

Adults and Health Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 22nd January, 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

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

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To note any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2023.

For requests for further information

Contact: Karen Shuker

Tel: 01270 686459

E-Mail: karen.shuker@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

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. **Third Financial Review of 2023/24** (Pages 13 - 48)

To consider a report on the third review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24.

6. **Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 - 2023** (Pages 49 - 72)

To receive the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board.

7. **Minutes of the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board** (Pages 73 - 78)

To receive the minutes of the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board – 22 November 2023.

8. **Work Programme** (Pages 79 - 82)

To consider the Work Programme and determine any required amendments.

9. **Reporting of Urgent Decisions** (Pages 83 - 84)

To note an urgent decision taken on behalf of the Committee.

10. **Adults, Health and Integration - MTFS budget presentation** (Pages 85 - 116)

To receive a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy in respect of Adults, Health and Integration.

Membership: Councillors S Adams, A Burton, D Clark, J Clowes, N Cook, D Edwardes, M Edwards, S Gardiner, A Kolker, A Moran (Vice-Chair), J Place, J Rhodes (Chair) and L Wardlaw

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Adults and Health Committee**
held on Monday, 20th November, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Rhodes (Chair)
Councillor A Moran (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Adams, A Burton, D Clark, J Clowes, N Cook, D Edwardes,
M Edwards, S Gardiner, A Kolker, J Place and L Wardlaw

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Roisin Beressi, Principal Lawyer (Adults & Education)
Keith Evans, Head of Service: Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
Shelley Brough, Acting Director of Commissioning, and Integration
Jill Broomhall, Direct of Adult Social Care
Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults, Health, and Integration
Mark Hughes, Senior Commissioning Manager
Stephen Kelly, Senior Communications Officer
Sandra Murphy, Head of Adult Safeguarding
Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services
Sue Ryde, Interim Head of Integrated Commissioning (joined remotely via
Microsoft Teams)
Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer
Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health
Nikki Wood-Hill, Lead Finance Business Partner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Jo Williams, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB)
(joined remotely via Microsoft Teams)

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness and transparency the following declarations
were made:

Councillor S Gardiner declared that in relation to agenda item 8 (Cheshire
East - Learning Disability and Mental Health Plans) he had used mental
health services in the past, and that he was also a member of the
Cheshire East Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

Councillor L Wardlaw declared that she occasionally worked for the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor J Place declared that he was a member of the Together Trust in Cheadle.

Councillors N Cook and D Clark are members of the Cheshire East Mental Health Partnership Board.

29 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

30 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

31 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 - 2027/28 (ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE)**

The Committee received the report which set out the indicative financial envelope for this committee to support consultation on the development of the Cheshire East Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28.

Officers reported that they were working on proposals in response to the additional savings being sought and that an informal meeting would be scheduled for December to give all committee members an opportunity to go through the budget and proposals in detail.

RESOLVED:

That the Adults and Health Committee

- (a) Note the indicative budget envelope for this committee, as approved at the Finance Sub-Committee on 2 November, as a way of setting financial targets in support of achieving a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- (b) Note that officers will develop further proposals in consultation with Members to enable wider stakeholder consultation prior to approval by Council.
- (c) Note that Committees will be presented with the opportunity to further review financial proposals, designed to achieve a balanced budget, as part of their January cycle of meetings prior to recommendations being made to Council for approval.

32 SECOND FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023/24 (ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE)

The Committee received the report which provided the second review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24.

Members sought further information regarding the current revenue forecast for Adults and Health which showed in-year forecast pressures of £4.7M and the reasons why the Council had arrived at this point so rapidly when a balanced budget had been set earlier in the year.

The Executive Director of Adults, Health and Integration outlined the factors driving increased costs in adult social care. These included price inflation in social care, with staffing costs in the care sector running ahead of headline inflation; the rate of growth of the aging population in Cheshire East which was higher than other parts of the country; more complex needs leading to higher unit costs; and the numbers of people being discharged from hospital into the community and requiring more complex care.

The Executive Director outlined measures that were being taken to address budget pressures, including a reduction in the use of short-term residential and nursing placements, investment in voluntary sector organisations, a reduction on the reliance of domiciliary and residential care, and capping price increases.

A piece of work had been commissioned to look at how the change within the no criteria to reside criteria and how the numbers of people flowing through hospital post pandemic may be affecting the bottom line.

During the pandemic, to facilitate discharge from hospital at a rapid rate social care teams were funded by central government to facilitate people leaving hospital rapidly. The funding for this had ceased in April 2022 although there was still an expectation that adult social care would act the way it did during the pandemic. It was emphasised that discharge from hospital did not make people eligible for adult social care and it was important to understand this.

A request was made for future reports to be clearer when information was for noting only. Some members felt that the use of 'consider' in recommendations could appear that members were being asked to do more than receive the information.

An amendment to the recommendations in the report was moved and seconded which sought to amend 'consider' to 'note'. This was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the Adults and Health Committee:

1. Note the report of the Finance Sub Committee: [Finance Sub-Committee, 2nd November, 2023](#)
2. Note the factors leading to a forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £4.7m against a revised budget of £136.5m (3.4%).
3. Note the forecast and further mitigations needing to be identified, aimed at bringing spending back in line with budget.
4. Note the in-year forecast Capital Spending of £0.02m against an approved MTFS budget of £0.47m, due to slippage that has been re-profiled into future years.
5. Scrutinise the contents of Annex 1 and Appendix 1 and note that any financial mitigation decisions requiring approval will be made in line with relevant delegations.
6. Note that Council will be asked to approve the fully funded supplementary revenue estimate over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Annex 1, Appendix 1, Section 3 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2.

33 ANTON - SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW

The Committee considered a briefing report about the Safeguarding Adults Review regarding “ANTON”. The Safeguarding Adults Review Report had been commissioned by the Safeguarding Adults Board and written by an independent author. The Safeguarding Adults Review was a review of the circumstances and to identify lessons learned.

Members made the following comments in relation to the report and its recommendations:

- The use of language should be challenged as fault should not be put on those being protected.
- Request that an update on the recommendations come back to committee at a future date.
- non engagement was not a reason to stop trying it was a reason to try harder.
- if someone did not have English as their first language this should be flagged on the system.

In response to a question raised in respect of how many people were known to have lost settled status in Cheshire East and whether there was a way of tracking those people, a written response would be provided to members outside of the meeting.

in response to a question raised about whether people in communities who speak varying languages could be asked to join a register to help support those people in their communities where English was not their first language, officers would undertake to have discussions with the Head of Service for Integration and Communities.

In response to a question raised in respect of what post local authority supervision was given to foreign nationals and what it meant for the current cohort of refugee's, officers agreed a response would be circulated to members outside of the meeting.

In response to a question raised in respect of multi-agency input and who if anyone would take the lead, officers reported that if a Section 42 Enquiry had commenced the Local Authority would take the lead in completing the enquiry, including making recommendations and setting actions. It was noted that in some circumstances another agency may be more appropriate e.g. the Fire Service.

The Executive Director for Adults, Health, and Integration informed members that in future, people that Adult social care supported would look more like ANTON and that there was a need to change the response to that and a need to transition from where we are to where we need to be as sometimes people best placed to deal with those case were outside adult social care.

The SAR will be published on the Safeguarding Adults Board Website.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the Adults and Health Committee accept the SAR Report and recommendations.

34 CHESHIRE EAST PLACE - LEARNING DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH PLANS

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the Cheshire East Place Plans for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health.

Members welcomed the all-age approach to the strategy and the direction of travel but sought assurance that there was as much attention given to rural areas as there was to other areas. In response officers assured members that they were fully aware of the need to have outreach teams for rural areas and that there was a need to emphasise this more in the plans. There was an area of gaps in provision, so work was ongoing with provider engagement and officers were looking at setting up peer support groups.

In response to a question on how the policies linked in with the national police initiative 'Right Care Right Person' officers reported that they were fully involved with the police in the development of the initiative and

following discussions it was acknowledged that there was a need to change and adapt accordingly on how police respond to calls for welfare checks.

Members queried the currency of the Tartan Rug data and the mixed references used within the report. Officers hoped that with the digitalisation of the Tartan Rug the information would update more quickly but it was recognised that it had its limitations as it was part of the national level data collection which had its own timescales. The Tartan Rug provides a snapshot of inequalities and more comprehensive analysis of needs is undertaken through the JSNA programme.

Following concerns raised in respect of the easy read version officers assured members that the easy read version had been produced by officers in the council who had undergone easy read training and had been tested by self-advocates.

RESOLVED (Unanimously):

That the Adults and Health Committee:

1. Approve the Cheshire East Place Learning Disabilities Plan
2. Approve the Cheshire East Place Mental Health Plan

The Committee Adjourned for a short break.

35 A REVIEW OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY CONFERENCE INITIATIVES

The Committee received an update in respect of the progress made following the Learning Disabilities Conference which took place in June 2022. The update included the work undertaken to achieve the 3 actions that had come out of the conference that Cheshire East would look at to help people with disabilities live better lives.

- 1) Make things better for people to stay up late.
- 2) Give people more chance to have their say on services and what they want to do.
- 3) Provide better information about services for people with learning disabilities and carers.

The Director of Adult Social Care expressed their disappointment in not being able to move as quickly as they would have liked, specifically in relation to the action in respect of making things better to stay up late. This was due not to the events themselves, but the contracts the Council had with the providers.

The Committee welcomed the update and expressed thanks to officers and Tom, co-chair of the partnership board for all their hard work.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

36 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE DAY OPPORTUNITIES FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM

The Committee received a progress update on the Day Opportunities Flexible Purchasing system which was approved by committee in March 2022.

Members sought assurance that there was monitoring of the provisions which were being offered by providers once they had been commissioned. In response officers confirmed that there was a contract monitoring process in place in which providers had to provide information on an annual basis. Market engagement was undertaken to look at any barriers in developing services in particular areas, and any gaps in provision.

It was agreed that a written response would be circulated to members in respect of a question in relation to where the new services were located.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

37 APPOINTMENTS TO SAFER CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP (SCEP)

The Committee considered its appointments to the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP).

The elected members who had been nominated to SCEP were noted as follows:

Councillor M Edwards, Councillor A Moran and Councillor J Pratt.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously) :-

That the Adults and Health Committee

1. Appoint 3 elected Members to the Safer Cheshire East Partnership Board (SCEP).
2. Agree the draft Terms of Reference.
3. Agree that the names of the Members appointed will be submitted to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance.

38 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee queried the use of the term 'Sub-Committee' on the agenda as the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board was a Committee in its own right. It was agreed that in future the word 'Committee' would be used.

RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board be received and noted

39 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the work programme.

It was agreed that an update report on the Domestic Homicide Reviews which had been presented at committee would be added to the work programme for March 2024.

Members requested that prior to the budget being set in February, they were provided with an idea of the impact of the results for the items scheduled for March committee which involved consultation results.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

40 INVESTING IN EXTRA CARE HOUSING

The Committee considered a report which sought an in-principal decision to the provision of capital funding to support the development of Extra Care Housing (ECH). The intention of such provision was to stimulate the market to prioritise the development of the council's model of ECH. It was acknowledged that there was a need for planning and housing officers to work together on the corporate strategy to deliver this as a priority.

Members were supportive of the strategy in principal but emphasised the need for different committees to work together, having joint meetings, and sharing strategic and policy objectives.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the Adults and Health Committee approve in principle the use of capital funding and revenue measures to support the development of Extra Care Housing.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.10 pm

Councillor J Rhodes (Chair)

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OPEN

Adults and Health Committee

Monday 22 January 2024

Third Financial Review 2023/24

Report of: Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services (s151 Officer)

Report Reference No: AH/13/2023-24

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides Members with the third review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24. Members are being asked to consider the serious financial challenges being experienced by the Council (and other councils) and to recognise the important activities aimed at minimising the impact on services.
- 2 Members of the Committee are being asked to consider the financial performance of the Services relevant to their terms of reference.

