertaken the following:

- A formal briefing with local councillors
- A presentation and meeting were held with local schools
- A five-week representation period ran from 6 October to 10 November 2021 and a public notice was issued in the local press
- Information was available on the Cheshire East website and during the representation period key stakeholders including Ward Members, MP, Diocese, and Town Council were informed of the process
- Information was emailed to all local schools together with a letter for distribution to their staff, governors, and parents
- A public drop-in session was held at Nantwich Library with representatives from the local authority in attendance to discuss the proposal and seek views from parents and the local community.

7.4. Feedback gathered through the informal consultation was shared with the Children and Families Committee on 10 January 2022. This feedback will be used to help formulate and finalise the local authority's specification for a new school before its publication inviting expressions of interest from sponsors.

7.5. The DfE free school presumption process for proposing a new school has seven key stages, as set out in the table below. A proposed timescale for the remaining stages has been included for this specific new primary school for Nantwich:

Stage	Process	Detail	Proposed Timescale
Stage 1	Notification	Notification to the DfE to initiate process.	April 2021 - completed . Children and Families Committee approved progression of scheme on 12 July 2021.
Stage 2	Informal Consultation	Consultation on the proposal with local schools, parents, carers, staff, pupils, school governors and trustees, Diocese representatives, local community, and ward members – minimum of four weeks recommended. Feedback received informs the specification for the school. Complete the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).	October, November 2021 – completed Children and Families Committee received feedback on the informal consultation at the meeting on 10 January 2022.

			The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed.
Stage 3	Draft Specification	Draft specification and EIA submitted to DfE for approval	January/February 2022 – drafted
Stage 4	Formal Specification* for the school published (in-line with DfE requirements)	Following DfE approval, the LA and DfE publish the specification* and invite potential sponsors to submit their applications. Recommended to allow 6-8 weeks but if time allows 12-14 weeks may be more appropriate.	April/May 2022
Stage 5	Assessment Phase	The decision-maker (usually the LA) assesses/scores the applications and may invite potential sponsors for interview. This process is supported by the DfE regional leads.	July/August 2022
Stage 6	Sponsor Approval	The LA submits preferred sponsor to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), which is taken to the Headteacher Board for potential approval.	Autumn 2022
Stage 7	Implementation, pre-opening.	LA and approved sponsor work together to ensure the school opens as per the specification. This stage includes the approved sponsor undertaking statutory consultation prior to any funding agreement being issued.	Spring 2023

**The specification sets out the details for the new school and the requirements for the sponsor to directly respond to in their application.*

7.6. Following approval of this committee report, the next stage of the process will commence which will include the development of initial designs for the school building. Once outline plans for the new school are available the service will undertake further drop-in sessions with the local community.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

8.1.1. In line with government and construction best practice, it is proposed to procure and award the required construction works using existing regional frameworks. The council currently has access to the North West Construction Hub (NWCH) which is a regional Framework Agreement administered by Manchester City Council and can be used by local authorities and other public bodies in the North West of England. The NWCH offers a range of value bands, including a low value framework for projects of £500k and above, a medium value for projects between £2m and £10m, through to a high value framework for projects over £10m,

which can be utilised to offer the flexibility required for phasing and programme options. Based on pre-tender budget estimates for the proposed project at Kingsley Fields, this indicates the medium value framework would need to be used.

- 8.1.2.** A framework enables the council to meet its need for a service, supply of goods, or works for a set period, to obviate the need to undertake a wide competitive procurement process for each individual scheme. It complies with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”) and the council’s contract procedure.
- 8.1.3.** Before a construction contract is awarded the council should acquire title to the site pursuant to the provisions of the relevant agreement made with the site developer under s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1980. If the council were to proceed without having any legal interest in the school site it is not entitled to enter or to make alterations to the site. The council would be at potential risk of legal action being taken to enforce the provisions of the contract by the contractor and for damages by the site owner.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1.** The Nantwich Planning Area - Primary scheme is approved within the current Medium-Term Financial Strategy with a budget of £3.5m.
- 8.2.2.** The proposed new school is currently funded via Section 106 contributions and Basic Need Grant. Section 106 education funding contributions are those agreed with new housing developers specifically to fund the additional pupil places needed due to new housing development. This is received in stages over many years.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1.** The local authority will determine the Published Admission Number (PAN) from pupils for year groups Reception to Year 6, in line with the statutory timescales set out in the School Admissions Code (2021). The total capacity of the school will be 210 Primary aged pupils (with the option for a 30-place nursery provision for pupils aged 2 to 4). Standard PAN will be 30 per year group. The new school may open in stages, this will be agreed following appointment of the sponsor.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1.** An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for this proposal.

- 8.4.2.** As part of the planning process for a new school a local authority must undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal both with existing educational institutions locally and in terms of impact on groups of pupils from an equality's perspective.
- 8.4.3.** For the Secretary of State to meet his duties under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, local authorities should provide the Secretary of State (SOS) with a copy of their assessment.

8.5. Human Resources

- 8.5.1.** There are no additional human resource implications for the council.
- 8.5.2.** Any new establishment will open as a free school and HR responsibility will be with the successful sponsor which arise as part of the project.

8.6. Risk Management

- 8.6.1.** If additional places are not provided in Nantwich, parents of Cheshire East children who are resident in the Nantwich area may be unable to secure places at their local school and may be required to travel over two miles to alternative Cheshire East schools requiring transport assistance.
- 8.6.2.** A formal process including consultation of statutory consultees will be required as part of the planning application process.
- 8.6.3.** All the building works will be planned carefully, and contractors will work with the Project Team to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to a minimum for residents on the development.
- 8.6.4.** If projected costs come in higher/increase, there would be a need to undertake a value engineering exercise and assess increased costs against wider budgetary needs.

8.7. Rural Communities

- 8.7.1.** There are no direct implications for rural communities. A new school within a new housing development will assist with reducing traffic around rural areas as the children from this development can attend their local school rather than travelling by car.
- 8.7.2.** The new school will provide the required places for the pupils from the development, limiting the impact on smaller rural schools and enabling such schools to retain their rural character and not have to expand.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 8.8.1.** Providing additional places at this new school will help ensure that local children, including cared for children, can be offered a place at their local school. An increase in capacity in the Nantwich area would provide more places for families moving into the area particularly outside the usual admissions rounds and reduce pressure on families in managing their child's journey to school and help them settle into their local community.

8.9. Public Health

- 8.9.1.** There are no direct implications for public health.

8.10. Climate Change

- 8.10.1.** The new build school would need to comply with the government's targets of nearly zero carbon as outlined within the Building Regulations and the Councils own currently approved policies of achieving an BREEAM excellent accreditation or equivalent to achieve carbon neutral targets.
- 8.10.2.** Providing additional places at this local school will enable Cheshire East children resident in the Nantwich area, particularly the new housing development, the ability to secure a place at their local school thus reducing the need to travel outside of the area which will reduce energy consumption and will enable pupils to walk to school promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- 8.10.3.** Cheshire East Council are very aware of their environmental education and stewardship role and are very interested in promoting sustainability in general.
- 8.10.4.** As part of the detailed design process, the design team are exploring how the building could be designed to minimize future running costs.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Mark Bayley Acting Director of Education and Skills mark.bayley@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	No appendices
Background Papers:	Report to the Children and Families Committee on 12 July 2021 Report to Childrens and Families Committee on 10 January 2022

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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