Executive Summary

- 3 The Council operates a financial cycle of planning, monitoring and reporting. This review is part of the monitoring cycle and provides a forecast outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year. The information in this report also supports planning for next year's budget. This report supports the Council priority of being an open and enabling organisation, ensuring that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making.
- 4 The full report was received by Finance Sub Committee on 11 January 2024. Service Committees will receive the sections relevant to their committee (see Appendices).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adults and Health Committee:

1. Consider the report of the Finance Sub Committee: [Finance Sub Committee, 11th January, 2024](#)
2. Consider the factors leading to a forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £5.0m against a revised budget of £136.5m (3.7%), for Adults and Health Committee services.
3. Consider the forecast and further mitigations needing to be identified, aimed at bringing spending back in line with budget.
4. Consider the in-year forecast Capital Spending of £0.02m against an approved MTFs budget of £0.47m, due to slippage that has been re-profiled into future years, in respect of Adults and Health Committee projects.
5. Scrutinise the contents of Annex 1 and Appendix 2 and note that any financial mitigation decisions requiring approval will be made in line with relevant delegations.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 5 Committees are responsible for discharging the Council's functions within the Budget and Policy Framework provided by Council. The Budget will be aligned with Committee and Head of Service responsibilities as far as possible.
- 6 Budget holders are expected to manage within the budgets provided by full Council. Committee and Sub-Committees are responsible for monitoring financial control and making decisions as required by these rules.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services (s151 Officer) alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk Paul Goodwin, Head of Finance & Deputy Chief Finance Officer paul.goodwin@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	1 Third Financial Review 2023/24 2 Annex 1 – Third Financial Review 2023/24
Background Papers:	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 First Financial Review 2023/24 Second Financial Review 2023/24 Third Financial Review 2023/24

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Finance Sub Committee

11 January 2024

Third Financial Review 2023/24

Report of: Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Reference No: FSC/29/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides Members with the third review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24. Members are being asked to consider the serious financial challenges being experienced by the Council (and other councils) and to recognise the important activities aimed at minimising the impact on services.
- 2 The report highlights the ongoing negative impact of high inflation, rising interest rates and increasing demand for services since the Council set its budget in February 2023. Annex 1 of the report highlights in detail what the Council is forecasting to achieve as part of the 2023/24 budget. Tables include updates to items identified in the MTFS plus further items identified in-year.
- 3 Reporting the financial forecast outturn supports the Council's vision to be an open Council as set out in the Corporate Plan 2021 to 2025. In particular, the priorities for an open and enabling organisation, ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making.
- 4 The report also requests Member approval for amendments to the Council's budget in-line with authorisation levels within the Constitution.

Executive Summary

- 5 The Council operates a financial cycle of planning, monitoring and reporting. This review is part of the monitoring cycle and provides a forecast outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year. The information

in this report also supports planning for next year's budget. This report supports the Council priority of being an open and enabling organisation, ensuring that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making.

- 6 The Council set its 2023/24 annual budget in February 2023. The budget was balanced, as required by statute, and included important assumptions about spending in the year. The budget is part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023 to 2027.
- 7 The MTFS for 2023/24 included £70m of service growth and £42m of service savings. The equivalent figures for 2022/23 were £21m of growth and £7m of savings. This highlights the challenge of delivering the 2023/24 budget even before the impact of increased demand, prevailing high inflation and rising interest rates.
- 8 Prices, and demand, for services to support children and adults that require Council services continue to rise, reflecting complexity of care needs and market conditions.
- 9 The third financial review of 2023/24 is forecasting a pressure of £13.0m by 31 March 2024, an improvement of £5.7m compared to second financial review.
- 10 Improvements since second financial review include:
 - (a) Increased use of flexible capital receipts.
 - (b) Increased income.
 - (c) Holding vacant posts.
 - (d) Reducing non-essential spend.
- 11 As the Council continues to monitor the position closely, the aim is to reduce the financial pressure to Nil in 2023/24. This will ensure that the Council's reserves will be protected for future years.
- 12 The Council's General Fund Reserve balance is currently at £14.1m. A forecast outturn of £13.0m deficit would nearly eradicate the Council's remaining General Fund Reserve balance, severely reducing the ability of the Council to produce a balanced MTFS for the next financial year(s). There is also limited scope in the Council's other earmarked reserves to help mitigate the current forecast pressure as they have been set aside for specific purposes such as: funding the capital programme, future changes in funding Local Authorities by central government, and Insurance claims.
- 13 The Reserves balances are still lower than the Council would like, so the Council will be looking at opportunities to increase the General Fund Reserve, or to not draw down on an earmarked reserve where that is

possible, to ensure the Council has a robust level of reserves moving forward and is financially resilient.

- 14 In October 2023, the Cheshire East Budget Response Team (CEBERT) was set up to lead on coordinating this work across the organisation. Weekly meetings are chaired by the Chief Executive with updates relating to the workstreams identified in the review. These workstreams include Establishment Management, Spending Control Panel, Pricing Strategies and Capital Spending. The impact of this work, as well as focused activity on services within each committee is reflected in Annex 1. The Chief Executive has arranged for frequent Member updates on progress.
- 15 The financial pressures being experienced by Cheshire East Council are not unique. A recent [Local Government Association \(LGA\) Survey](#) reported that almost one in five council leaders and chief executives in England surveyed think it is very or fairly likely that their chief finance officer will need to issue a Section 114 notice this year or next due to a lack of funding to keep key services running. The LGA estimates that councils in England face a £4 billion funding gap over the next two years just to keep services standing still.
- 16 The LGA survey of council leaders and chief executives also reported:
 - (a) Half are not confident they will have enough funding to fulfil their legal duties next year (2024/25). This includes the delivery of statutory services.
 - (b) Nearly two thirds of council leaders and chief executives said there were no announcements in the Autumn Statement that they thought would help them deal with their council's financial position.
- 17 The LGA said the circumstances that have led to a Section 114 notice so far have been unique to each local area and the pressures they face. However, all those that have had to curb spending in this way have faced the same underlying pressures - councils' core spending power falling by 27 per cent in real terms from 2010/11 to 2023/24, the impact of the pandemic, rising demand for services, in particular statutory services like social care and homelessness support, and the extra costs to provide them.
- 18 The UK Parliament's Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee opened up a new inquiry [Financial distress in local authorities](#) in early November 2023 to "examine the current landscape of financial resilience in local authorities in England, what lessons can be learned from the recent issuers of section 114 notices, and how the various responsible bodies are fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure effective and sustainable local government". The Committee has

considered oral and written evidence on the subject over various hearings in November/December 2023. It is usual for a report to be published following such an inquiry.

- 19 Local authorities that have committed, or are likely to commit to, financial activities beyond their legal means must issue a s.114 notice. This has already happened for various reasons at eight local authorities to date (Birmingham, Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Northumberland, Croydon, Woking, Thurrock, and Slough). The pressures quoted in these councils are between £35m and £1.5bn.
- 20 Please see Financial Implications section for risks and consequences relating to a s.114 notice.
- 21 Press articles continue to report that more councils are concerned about further s.114 notices being issued. Further Councils identified since [Second Financial Review](#) include Dudley, Hampshire and Windsor and Maidenhead. The pressures quoted in these councils reported range from £8.5m to £47m.
- 22 Local authorities, including Cheshire East Council, therefore continue to liaise with Government departments over the severity of so many emerging financial issues. The Council achieves this liaison either directly or through professional or political networks. The focus of this lobbying for Cheshire East Council is on the following important local issues:
 - (a) High needs / special educational needs deficit.
 - (b) Capital Funding and HS2.
 - (c) Children's Services.
 - (d) Local Government Settlement.
- 23 **Annex 1: Third Financial Review 2023/24**
- 24 **Financial Stability:** Provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. It demonstrates how spending in 2023/24 is being funded, including the positions on overall service budgets, centrally held budgets, council tax and business rates. Further details are contained in the appendices.
- 25 **Appendices:**
 - Appendix 1** Adults and Health Committee.
 - Appendix 2** Children and Families Committee.
 - Appendix 3** Corporate Policy Committee.
 - Appendix 4** Economy and Growth Committee.

Appendix 5 Environment and Communities Committee.

Appendix 6 Highways and Transport Committee.

Appendix 7 Finance Sub-Committee.

Appendix 7a Update to the Treasury Management Strategy.

Appendix 7b Update to the Investment Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Finance Sub Committee:

1. Consider the factors leading to a forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £13.0m against a revised budget of £353.1m (3.7%).
2. Consider the forecast and further mitigations needing to be identified, aimed at bringing spending back in-line with budget.
3. Consider the in-year forecast Capital Spending of £171.1m against an approved MTFS budget of £214.7m, due to slippage that has been re-profiled into future years.
4. Scrutinise the contents of Annex 1 and each of the appendices and note that any financial mitigation decisions requiring approval will be made in-line with relevant delegations.
5. Approve fully funded supplementary revenue estimates over £500,000 up to £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Appendix 2 Children and Families Committee, Section 2 Corporate Grants Register, Table 3.**
6. Approve fully funded supplementary revenue estimates over £500,000 up to £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Appendix 5 Environment and Communities Committee, Section 2 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2.**
7. As recommended by the Economy and Growth Committee on the 12th September 2023, approve a virement of £6.8m from the North Cheshire Garden Village project to create a separate project for the S106 Development obligations that is required by the Local Planning Authority to fund the initial infrastructure works on the site. As detailed in **Appendix 7 Finance Sub Committee, Section 5 Capital Strategy, Table 5.**

Background

- 26 Managing performance is essential to the achievement of outcomes. This is especially important in evidencing the achievement of value for money across an organisation the size of Cheshire East Council. The Council is the third largest local authority in the Northwest of England, responsible for approximately 500 services, supporting over 398,000 local people. Gross annual spending is over £750m, with a revised net revenue budget for 2023/24 of £353.1m.
- 27 The management structure of the Council is organised into four directorates: Adults, Health and Integration; Children's Services; Place; and Corporate Services. The Council's reporting structure provides forecasts of a potential year-end outturn within each directorate during the year, as well as highlighting activity carried out in support of each outcome contained within the Corporate Plan.
- 28 The political structure of the Council is organised into six committees, with a single sub-committee, all with financial responsibilities acutely aligned to the management structure. Performance against the 2023/24 Budget within each Committee, and the sub-committee, is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Revenue Outturn Forecast split by the Six Service Committees and the Finance Sub-Committee

2023/24	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance FR3	Forecast Variance FR2	Movement from FR2 to FR3
	(NET)				
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Committee					
Adults and Health	136.5	141.5	5.0	4.7	0.3
Children and Families	80.3	90.3	10.0	10.8	(0.8)
Corporate Policy	41.7	40.7	(1.0)	(0.5)	(0.5)
Economy and Growth	24.8	22.0	(2.8)	(1.9)	(0.9)
Environment and Communities	48.7	51.8	3.1	3.5	(0.4)
Highways and Transport	11.2	11.0	(0.2)	1.2	(1.4)
Sub-Committee					
Finance Sub	(343.2)	(344.3)	(1.1)	0.9	(2.0)
TOTAL	-	13.0	13.0	18.7	(5.7)

National Key issues causing the pressures

- 29 The national economic position of the UK has seen prevailing high inflation. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast, in March 2023, that inflation should reduce to 2.9% by quarter 4 of 2023.

However, that forecast has been updated (in November 2023) to 4.8%. The Council is affected by inflation in wages (for Council staff and staff of contracted services), utilities and fuel. But the Council cannot inflate in-year income from Council Tax, Business Rates or Government Grants. The forecast impact of additional pay inflation above the estimates in February is £2.8m.

- 30 The national economic position of the UK is seeing increasing interest rates. In January 2023, when the current MTFS was drafted, interest rates were at 3.5%. Current interest rates are 5.25%. The Council has loans of £303m, mainly acquired to support important Highway and Regeneration schemes, and is therefore exposed to financial pressure from increasing borrowing costs. The Council is receiving more money from investments, but this does not offer adequate compensation. Interest rates are forecast to reduce once inflation is controlled which means a shift to long-term borrowing at this point is not a favourable option.
- 31 In November 2023, the Chancellor presented the Autumn Statement. There were no direct announcements on funding for Local Government that changed the announcements already made. The Chancellor will use the new powers to de-couple the business rates multipliers, to freeze the small business rating multiplier, and to index the standard multiplier. This will complicate the settlement, but it will not significantly affect the funding that is received by local authorities.
- 32 Details of the funding allocations for each local authority will be confirmed at the provisional settlement due w/c 18th December 2023 but will mainly focus on allocations for 2024/25. Council tax referendum limits were confirmed as part of the Policy Statement 2024/25 made on 5th December. Limits for “core” Band D council tax have been set once again at 2.99% for base increases, plus 2% ringfenced for Adult Social Care. The Policy Statement also confirmed the continuation of the New Homes Bonus grant for another year, again, attracting no legacy payments.
- 33 Demand for public services, particularly those that are required to support the health and wellbeing of local residents, has increased since the pandemic. Temporary grants associated with the pandemic have ended though. The Council is experiencing demand for care for more individuals, which is driving up costs, as well as experiencing more complex demand that requires more hours of support in each case.

Consultation and Engagement

- 34 As part of the budget setting process the Pre-Budget Consultation provided an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on

the Council's Budget proposals. The budget proposals described in the consultation document were Council-wide proposals and that consultation was invited on the broad budget proposals. Where the implications of individual proposals were much wider for individuals affected by each proposal, further full and proper consultation was undertaken with people who would potentially be affected by individual budget proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 35 The overall process for managing the Council's resources focuses on value for money, good governance and stewardship. The approach to these responsibilities is captured in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 36 The budget and policy framework sets out rules for managing the Council's financial affairs and contains the financial limits that apply in various parts of the Constitution. As part of sound financial management and to comply with the Constitution any changes to the budgets agreed by Council in the MTFs require approval in-line with the financial limits within the Finance Procedure Rules.
- 37 This report provides strong links between the Council's statutory reporting requirements and the in-year monitoring processes for financial and non-financial management of resources.
- 38 In approving the Cheshire East Council Medium-Term Financial Strategy Members of the Council had regard to the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as reported by the s.151 Officer. The s.151 Officer's report highlighted the importance of each element of the MTFs and the requirement to achieve all the proposals within it. The recommendations of this report highlight the need for ongoing activity to manage the financial pressure being experienced by the Council.

Other Options Considered

- 39 None. This report is important to ensure Members of the Committee are sighted on the financial pressure the Council is facing and the activity to date to try and mitigate this issue. Activity is required to ensure the Council balances its expenditure and income without serious impact on essential Council services.
- 40 Do nothing. Impact – Members are not updated on the financial position of the Council. Risks – Not abiding by the Constitution to provide regular reports.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 41 The legal implications surrounding the process of setting the 2023 to 2027 Medium-Term Financial Strategy were dealt with in the reports relating to that process. The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report for 2023/24. Implications arising from individual proposals regarding service growth and savings have and will continue to be the subject of ongoing advice and support.
- 42 Implications arising directly from this report relating to the internal processes of approving supplementary estimates and virements referred to are governed by the Constitution and in particular the Finance Procedure Rules.
- 43 In relation to the proposed review to ensure that all available resources are directed towards the delivery of statutory functions, savings and efficiency plans, it should be noted that local authorities are creatures of statute. They are created by statute and are regulated through the legislative regime and whilst they have in more recent times been given a general power of competence, this must operate within that regime. Within the statutory framework there are specific obligations placed upon a local authority to support communities. These duties encompass general and specific duties and there is often significant local discretion in respect of how those services or duties are discharged. These will need to be assessed and advised on as each circumstance is considered.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 44 The Council's financial resources are agreed by Council and aligned to the achievement of stated outcomes for local residents and communities. Monitoring and managing performance helps to ensure that resources are used effectively, and that business planning and financial decision making are made in the right context.
- 45 Reserve levels are agreed, by Council, in February each year and are based on a risk assessment that considers the financial challenges facing the Council. If spending associated with in-year delivery of services is not contained within original forecasts for such activity it may be necessary to vire funds from reserves.
- 46 The unplanned use of financial reserves could require the Council to deliver a greater level of future savings to replenish reserve balances and/ or revise the level of risks associated with the development of the Reserves Strategy in future.

- 47 As part of the process to produce this report, senior officers review expenditure and income across all services to support the development of mitigation plans that will return the outturn to a balanced position at year-end.
- 48 Forecasts contained within this review provide important information in the process of developing the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Analysis of variances during the year will identify whether such performance is likely to continue, and this enables more robust estimates to be established.
- 49 The risk associated with the scale of these challenges is that the Council could act illegally, triggering the requirement for a s.114 report from the Chief Financial Officer. Illegal behaviour in this context could materialise from two distinct sources:
- i) Spending decisions could be made that exceed the available resources of the Council. This would unbalance the budget, which is unlawful.
 - ii) Spending decisions to restrict or hide pressures could be made that avoid an immediate deficit, but in fact are based on unlawful activity.
- 50 The consequences of the Council undermining a budget with illegal activity, or planned illegal activity, is the requirement to issue a s.114 report. Under these circumstances statutory services will continue and existing contracts and commitments must be honoured. But any spending that is not essential or which can be postponed must not take place.
- 51 Further consequences would be highly likely and could include the appointment of Commissioners from the DLUHC, and potential restrictions on the decision-making powers of local leaders.

Policy

- 52 This report is a backward look at Council activities and predicts the year-end position. It supports the Corporate Plan aim Open and priority to be an open and enabling organisation.
- 53 The forecast outturn position, ongoing considerations for future years, and the impact on general reserves will be fed into the assumptions underpinning the 2024 to 2028 Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 54 The approval of supplementary estimates and virements are governed by the Finance Procedure Rules section of the Constitution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 55 Any equality implications that arise from activities funded by the budgets that this report deals with will be dealt within the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records to which they relate.

Human Resources

- 56 This report is a backward look at Council activities at outturn and states the year end position. Any HR implications that arise from activities funded by the budgets that this report deals with will be dealt within the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records to which they relate.

Risk Management

- 57 Financial risks are assessed and reported on a regular basis, and remedial action taken if required. Risks associated with the achievement of the 2022/23 budget and the level of general reserves were factored into the 2023/24 financial scenario, budget, and reserves strategy.

Rural Communities

- 58 The report provides details of service provision across the borough.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 59 The report provides details of service provision across the borough and notes the pressure on Children in Care.

Public Health

- 60 This report is a backward look at Council activities at the third review and provides the forecast year end position. Any public health implications that arise from activities funded by the budgets that this report deals with will be dealt within the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records to which they relate.

Climate Change

- 61 There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	<p>Alex Thompson</p> <p>Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p>alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>01270 685876</p>
Appendices:	<p>Annex 1 including:</p> <p>Section 1 provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. Further details are contained in the appendices.</p> <p>Appendix 1 Adults and Health Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 2 Children and Families Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 3 Corporate Policy Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 4 Economy and Growth Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 5 Environment and Communities Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 6 Highways and Transport Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 7 Finance Sub-Committee.</p> <p>Appendix 7a Update to the Treasury Management Strategy.</p> <p>Appendix 7b Update to the Investment Strategy.</p>
Background Papers:	<p>The following are links to key background documents:</p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2027</p> <p>First Financial Review</p> <p>Second Financial Review</p>



Third Financial Review 2023/24

January 2024

This report receives scrutiny and approval from Members of Cheshire East Council. As a public report, the Council welcomes feedback to the information contained here.

Anyone wanting to comment is invited to contact the Council at:

RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Introduction

Cheshire East Council is the third largest Council in the Northwest of England, supporting over 398,000 local people with annual spending of over £750m.

Local government is going through a period of financial challenges, with a combination of the impact of increasing demand for services and rising costs due to inflation and interest rates. There is also increasing uncertainty associated with income from business rates and government grants.

Demand for Council services is increasing, with more individuals and families needing support and services than ever before. This reflects an increase in population but also reflects changes in demographics and the national cost of living increases. This demand is resulting in a forecast outturn of £13.0m against a net revenue budget of £353.1m. The most significant impact is within the rising costs of Children's Social Care. Further activity is required to identify other mitigating measures.

When the 2023/24 budget was set, in February 2023, it was highlighted that the use of reserves was not sustainable in the medium term. Net spending therefore needs to be contained within the estimates of expenditure that form the budget. The forecasts at first review highlight pressures due to demand, inflation, interest rates and pay negotiations. These will almost certainly affect the medium term finances of the Council. This situation must be addressed now and as part of the MTFS process for 2024 to 2028.

To support openness and transparency, and provide evidence of strong governance, the report has a main section, to provide background and context, and then nine supporting appendices with

detailed information about allocation and management of public money during 2023/24.

The **Financial Stability** section provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. It demonstrates how spending in 2023/24 is being funded, including the positions on overall service budgets, centrally held budgets, Council Tax and Business Rates. Further details are contained in the appendices.

- **Appendix 1** Adults and Health Committee.
- **Appendix 2** Children and Families Committee.
- **Appendix 3** Corporate Policy Committee.
- **Appendix 4** Economy and Growth Committee.
- **Appendix 5** Environment and Communities Committee.
- **Appendix 6** Highways and Transport Committee.
- **Appendix 7** Finance Sub-Committee.
- **Appendix 7a** Update to the Treasury Management Strategy.
- **Appendix 7b** Update to the Investment Strategy.

Alex Thompson

Director of Finance and Customer Services
(Section 151 Officer)

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2023/24 Outturn Forecast - Financial Position

2023/24	Revised Budget (NET) £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Forecast Variance £m	For further information please see the following sections
SERVICE DIRECTORATES				
Adults, Health and Integration	136.5	141.5	5.0	Appendix 1
Children's Services	80.3	90.3	10.0	Appendix 2
Place - Directorate/Growth & Enterprise	24.8	22.0	(2.8)	Appendix 4
Place - Environment & Neighbourhood Services	48.7	51.8	3.1	Appendix 5
Place - Highways & Infrastructure	11.2	11.0	(0.2)	Appendix 6
Corporate Services	41.7	40.7	(1.0)	Appendix 3
Total Services Net Expenditure	343.2	357.3	14.1	
CENTRAL BUDGETS				
Capital Financing	19.0	19.0	-	Appendix 7 Section 5
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(7.4)	(7.4)	-	Appendix 7 Section 6
Transfer from MTFs Earmarked Reserve	-	-	-	Appendix 7 Section 6
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	(1.7)	(2.8)	(1.1)	Appendix 7
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	353.1	366.1	13.0	
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(55.3)	(55.3)	-	Appendix 7 Section 2
Specific Grants	(26.8)	(26.8)	-	Appendix 7 Section 3
Council Tax	(271.1)	(271.1)	-	Appendix 7 Section 2
Net Funding	(353.1)	(353.1)	-	
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	-	13.0	13.0	

Financial Stability

Introduction

- The Council has a track record of sound financial management. Nevertheless, in common with all UK local authorities the Council finds itself in a position where pressures on the revenue budget are intensifying as a result of inflation, the legacy impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on people and on the economy and increasing cost of living pressure on households. These issues have the effect of increasing the demand for services and increasing costs of services.
- Complexity and market sustainability in Adults' and Children's Social Care remains the most significant financial pressure for the Council in the medium term. The affects of inflation on contracts, utilities and wage levels are affecting costs across all services.
- Table 1** provides a service summary of financial performance. The current forecast is that services will be £14.1m over budget in the current year which includes mitigating actions identified to date. The 2023/24 Approved Budget Policy Changes and Forecast Variances provide further details and changes to service net budgets since the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Section 2 in the **Appendices 1-6**).
- It also shows that central budgets are forecast to be £1.1m below budget resulting in an overall forecast outturn of £13.0m against a net revenue budget of £353.1m.
- Further items impacting on the level of the Council's balances are detailed in **Appendix 7**.

Table 1 - Service Revenue Outturn Forecasts

2023/24	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance FR1	Movement from FR2 to FR3
	(NET)				
	£m	£m	£m	£000	£000
SERVICE DIRECTORATES					
Adult Social Care - Operations	137.9	142.9	4.9	4.7	0.3
Commissioning	(1.4)	(1.4)	0.1	0.1	0.0
Public Health	-	-	-	-	-
Adults and Health Committee	136.5	141.5	5.0	4.7	0.3
Directorate	0.7	0.5	(0.2)	0.1	(0.3)
Children's Social Care	49.0	58.1	9.2	9.4	(0.3)
Strong Start, Family Help and Integration	7.4	6.4	(1.0)	(0.6)	(0.4)
Education & 14-19 Skills	23.2	25.2	2.0	1.8	0.2
Children and Families Committee	80.3	90.3	10.0	10.8	(0.8)
Directorate	0.3	0.1	(0.2)	(0.2)	-
Growth & Enterprise	24.5	21.9	(2.6)	(1.7)	(0.9)
Economy and Growth Committee	24.8	22.0	(2.8)	(1.9)	(0.9)
Environment & Neighbourhood Services	48.7	51.8	3.1	3.5	(0.4)
Environment and Communities Committee	48.7	51.8	3.1	3.5	(0.4)
Highways & Infrastructure	11.2	11.0	(0.2)	1.2	(1.3)
Highways and Transport Committee	11.2	11.0	(0.2)	1.2	(1.3)
Directorate	0.6	0.3	(0.26)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Finance & Customer Services	13.3	13.1	(0.19)	0.2	(0.3)
Governance & Compliance Services	10.8	10.4	(0.37)	(0.4)	0.1
Communications	0.7	0.7	0.01	0.0	0.0
HR	2.6	2.2	(0.35)	(0.2)	(0.1)
ICT	11.8	12.1	0.28	0.4	(0.1)
Policy & Change	2.0	1.9	(0.08)	(0.3)	0.2
Corporate Policy Committee	41.7	40.7	(1.0)	(0.5)	(0.5)
TOTAL SERVICES NET EXPENDITURE	343.2	357.3	14.1	17.8	(3.6)
CENTRAL BUDGETS					
Capital Financing	19.0	19.0	-	0.4	(0.4)
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(7.4)	(7.4)	-	-	-
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	(1.7)	(2.8)	(1.1)	0.5	(1.6)
Finance Sub-Committee - Central Budgets	9.9	8.8	(1.1)	0.9	(2.0)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	353.1	366.1	13.0	18.7	(5.7)
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(55.3)	(55.3)	-	-	-
Specific Grants	(26.8)	(26.8)	-	-	-
Council Tax	(271.1)	(271.1)	-	-	-
Finance Sub-Committee - Net Funding	(353.1)	(353.1)	-	-	-
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	-	13.0	13.0	18.7	(5.7)
General Reserves Balance 2023/24 Budget					
	£m				
Opening Balance April 2023	14.1	Actual			
2023/24 Impact on Reserves (see above)	(13.0)	Forecast			
Closing Balance March 2024	1.1	Forecast			

Appendices to Third Financial Review 2023/24

January 2024

Appendix 1: Adults and Health Committee

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1. Changes to Revenue Budget 2023/24 since Second Financial Review
2. 2023/24 Approved Budget Policy Changes and Forecast Variances
3. Corporate Grants Register
 - Table 1: Adults and Health Committee Grants
 - Table 2: Delegated Decision Additional Grant Funding (Specific Purpose) £500,000 or less
4. Debt Management
5. Capital Strategy
6. Reserves Strategy

Appendix 1

Adults and Health Committee

1. Changes to Revenue Budget 2023/24 since Second Financial Review

	Second Review Revised Net Budget	Adjustments to FR2 Budget	Third Review Revised Net Budget	Unringfenced Grants to be Actioned
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adults				
Adult Social Care Operations	137,923	-	137,923	-
Commissioning	(1,433)	-	(1,433)	-
Public Health	-	-	-	-
Adults and Health Committee	136,490	-	136,490	-

Note the unringfenced grants to be actioned column includes the expenditure part of centrally held unringfenced grants. These budget adjustments will take place once all third financial review approvals have been given.

Adults and Health Committee

2. 2023/24 Approved Budget Policy Changes and Forecast Variances

Forecast Outturn Commentary:

The cost and demand pressures that drove the deficit in adult social care and health services in 2022/23 continue, locally and nationally, and this is reflected in the forecast outturn at the end of quarter 3 for 2023/24, with the forecast pressure of £5.0m split between commissioning costs and staffing costs.

The budget strategy set out several critical actions to bring down the underlying budget pressures. These included:

- A reduction in the use of short-term residential and nursing placements – all the additional beds that were in use during 2022/23 have now been closed. Several people have converted to long-term residential or nursing placements and this is reflected in the above average number of placements. This was not unexpected.
- Investment in domiciliary care – this has generated an increase in the number of available domiciliary care hours, and we have seen an increase in the number of people supported to live at home. We are monitoring activity closely to ensure that our plan to increase domiciliary care so that we can reduce our reliance on residential and nursing care is being achieved.
- Capping price increases – we continue to see demands for price increases on residential, nursing, and complex care beyond that which we set out in our plan. We are investing in a pricing tool that allows us to scrutinise provider costs to ensure that they are in-line with expectations and the level of service commissioned and it is our expectation that this will assist in ensuring prices stay in-line with expectations.

Unusually this year internal staffing costs are forecast to rise above budgeted levels for two reasons, the pay award for Council staff is above that which was budgeted and will have a disproportionately higher impact in adult social care because we employ more staff on lower grades. We have also seen an increase in agency costs for social care staff because of the shortage nationally of qualified staff. Our internal programme to support the qualification of social workers and occupational therapists is successful but cannot close this gap quickly. We are reviewing our current usage of agency staff to identify how we can bring this expenditure down in-year. A number of agency staff have left the organisation and we have seen a reduction in the actual weekly expenditure on staffing and forecast expenditure, however in doing this it is recognised that we are carrying additional assessment risk and delays in assessments have already been noted.

The budget variance for Adult Social Care has worsened since FR2 by £300,000. The main reason continues to be persistent supply-side pressure within the external care market. The impact of inflation on the unit cost of residential and nursing care has exceeded previous expectations.

The Community Care Board has had some success in identifying avoidable expenditure including that incurred in facilitating hospital discharge and we have identified individuals where we are requesting enhanced top-ups to residential and nursing care. We have also started to set the criteria for use of Care Cubed and its use in supporting price negotiations with providers where we continue to see growth.

Client contributions remain buoyant alleviating some of the un-forecasted growth; however, the value of client contributions remain in-line with existing proportions of gross expenditure and so do not reduce the net overall movement.

The Market Sustainability Funding announced in July is assumed to be fully utilised in-year. It has helped to mitigate the growth in external care by £2.2m.

However, the budget outturn for Adult Social Care remains under extreme pressure. We have seen a significant increase in demand this month, particularly in respect of working age adults and young adults transitioning from children’s services. The position reported for FR3 is dependent upon the successful delivery of on-going mitigations.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Service Budget Changes	2023/24 £m	2023/24 Variance £m	Commentary
	Adults and Health Committee	15.274		
1	Demand in Adult Social Care - unit cost inflation	12.652	0.000	Care budget growth in-line with forecasts at year end 2022/23. This has taken affect with an uplift to the external care budget in 2023/24.
2	Demand in Adult Social Care - complexity	10.351	0.000	Care budget growth in-line with forecasts at year end 2022/23. This has taken affect with an uplift to the external care budget in 2023/24.
3	Investment in Adult Social Care	5.400	5.873	Emerging pressure on care costs. Demand remains strong, providers continue to seek price increases. The impact on both the council and the Integrated Care Board of closing short term beds (item 8) is currently being worked through.

4	Pay inflation	3.155	0.778	The total cost of pay inflation will exceed 5% based on national pay negotiations. This may be mitigated through management of vacancies.
5	Care Fee Uplifts in Adult Social Care	2.000	0.500	Volatility in relation to complex care packages (supported living) is creating risk above the funds provided through the Market Sustainability Plan.
6	Direct Payment (Personal Assistants) Uplift	0.691	0.000	On track. Growth in budget has been applied to the personal assistant budget for direct payments.
7	Revenue grants for Adult Social Care	-3.600	0.000	On track. Technical financial adjustment to the budget. Grants are being received as planned.
8	Home First Strategy - increased care at home capacity	-4.000	0.533	The phased plan of reductions on short term bed is on track. This delivers the £4m targeted reduction annually, but the phasing of delivery means the benefit in 2023/24 will be approximately £3.5m (assuming current commitment remains consistent until year end).
9	Pension Costs Adjustment	-2.082	0.000	On track, subject to ongoing monitoring, dependent on in-year staffing costs.
10	Learning Disabilities Future Service Development and Review	-1.750	0.000	On track. Savings are being independently monitored by senior managers in adults in collaboration with finance.
11	Client contribution yield offsetting growth	-1.200	0.000	On track. The existing fees and charges policy ensures income is appropriately received; this has been verified through a review of income received during first financial review for 2023/24.
12	Home First Strategy - alternative care provisions	-1.000	0.240	Challenges with delivery due to managing increasing general demand alongside the additional reviews required to achieve this saving. Alternative mitigations are being investigated, including working with Impower to review the use of technology enabled care (TEC). £720,000 of the saving is linked to alternative provision from reviews such as TEC which is anticipated to be the two thirds delivered.
13	Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care - Grant Income	-0.979	0.000	On track. Technical financial adjustment to the budget. Grants are being received as planned.

14	Resettlement Revenue Grants	-0.850	0.000	On track. Technical financial adjustment to the budget. Grants are being received as planned.
15	Communities Team	-0.750	0.000	On track. Grant funding relating to this has been received and future grants allocations have been confirmed.
16	Direct Payment - Audit Recoveries	-0.750	0.000	On track. Whilst further work is underway to verify analysis of previous recovery exercise and amounts recovered to date gives reassurance that this will be achieved.
17	ASC Transformation Earmarked Reserve Release	-0.500	0.000	On track. Technical financial adjustment to the budget. The reserve will be drawdown in 2023/24 as planned.
18	Maximisation of Supported Living	-0.369	0.000	On track. Savings are being independently monitored by senior managers in adults in collaboration with finance.
19	Productivity and Efficiency in Adult Social Care	-0.271	0.271	Establishment work underway to quantify any remaining staffing budget pressures. This will involve a review of all existing agency appointments.
20	Building Based Short Breaks	-0.250	0.250	Pending outcome of consultation process. Whilst not expected to be fully achieved in 2023/24, the saving has been fully mitigated elsewhere in the Care4CE service, this has been reflected in the first financial review position.
21	Adults and Health Non-Essential Commissioning/Contracts	-0.245	0.000	On track. Permanent recurrent funding has been identified within the directorate to ensure full delivery.
22	Building Based Day Services	-0.229	0.114	Pending outcome of consultation process. Whilst not expected to be fully achieved in 2023/24, the saving has been fully mitigated elsewhere in the Care4CE service, this has been reflected in the first financial review position.
23	Day Care Review	-0.150	0.000	On track. Savings are being independently monitored by senior managers in adults in collaboration with finance.
New	In-year pressures	0.000	0.560	Balancing variance to capture net pressure on other budget lines. Includes social work operations staffing budget variance (the variance on external care is covered within item 3 & 5).
New	Market Sustainability Grant	0.000	-2.206	Announced in July 2023 - will be applied against growth in care fees during the year.

	TOTAL FORECAST VARIANCE		6.913	
Further Mitigations / Adjustments to FR2	In-year growth to Care Fees		1.000	Estimated impact of price inflation on unit cost of care. Assumes current volume of care and average rate of turnover is maintained. And that new packages of care bought at prices seen since April 2023.
	Staffing Efficiencies		-0.332	Staffing review underway. Estimate assumes a reduction of agency contracts in the service.
	Revenue Grant Maximisation		-0.650	Allocation of revenue grants within ASC re-aligned to stabilise external commissioned care budget.
	Supported Living Risk Share Project		-0.300	Forecasted to yield 100% of targeted saving for the risk-share project with SL provider.
	Impower Transformation		-0.842	Part year forecast saving linked to transformation work.
	Further use of Earmarked Reserves		-0.800	Remaining reserves utilised.
	REVISED FORECAST VARIANCE		4.989	

Adults and Health Committee

3. Corporate Grants Register

- 3.1 Cheshire East Council receives two main types of Government grants; specific purpose grants and general use grants. Specific purpose grants are held within the relevant service with a corresponding expenditure budget. Whereas general use grants are held in central budgets with a corresponding expenditure budget within the allocated service area.
- 3.2 Spending in relation to specific purpose grants must be in line with the purpose for which it is provided.
- 3.3 The decrease in specific purpose grants relates to reductions in Afghan-related grants. However, a number of these are subject to change depending on actual claims submitted
- 3.4 **Table 1** provides a detailed listing of all Adults & Health related grants, their movements between the reporting period and the treatment of the grant.
- 3.5 **Table 2** shows additional specific purpose grant allocations that have been received which are £500,000 or less and are for noting only.

Table 1 – Corporate Grants Register

Grants 2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Forecast Mid-Year	Revised Forecast FR3	Change from Mid-Year Forecast	Treatment of Grant
	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	Notes 2 - 5
ADULTS & HEALTH					
Specific Purpose (Held within Services)					
Additional Better Care (for Adult Social Care)	8,706	8,706	8,706	0	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	979	979	979	0	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund - top-up	2,400	2,418	2,418	0	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund - Workforce Element	0	2,206	2,206	0	
Trailblazer support funding - brought-forward	0	300	300	0	
Discharge Fund	1,200	1,221	1,221	0	
Multiply - Supported Employment	0	536	536	0	
Supported Internship Grant	29	29	29	0	
Asylum Dispersal Scheme	0	482	590	109	SRE
Afghan - Wrap Around support - brought-forward	910	910	672	(238)	
Afghan - Resettlement support - brought-forward	288	288	219	(69)	
Afghan - Flexible Housing Funding	0	426	213	(213)	
Afghan - Integration Support	0	1,231	168	(1,064)	
Afghan - Homelessness Funding	0	128	27	(101)	
Afghan - Homeless Wrap Around Funding	0	306	18	(288)	
Afghan - Caseworker Tariff	0	36	36	(0)	
Homes for Ukraine Scheme - brought-forward	0	2,214	2,214	0	
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	0	236	295	59	SRE
Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits	4,125	4,125	4,125	0	
Journey First and Parents First (originally provided by the European Social Fund but now DWP)	0	350	350	0	
Total Adults & Health - Adult, Health & Integration - Specific Purpose	18,637	27,126	25,321	(1,805)	

Grants 2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Forecast Mid-Year	Revised Forecast FR3	Change from Mid-Year Forecast	Treatment of Grant
	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000	<i>Notes 2 - 5</i>
ADULTS & HEALTH					
Specific Purpose (Held within Services)					
Public Health Grant	17,405	17,972	17,972	0	
COVID-19 COMF & T&T - brought-forward	0	527	527	0	
CHAMPS Health Protection / COVID-19 Recovery Funding	0	27	27	0	
OHID SSMTR Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	353	354	354	0	
North West Probation Service funding for SMS rehabilitative and resettlement interventions	114	114	114	0	
CHAMPS Marmot Place Funding - encourage pregnant women to stop smoking - brought-forward	0	22	22	0	
CHAMPS SMS - inpatient detox	46	46	15	(31)	
Total Adults & Health - Public Health - Specific Purpose	17,918	19,060	19,030	(31)	
General Use (Held Corporately)					
Social Care Support Grant	12,426	12,426	12,426	0	
Local Reform & Community Voices	207	207	207	0	
Social Care in Prisons	73	73	73	0	
War Pension Scheme Disregard	60	60	60	0	
Total Adults & Health - Public Health - General Use	12,766	12,766	12,766	0	
TOTAL ADULTS & HEALTH	49,321	58,952	57,117	(1,835)	

Notes

- 1 The Dedicated Schools Grant, Pupil Premium Grant, Sixth Form Grant and Other School Specific Grant from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) figures are based on actual anticipated allocations. Changes are for in-year increases/decreases to allocations by the DfE and conversions to academy status.
- 2 SRE - Supplementary Revenue Estimate requested by relevant service.
- 3 ODR - Officer Decision Record to approve immediate budget change to relevant service.
- 4 Reserves - transfer to reserves at year end.
- 5 Balances - amount will be included as a variance to budget.

Table 2 – DECISION DELEGATED TO OFFICERS

Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (Specific Purpose) £500,000 or less

Committee	Year	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Adults and Health	2023/24	Asylum Dispersal Scheme (Specific Purpose)	109	Increase on the Financial Review 2 forecast. This grant is from the Home Office (HO). Funding allocated by the Home Office for Cheshire East to support the Asylum Dispersal Scheme.
Adults and Health	2023/24	Homes for Ukraine Scheme (Specific Purpose)	59	Increase on the Financial Review 2 forecast. This grant is from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Funding at a rate of £5,950 per person, to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities.
Total Specific Purpose Allocations less than £500,000			168	

Adults and Health Committee

4. Debt Management

	Outstanding Debt £000			Over 6 months old £000		
	Sep-23	Oct-23	Increase / (Decrease)	Sep-23	Oct-23	Increase / (Decrease)
Adults and Health Committee						
Adults, Public Health and Communities	11,999	12,212	213	7,516	7,709	193

Adults and Health Committee

5. Capital Strategy

Adults & Health								CAPITAL					
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 - 2026/27													
Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Forecast Budget 2023/24 £000	Forecast Budget 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2023-27 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Adults Services													
Electronic Call Monitoring System	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389
People Planner System	94	41	13	40	0	0	53	53	0	0	0	0	53
Replacement Care4CE Devices	93	65	8	20	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	28
Total Committed Schemes	576	106	21	449	0	0	470	81	0	389	0	0	470
Total Adults and Health Schemes	576	106	21	449	0	0	470	81	0	389	0	0	470

Adults and Health Committee

6. Reserves Strategy

Adults and Health Committee

Name of Reserve	Opening Balance 1 April 2023 £000	Forecast Movement in Reserves 2023/24 £000	Forecast Closing Balance 31 March '24 £000	Notes
<u>Adult Social Care Operations</u>				
Adults Directorate	1,020	(1,020)	0	To support a number of widespread projects within the Adults and Health Directorate.
DOL's Assessments	125	(125)	0	Reserve will be exhausted by September 2023, creating an underlying staff budget pressure within the revenue budget.
<u>Adults Social Care Commissioning</u>				
PFI Equalisation - Extra Care Housing	2,795	0	2,795	Surplus grant set aside to meet future payments on existing PFI contract which commenced in January 2009, and the anticipated gap at the end of the agreement.
NHB Community Grants Staffing	132	(132)	0	Initially to support administrative staffing costs in relation to Central Government's New Homes Bonus guidance for community projects. NHB grant scheme has since ended and the reserve no longer required for this use – potential to return to support Council's overall position.
<u>Public Health</u>				
Public Health Reserve	3,010	(827)	2,183	Ring-fenced underspend to be invested in areas to improve performance against key targets. Including the creation of an Innovation Fund to support partners to deliver initiatives that tackle key health issues. Anticipated that the carry forward ringfenced grant will be spent across 2022/23 to 2026/27.
ADULTS AND HEALTH TOTAL	7,082	(2,104)	4,978	

OPEN

BRIEFING REPORT

Adults Health and Integration Committee

22nd January 2024

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 - 2023

**Report of: Helen Charlesworth May – Executive Director, Adults,
Health and Integration**

Report Reference No: AH/30/2023-24

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty to produce and publish an Annual Report under the Care Act 2014. The purpose of SAB Annual Report is to demonstrate how well statutory and voluntary organisations have worked together to protect Adults at Risk from abuse, harm, and exploitation. This briefing report serves to highlight key information, but respectfully requests the reader to view the full Safeguarding Adults Board Report for 2022- 2023.
- 2 One of the key ambitions of the Council is to be an organisation that cares about and empowers people. In a similar way the Safeguarding Adults Boards functions and activities mirror the Councils priorities and are based on the principles of Empowerment, Prevention, Protection, Partnership, Proportionality and Accountability.
- 3 Whilst the Safeguarding Annual Report evidences the work of organisations, it should be remembered that behind every statistic lies a unique safeguarding concern, and an individual adult at risk who has been affected by abuse or neglect. Therefore, the Annual Report is a reminder that Safeguarding is Everyone's Business, and that everyone has a part to play to keep individuals and families safe, and to build resilience in our communities.

Executive Summary

- 4 The Safeguarding Annual Report describes the role, structure, and governance of the Safeguarding Board. In 2022 we were pleased to welcome Kevin Bennett as the Independent Chair and Kevin has provided excellent leadership during the last 12 months. The 3-year strategy was also updated this year and reflects the vision, aims and objectives for the Board going forward from 2022 to 2025 respectively.
- 5 All Partners were asked to complete a Single Agency Report to provide assurance to the Board about how they are upholding Safeguarding activity in their own organisations and implementing learning from local and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews. The Single Agency Reports have been collated and reflected in the Safeguarding Boards Annual Report too.
- 6 The Annual Report provides insight into Safeguarding Data, but also how each Board Meeting focusses on a relevant theme. During 2022, many organisations were still recovering from the impact of COVID, and the Annual Report includes how the Board focussed on the impact of COVID on Safeguarding, how organisations supported refugees coming to live in Cheshire East, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and how people are being kept safe despite the ongoing health and social care pressures across the system.
- 7 The Annual Report highlights the importance of Learning, Development and Training. During 2022, in collaboration with the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, we have extended safeguarding training to taxi drivers operating in Cheshire East, provided enhanced safeguarding training to Care Home Managers completing investigations and worked with Domestic Abuse Services to provide bespoke training to cover Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse. The Board also facilitated daily events during Adult Safeguarding Week in November 2022.
- 8 Finally, the Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory function to commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews, when an adult at risk, has died because of abuse or neglect and there is an opportunity to see how agencies could work in a better way together. The SAR relating to JANE is contained within this Annual Report and can also be viewed on the Safeguarding Adults Board Website: www.stopadultabuse.org

Background

- 9 Section 43 of the Care Act 2014 requires every Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board. The SAB operates at a strategic

level, helping and protecting adults in its area from abuse and neglect through coordinating and reviewing a multi-agency approach across all member organisations.

- 10 The purpose of the Board is PREVENTATIVE in contributing to the development of safe cultures, systems, and process; is REACTIVE, in facilitating Safeguarding Adult Reviews; is DEVELOPMENTAL in sharing learning from SARs and national initiatives and is COLLABORATIVE by adopting a whole-systems approach to safeguarding, providing leadership and coordination.
- 11 In its work the Board must: Follow legislation and associated statutory guidance, work in partnership to improve wellbeing and safety of adults at risk, champion the safeguarding agenda across the Borough, participate in national developments and best practice, develop a local strategy, commission safeguarding adults' reviews, and embed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal.
- 12 The Safeguarding Board recognises that it is accountable to the residents of Cheshire East, and it is important that Members are provided with an Annual Report to evidence how the functions are being implemented. Equally the Board played a key role in the Peer Challenge Event in March 2023, and is preparing for the Care Quality Commission Inspection.

Briefing Information

- 13 In the 2021 – 2022 Safeguarding Annual Report the number of Safeguarding Concerns submitted to Adult Social Care was 5039. In 2022- 2023 this number increased to 5475. Although not every safeguarding concern is progressed to a Section 42 Enquiry, it should be noted the significant increase since before COVID. This is a national trend. Most safeguarding concerns are submitted by Care Providers, followed by the Police and external professionals. The most prevalent type of abuse remains as Neglect or Act of Omission, Physical Abuse and Emotional/psychological abuse.
- 14 It should be noted that the Local Authority is the Lead Agency in instigating Section 42 Enquiries. The purpose of a Section 42 Enquiry is to understand the circumstances around the incident of abuse and to highlight and implement learning.
- 15 As the Safeguarding Board have commissioned several statutory and discretionary safeguarding reviews, several key themes are emerging. The national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews also highlights emerging issues, which include the importance of Information Sharing,

Multi Agency Working, Professional Curiosity, legal literacy, trauma informed practice and recognising and responding to Carer Stress.

- 16 The Safeguarding Board has an overarching Action Plan in response to the recommendations from local SARs and individual partner agencies are responsible for sharing the learning within their own organisations. Tools and resources have been provided by the Safeguarding Board to assist in these areas. For example, Adult Social Care have used Bimonthly Safeguarding Practice Manager Meetings to focus on the learning and emerging themes from Safeguarding Adults Reviews.
- 17 The work of the Service User Group needs to be recognised and celebrated. The Peer Review Team praised the contribution and impact of the Service User Group to the work of the Board, demonstrating an inclusive and collaborative approach, ensuring that the voices of Service Users are heard.
- 18 Some of the important Safeguarding issues span a range of Partnership Boards. Therefore, it should be noted the linkages between the Domestic Abuse Partnership, Safer Cheshire East Partnership, and the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership, when tackling issues such as Domestic and Serious Violence Duties, Modern Slavery and Exploitation and supporting people who may be susceptible to radicalisation.
- 19 Finally, the whilst the Safeguarding Adults Board holds a strategic function, it is Frontline Officers and Managers who are dealing with complex safeguarding issues daily, often with competing demands and resources. The emotional impact of engaging with an individual who has been abused or neglected, should never be underestimated. And the risks associated with some cases can be high. Therefore, it is important that our staff are given appropriate support and guidance and tools to enable them to be effective.

Implications

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 20 The Safeguarding Annual Report demonstrates how Cheshire East is upholding the Statutory Safeguarding duties as laid down by the Care Act 2014.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 21 There are no financial implications of this report. The Boards funding includes the capacity to fund one Safeguarding Adults Review per year, any subsequent statutory reviews should be funded by the respective partner agencies.

Policy

22 The Policy implications as they relate to the Corporate Plan [Corporate Plan](#) are as follows:

<p>An open and enabling organisation</p>	<p>A council which empowers and cares about people</p> <p>The SAB upholds the duty to prevent and protect people from harm and abuse or neglect.</p>	<p>A thriving and sustainable place</p>
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

23 Not applicable.

Human Resources

24 There are no Human Resource implications for this report.

Risk Management

25 The Safeguarding Board holds its own Risk Register which is reviewed regularly. The Statutory Partners are the Local Authority, Police and NHS. The SAB chair ensures that all agencies are fully engaged in the partnership.

Rural Communities

26 There are no implications for rural communities in the report.

27 The Report has highlighted some overarching safeguarding themes which may impact on children and young people and how the Partnership Boards need to continue to work together to tackle them.

Public Health

28 There are no specific recommendations for Public Health.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Sandra Murphy – Head of Service – Adult Safeguarding Sandra.murphy@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 – 2023

CHESHIRE EAST SAFEGUADING ADULTS BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

Independent Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report from Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)

In January 2023 I was delighted to be offered the role of Independent Chair for CESAB.

Since commencing my role, I have been so impressed with the whole team approach to ensuring people who need care and support receive the appropriate services when required.

The people who I have met and make up the teams that deliver in partnership day in day out never fail to portray a commitment to their roles in safeguarding others. It is an absolute pleasure to witness the dedication of these individuals and teams in ensuring people in Cheshire East are safeguarded.

The CESAB has great support at a strategic level and benefits from Sub-groups that are highly skilled and focused on their work to improve the service of CESAB.

It would be amiss not to specifically mention the support the CESAB has from the Service User Group. This group is pivotal to the CESAB being inclusive and they provide much welcomed advice and guidance to our practice.

The CESAB has recently had a development day which has examined our progress against the board's Strategic Plan and ways in how we can work more efficiently and collaboratively with others. Embracing a culture of learning and seeking ways of improving.

It is evident that the year ahead will bring many challenges due to financial and resource restraints, however it is clear CESAB has a committed partnership to meet these challenges.



The Partnership

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, representing health, care and support providers and the people who use those services across the borough. Membership comprises of the senior leaders across these organisations, who under the leadership of the independent Chair, work collaboratively to improve adult safeguarding across the borough.

The partnership includes:

Statutory Partners -

Cheshire East Council (Adult Social Care)

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB)

Cheshire Police

Non-Statutory Partners -

Disability Positive (Service User voice representation)

Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust (Leighton Hospital)

Eastern Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield Hospital)

Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership (Mental Health)

North West Ambulance Service

Health Watch Cheshire East

Cheshire Probation Service

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Faith Sector Representation

Housing

Domestic Abuse Services

Local Councillor

Resources and Funding

The work of the Board, subgroups, training programme and that of the Independent Chair are funded through SAB contributions from the three statutory partners. A well-resourced Board is essential to enable it to deliver its statutory duties. Funding contributions from our partners supports the board to fund Safeguarding Adult Reviews, learning events and other Board activities.

Our principles

Our safeguarding principles mirror those listed in the Care Act 2014 and underpin all adult safeguarding work:

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

“I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and this directly informs what happens.”

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.”

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them, and they will only get involved as much as needed.”

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

“I get help and support if I need to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent I want.”

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

Accountability: Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they”.

**Quotes taken from the Department of Health’s Government Guidance ‘Revisiting Safeguarding’ March 2022*

What is Adult Safeguarding?

Safeguarding adults means protecting adults at risk from abuse or neglect by taking steps to prevent or stop it from happening. The Care Act 2014 and other statutory guidance sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other organisations that form the SAB, should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is about protecting an adult's right to live a life free from abuse and neglect and has put systems in place in accordance to the legislative framework and guidance to keep adults with care and support needs safe.

Who do we help keep safe?

All adults aged 18 and over who:

- Need care and support, even if they are not getting care or support now.
- They are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of their care and support needs, is not able to protect themselves from risk of abuse, experience of abuse or neglect.

What is abuse?

Abuse is any action, deliberate or unintentional, or a failure to take action or provide care that results in harm to the adult (this is called neglect).

Abuse can be a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, which causes harm or distress and sometimes death.

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time, such as at home, a day care centre or in a hospital.

There are many different types of abuse such as physical, emotional and neglect; more details about abuse can be found on the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults webpages www.stopadultabuse.org.uk



CESAB Service User Group

Governance Arrangements

The Board appoints an Independent Chair whose role it is to lead and direct its work and provide the support to meet the Board’s objectives. The SAB has maintained its commitment to strong partnership working with the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and the Safer Cheshire East Partnership with all three partnerships working together on joint priorities and safeguarding issues which impact on young people, adults and community safety. The Board reports regularly to the Health and Wellbeing Board on its progress and on any Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

Safeguarding Adults Board Structure

The Board leads adult safeguarding arrangements across Cheshire East and oversees and coordinates the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. A SAB Business Manager and Business Officer support the board, its Business Management Group and subgroups. The Board also employs a Training Officer to facilitate and deliver adult safeguarding training across the Cheshire East Borough. Subgroups help to deliver the objectives of the Board and take responsibility for four distinct functions: Service User Reference and Voice, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Quality and Assurance and Learning and Development. In addition, there are also task-and-finish groups to deliver specific Board strategic priorities -

How we work: Structure of the Board



THREE YEAR STRATEGY 2022 – 2025

Under the Care Act 2014, Safeguarding Adults Board must produce a three-year strategy. 2022 saw the launch of our second strategy under the Care Act.

What is a 3-year Strategy?

Our strategy sets out:

- Our Board's vision
- Our aims and objectives for this three-year period
- How we will work towards these objectives

Our full plan can be found on our website www.stopadultabuse.org.uk but a summary is below –

Our Vision: People in Cheshire East have the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect			
Our purpose: To stop Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation			
Our Ambitions		Goals by 2025	
Proportionate Protection - <i>Support and representation for those in greatest need, with the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.</i> Enabling staff to respond to complex safeguarding by working in partnership with Key Partners			
Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East		All professionals will follow Mental Capacity and Best Interest decision making processes and making safeguarding personal principles People at risk of abuse and neglect get help and support to report abuse. People at risk of abuse and neglect are supported to take part in the safeguarding process.	
Empowerment - <i>Personalisation and the presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.</i> Embed person centred approaches to adult safeguarding			
Ensure the voice of people at risk of abuse and neglect, influence safeguarding practices across Cheshire East		People at risk of abuse and neglect are asked for their outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.	
Prevention - <i>It is better to take action before harm occurs.</i> Improve awareness of adult safeguarding across all communities and partner organisations & learn from experience and Safeguarding Adult Reviews to improve how we work			
Provide information and support in accessible ways to help residents and communities of Cheshire East understand adult abuse and neglect.		Produce clear and simple guidance about what abuse and neglect is, how to recognise the signs and how to seek help. Identify local solutions through services working within diverse communities across Cheshire East.	
Governance: Ensure our governance is of the highest possible standard & open to challenge, to support the achievement of our strategy and ensure accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.	Partnership: Work as a multi-agency board to ensure there is effective partnership working and leadership across all agencies for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.	Impact: Continually measure and test the effect of our work, improve quality and monitor the implementation of changes, that prevent similar abuse or neglect happening to other people.	Person Centred Engagement: Ensure that people are supported in the way that they want, are empowered to make decisions, and can achieve the best outcomes.

Highlights of our work 2022/23

The Board focused on the following four areas of Adult Safeguarding during 2022/23:

The Continued Impact of Covid-19 on Adult Safeguarding

The pandemic had major implications for health and care services, both nationally and locally. Throughout the crisis, safeguarding adults remained a statutory duty. Consequently, safeguarding adults

continued to be the responsibility of local authorities and the SAB partner agencies. CESAB heard research from Prof Laura Pritchard-Jones from Keele University outlining the national impact of the pandemic on adult safeguarding services.

What Next -

CESAB wanted assurance that the multi-agency partnership locally was continuing to work together in the recovery stage of the pandemic. CESAB sought assurance from partners that all SAB agencies in Cheshire East had robust and attainable recovery plans in place.



In line with the **Protection Ambition** of the CESAB three-year strategy: ***Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East***

Adult Safeguarding and asylum seekers & refugees in Cheshire East

The board were briefed on the Asylum Seeker and refugee situation within Cheshire East area. This included hearing the local data and case examples from local Asylum Seekers. The Local Authority's Community Development Team provided assurance of the support systems in place locally and SERCO outlined how they, as a commission provider and the Home Office ensure the safety and wellbeing of those that are accommodated in Cheshire East. Not every supported asylum seeker is an adult at risk to abuse or neglect, however the experience of adjusting to life in the UK and settling into new accommodation and support arrangements is often a period of time when vulnerabilities become most apparent.



What Next?

Asylum seekers are subject to the SAB safeguarding processes and procedures in the same way as others in the community, the Board will ensure that adult safeguarding processes are in place to identify and support asylum seekers including language support if needed.

In line with the **Protection** and the **Prevention Ambition** of the three-year strategy: ***Ensure the safety and wellbeing of people at risk of abuse and neglect in Cheshire East.***

Identify local solutions through services working within diverse communities across Cheshire East

Cost of Living Crisis

The national cost of living crisis has implications for safeguarding adults. Our Service User Group highlighted to the Board how they were struggling and had issues such as anxiety when faced with rising bills, fuel and food costs.

The Board heard from partners how these additional pressures may increase the risk of abuse, homelessness, mental health problems, domestic abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and substance use.



Disability Positive outlined how nearly half the 14 million people living in poverty in the UK are disabled or live with someone who is. The Board also discussed how there are almost 4.5 million informal adult carers in the UK, and nearly a quarter were living in poverty, with working-age female carers particularly at risk. This figure is predicted to increase.

What next?

In Cheshire East, The Cost-of-Living Crisis Team has been launched and are available on 0300 123 5024 between 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. CESAB encouraged partners to share this information so residents can be signposted for support. CESAB also issued advice around Self-Neglect and Professional Curiosity in their briefings to professionals.

In line with the **EMPOWERMENT AMBITION** of the three-year strategy: *Ensure the voice of people at risk of abuse and neglect, influence safeguarding practices across Cheshire East*

System Pressures on Adult Safeguarding

The Board heard qualitative and quantitative data from partners to better understand the changes in demand for, and provision of, adult safeguarding services. Health and care services continue to be under significant pressure, with challenges including timely discharge of patients impacting on patient flow within hospitals, alongside ongoing pressures in mental health services. The board were provided with an insight into the financial pressures placed on partners and the safeguarding related issues currently being faced. Concerns such as care sector recruitment and retention were highlighted, along with increased numbers of adults experiencing housing issues and poverty.



What next?

The Board will continue to monitor risks on their risk plan and fully supports mitigation plans such as increased integrated working between partners in order to heighten operational resilience and reduce pressures on services. The Board's Training Officer will work with the care sector to provide up to date adult safeguarding training for all care sector workers in the borough.

In line with CESAB Strategy Partnership Ambition - *Work as a multi-agency board to ensure there is effective partnership working and leadership across all agencies for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect*



This report highlights the work undertaken during the boards reporting period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. A successful bid has been made to retain the funding for the Safeguarding Training Officer through to 31st August 2023

With the continued recognition that the delivery of face-to-face training remains challenging, the funding bid for the Academic year Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 saw a target of delivering training to 600 learners from non-statutory partner organisations. This been set at the same rate as per the previous year.

The training landscape particularly within the care sector both care settings and domiciliary providers, remains extremely challenging for a myriad of reasons, not least due to staff recruitment and retention. However, with the appointment of a new trainer Debbie Waterhouse, her primary focus has been to re-engage with care homes to offer and deliver training, with a particular focus on those that have been highlighted as presenting safeguarding risks to residents.

This appointment has also allowed expansion of the training offer and the programme has delivered level 3 sessions to care home managers covering the investigation process for a Sec 42 enquiry. As well as this, for the first time the programme has delivered a combined Adult and Child Safeguarding training to licensed taxi drivers following a change to their terms and conditions which makes attendance at such training compulsory.

Additional sessions have been offered to statutory partners such as Care4CE and re introducing a Domestic Abuse online workshop in partnership with staff from the Domestic Abuse team.

Whilst this reporting period is out of sync with the academic year funding period, CESAB can report that the Training Programme have met and exceeded the 600 target. In total during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, sessions were delivered 1301 individuals.

ADULT SAFEGUARDING WEEK 2022

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board supported National Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 with a range of activities that made people aware of the different types of abuse that some people experience. The National Adult Safeguarding week was an excellent opportunity to promote adult safeguarding and the work that a number of organisations are doing to protect residents across Cheshire East. Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 saw organisations coming together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim was to highlight safeguarding key issues, facilitate conversations and to raise awareness of safeguarding best practice. The week enabled more organisations and individuals to feel confident in recognising signs of abuse and neglect and recording and reporting safeguarding concerns. The theme for Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 was 'Responding to Contemporary Safeguarding Challenges'. Each day focussed on a different topic, with a range of events such as webinars, conferences for the Faith Sector, and, using a performing arts group, Odd Arts, to interact with professionals acting out scenarios around exploitation & abuse.

Councillor Laura Jeuda, Cheshire East Council cabinet member for adult social care and health, said: ***"It is very sad to say this, but adult abuse is far more common than many of us think. The council sits on a dedicated safeguarding adults board, which is committed to raising the profile of adult safeguarding."***

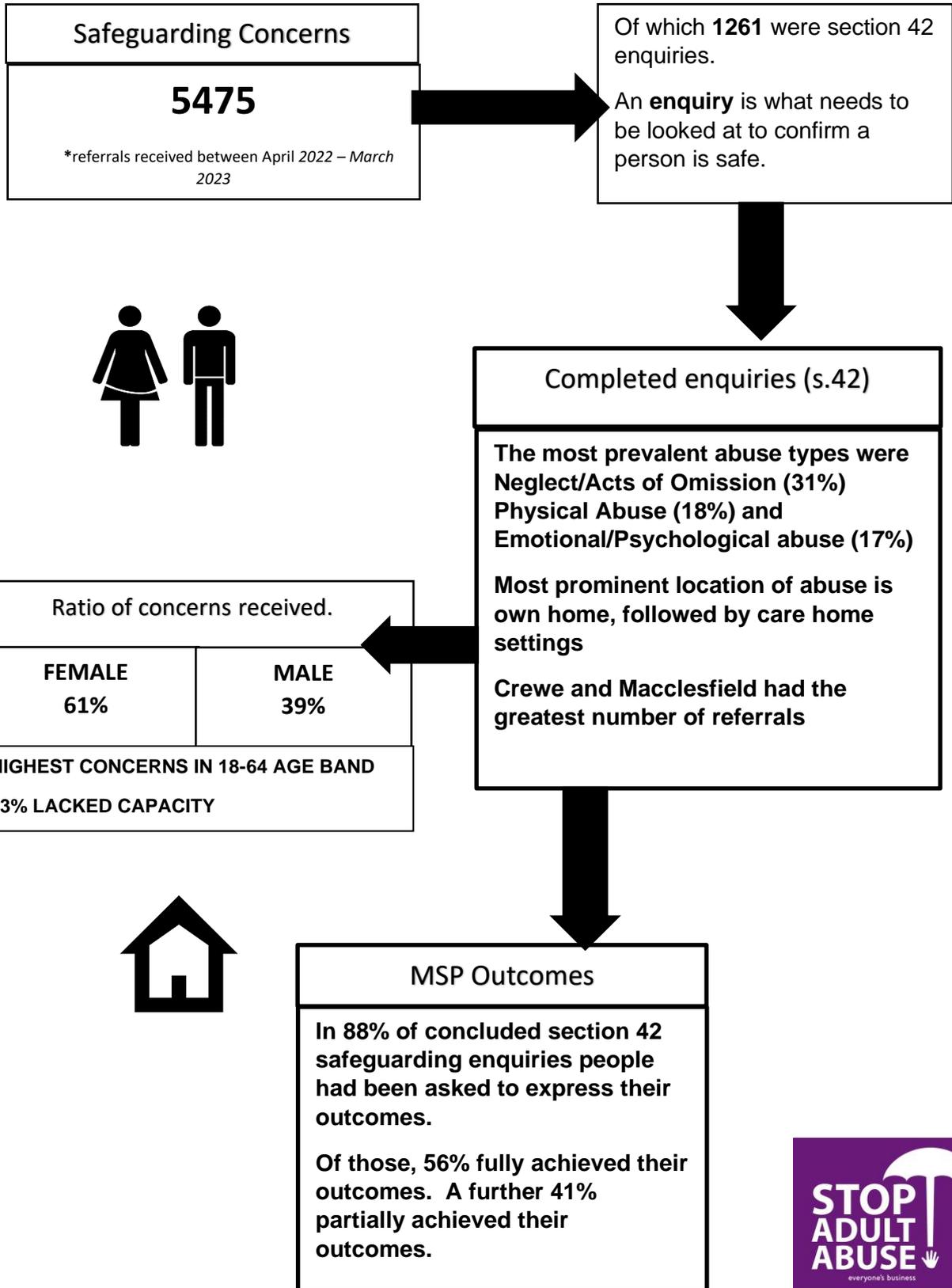
"If you know someone who is experiencing abuse, please report it. Together we can stamp out all forms of abuse."

"The week was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of safeguarding adult issues. The planned events throughout the week highlighted how abuse can happen anywhere. It can be committed by anyone, and that abuse can take many forms."

"Whatever the circumstances, abuse is always wrong, and the week demonstrated how agencies in Cheshire East work together to support the person, to bring the abuse to an end".



Performance and activity Information 2022-23



Data comparisons to the North West England figures for 2022/23 available on request



SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS (SARs):

Under the Care Act 2014, the SAB is responsible for the coordination of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). These independent reviews are commissioned where there has been an incident of serious harm or death involving an adult at risk, and its focus is on capturing learning. They set out to establish what may have gone wrong and to identify where agencies or individuals could have acted differently or worked better together. In 2022-23 CESAB concluded ONE safeguarding adults review –

JANE: *The SAB commissioned a Safeguarding Adults Review following the death of “Jane”.*

Jane was 63-years old and had been diagnosed with Dementia in 2018. She lived in her own home and her husband was her main carer. Sadly, she was killed in an accident when she went missing from her home in December 2020

It should be noted that these events occurred during the early stages of the COVID pandemic when national lockdowns were established, placing restrictions on contact from family and professionals.

The Review also highlighted how COVID placed increased strain on carers, especially those caring for someone with a long-term illness such as Dementia. The pandemic also caused anxiety in accessing services particularly hospital or respite care, due to fear of separation or catching Covid. The Review highlighted the importance of Professionals utilising their Professional Curiosity including considering why people may initially be reluctant to accept support and how to strengthen knowledge about Dementia. The full report can be found on our webpages www.stopadultabuse.org.uk

What we learnt from ‘Jane’ SAR –



The importance of multi-agency working in a timely manner



Improving our understanding of dementia/long term illness and associated family carer stress /risks



The importance of professional curiosity especially why people may initially be reluctant to accept support.



An understanding on the effect the covid 19 pandemic had on frontline visit practices.



The importance of clearly recording on casework recording systems when an individual has caring responsibilities.

Discretionary Safeguarding Adult Reviews (D-SARs):

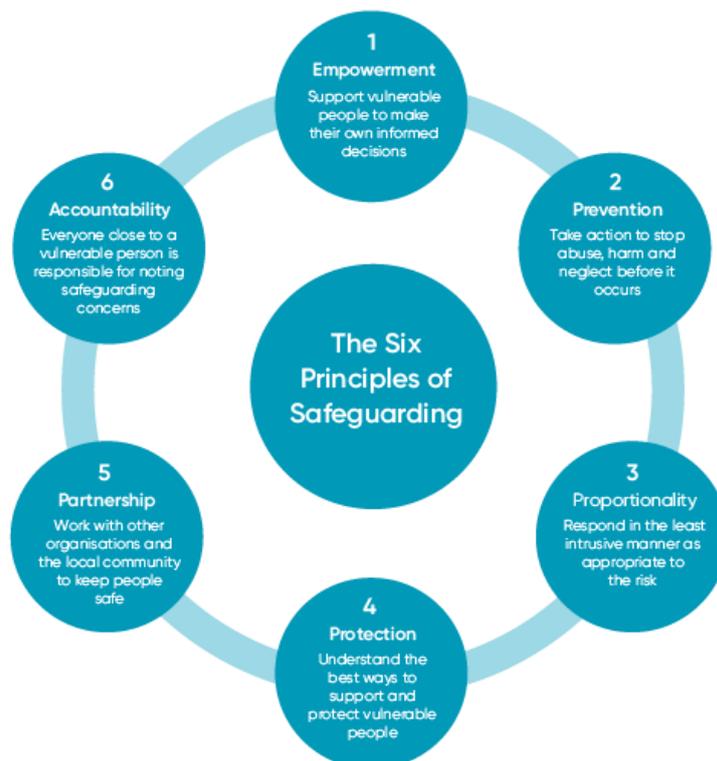
CESAB can also exercise discretion and arrange a Discretionary SAR in any case involving an Adult at risk in its area where it believes that there will be value in doing so. This may include where an agency believes there are lessons to be learned for all involved which will improve multi agency working, practice and information sharing. Each D-SAR results in a 7-minute briefing, this report provides the key themes and recommendations surrounding the review. The expectation is that team leaders across the multi-agency will present these briefings to their staff, on a regular basis. During 2022/23, CESAB conducted three D SARs, briefings can be downloaded from www.stopadultabuse.org.uk

Single Agency Self-Assessment –

CESAB conducted a self-assessment process with its partners in order to reflect on their agency's safeguarding adults activity during 2022/23. This process allowed partners to consider areas such as Making Safeguarding Personal and how their agency has incorporated the recommendations made within the recent Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Below are the main findings from this assessment:

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP):

Key to Making Safeguarding Personal are the six key principles of adult safeguarding:



These six principles apply to all partners of the SAB, the self-assessment provided assurance to the SAB that all partners are aware of these principles and apply them in their everyday safeguarding practice. Examples included the local authority highlighting how their case work recording system can capture MSP outcomes and whether they have been fully, partially, or not achieved. They also highlighted quarterly case MSP audits identifying areas of good practice and improvement. Housing also evidenced how social landlords ensure that the views, thoughts, and feelings of residents are clearly recorded, and evidence of resident choice is apparent in case management. Housing providers also conduct audits of safeguarding cases regularly, which includes evaluation of making safeguarding personal and the evidencing of the 6 principles of safeguarding being adhered to. Both Health partners and the Police also reported similar auditing processes.

Person in a Position of Trust (PIPOT):

PIPOT is a framework for managing cases where allegations have been made against a person in a position of trust. It provides a process to ensure appropriate actions are taken to manage allegations, regardless of whether they are made in connection with the PIPOT's

employment, in their private life, or any other capacity. All CESAB partners were able to evidence having a PIPOt procedures and robust HR management policies in place regarding managing allegations within their organisations.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews:

The Case of Mervyn and Self Neglect

The self-assessment requested all partners to document what actions their agency put into place following the SAR of Mervyn (*reported in the 2021/22 Annual Report and published on the SAB website*). A key aspect of the Mervyn SAR was understanding the issues surrounding Self-Neglect



A recommendation following the Mervyn SAR was that all settings take steps to raise awareness with staff about socially isolated people who may be at risk of self-neglect. Partners were able to evidence new interventions and developments in place such as –

The development of the Complex Safeguarding Forum to discuss high risk cases.

Updates to partner's Self-Neglect policies

Development of the Hoarding Support Groups

The Mervyn SAR Report has been shared within all Board Partner organisations and frontline staff including Social Work Staff, GPs, nurses, housing officers and frontline criminal justice employees.

The Research in Practice for Adults (RiPfa) Guidance documents on Self-neglect and Professional Curiosity have also been circulated within all settings.

The Case of Jane and Carer Stress

The self-assessment requested all partners to document what actions their agency put into place following the SAR of Jane (*reported on page 12 of this Annual Report (22/23) and published on the SAB website*). A key aspect of the Jane SAR was understanding the issues surrounding carer stress especially in cases involving dementia.



Carer stress is characterised by physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion. It typically results from a person neglecting their own physical and emotional health because they are focused on caring for an individual with care and support needs.

A recommendation following the Jane SAR was that all partners need to ensure staff are aware of the circumstances of when a Carers Assessment is required to be undertaken under the Care Act 2014. Partners were able to evidence this by –

Organisations promoting Dementia Awareness and caring issues within their settings.

Guidance on Dementia, Carers and Domestic Abuse has been produced by a core group of Health and Social Care Staff and circulated to all partners.

Partners were able to document various forms of training from E-learning modules focussing on Care Act Assessments to a bespoke Odd Arts Training session focussed on Dementia, Carers and Domestic Abuse. Training, where possible, has been encouraged to be a multi-agency approach with partners discussing issues from their own perspectives and learning from each other.

All Health leads and GPs in the borough have also been issued with guidance regarding carer stress and Carer Assessments following the Jane SAR

Carer Passports are implemented across our local hospitals with Dementia Lead Nurses in place too.

FUTURE PLANS

Our priorities 2023-24

The Board recognises more can be achieved by working together in partnership and has committed to the following areas for the year ahead, based on feedback, learning and analysis of current strengths.

Training: CESAB are committed to continue to strengthen the Training function of the board. It has secured funding for 2023-24 to extend the training programme further. This includes continuation with Basic Awareness training sessions with the local care sector and local taxi drivers. The programme will also develop a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) sessions for care staff as well as expanding it offer around Domestic Abuse, and Care Concerns.

Strengthening Partnerships: We will continue to strengthen our board by establishing closer working links and structures with the Community Safety Partnership (SCEP), and the Cheshire East Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CESCP) ensuring clear oversight of wider contextual safeguarding issues.

Creating a Culture of Learning: We will promote continuous improvement in safeguarding practice by learning from experience and supporting workforce development. This work will consider how we share learning from SARs and other review processes widely across the partnership, with a clear methodology for reviewing the impact on practice.

CQC Assurance: CQC will now be assessing local authorities in England. They will be looking at how well local authorities meet their duties under the Care Act 2014, this will include partnership working and adult safeguarding. CESAB partners are therefore committed to support the local authority with this process and will continue to take steps as a Board in preparation for the CQC assessment.

This report will be published on our website www.stopadultabuse.org.uk for all partners and members of the public to access. As required by the Care Act, this report will also be shared with the Chief Executive Officer and Lead Member at Cheshire East Council as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner, Healthwatch Cheshire East plus the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board.

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board, First Floor - Macclesfield Town Hall, Market Place, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 1EA.

email: lsab@cheshireeast.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/CheshireEastLSAB



@CheshireEastSAB



www.stopadultabuse.org.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board** held on Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

Board Members

Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults, Health, and Integration

Councillor Janet Clowes, Cheshire East Council

Councillor Sam Corcoran (Chair), Cheshire East Council

Councillor Carol Bulman, Cheshire East Council

Councillor Jill Rhodes, Cheshire East Council

Mark Groves, Healthwatch Cheshire

Inspector Duncan Gouck, Cheshire Police

Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health

Kathryn Sullivan, CVS Cheshire East

Mark Wilkinson, Cheshire East Place Director

Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services

Cheshire East Officers and Others

Gill Betton, Head of Service, Children's Development and Partnerships

Dan McCabe, Head of Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care

Sara Deakin, Head of Health Intelligence

Keith Evans, Head of Service: Mental Health and Learning Disabilities

Mark Hughes, Senior Commissioning Manager

Guy Kilminster, Corporate Manager Health Improvement

Dr Susie Roberts, Public Health Consultant

Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer

Jo Williams, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB)
(joined remotely via Microsoft Teams)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Paul Bishop, Michelle Davis, Superintendent Claire Jesson, Peter Skates, Claire Williamson, Isla Wilson and Charlotte Wright.

Inspector Duncan Gouck and Mark Groves attended as substitutes.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

5 NOTIFICATION OF PHARMACY CLOSURE

The Board received a report which provided notification from NHS England of the closure of the Pharmacy in Buglawton and outlined the impact on the residents of Congleton East and Congleton & Holmes Chapel (CHOC) Care Community, and the other pharmaceutical providers who served this area.

Assurance was given that there was no further action required for the statutory responsibility of the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board to be discharged

A gap analysis had been undertaken by the Public Health Intelligence team to understand the impact on residents and customers and other pharmaceutical providers in the area. It was found that there was adequate pharmaceutical provision within the Care Community and the surrounding area which would be able to absorb the additional dispensing workload that would be created by the closure.

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for 2022 – 2025 concluded that the pharmacy services were adequate for the lifetime of that PNA within that area and included looking at an aging population, future population growth and housing developments.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6 CHESHIRE EAST LEARNING DISABILITY PLAN AND ALL AGE MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

The Board considered a report which sought endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Cheshire East Place Plans for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health. The Plans had already been approved at the Children and Families Committee and the Adults and Health Committee.

Both plans had an all-age approach, had been co-produced and were available in easy read versions. Monitoring of the plans would take place

through the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Boards with an annual report presented to the Adults and Health Committee and the Children and Families Committee.

Board members welcomed the plans but agreed that they were strategies that should be looked at holistically and not stand alone.

Officers agreed to take away a query raised about whether dentistry was included within the NHS health-checks. It was reported that NHS England had previously commissioned this but there was a piece of work being undertaken separately on how this would be brought in to the ICB.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously)

That the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board endorse:

1. The Cheshire East Place – Learning Disabilities Plan.
2. The Cheshire East Place – Mental Health Plan.

7 CHESHIRE EAST WINTER PLAN 2023-24

The Board received an update on winter planning for 2023/2024. The overall purpose of the Winter plan was to ensure that the system was able to effectively manage the capacity and demand pressures anticipated during the Winter period October 2023 to 31 March 2024. System plans ensured that local systems were able to manage demand surge effectively and ensure people remained safe and well during the Winter months. The planning process considered the impact and learning from last Winter, as well as learning from the system response to Flu and Covid-19 to date.

Oversight and monitoring had commenced to measure the effectiveness or any emerging or associated risks such as system workforce challenges and the increase in the level of need and complexity of individuals which was now much greater in terms of their level of needs, care and support.

Funding so far had been invested on schemes around prevention, facilitated discharge, additional workforce loads such as social work and approved mental health practitioners.

Set metrics were in place for rigorous monitoring of the plan which included accident and emergency attendance and admissions, daily discharge, length of stay, care at home capacity and mental health act assessments.

Following comments and questions from Board members, officers reported that:

- There had been an uptake of 60.2% of all those eligible for the covid winter booster in Cheshire East.

- The most up to date figures for flu vaccinations hadn't been released yet.
To attract staff in having vaccinations there had been onsite clinics and programmes run with pharmacies, details of which had been shared with staff.
- Levels are influenza were low although there had been an increase. The number of covid cases had increased recently although those had begun to come down again.
- There was a clear message that there was not going to be any additional funds to support capacity within the NHS for the winter period.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

8 SEND STRATEGY

This item was taken after item 9 - SEND SEF.

The Board received a report which set out the details of the refreshed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) partnership strategy and priority areas for the next 12 months aligned to the outcomes of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme.

Due to the current financial position the high needs spend was an area for development and the refreshed strategy enabled areas of activity to be identified in order to mitigate spend..

It was expected that the strategy would be re-written next year which would include the mitigations and activities coming out of the Safety Valve programme of work which was the next tier of intervention by the Department for Education (DfE).

A plan of the detailed work which would sit under the Safety Valve programme would be a feature of the 2024 activity to re-write the strategy and the detail of the programme of work would be set out in a refreshed governance structure. The Health and Wellbeing Board would be sighted on this along with the SEND partnership activity which would also be brought to the Board on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9 SEND SEF

The Board received a presentation on the SEND Self Evaluation Form (SEF) which was used as a tool for the partnership to know itself well and

to identify areas for development. The SEF would then feed in to the SEND Strategy. The presentation outlined the following:

- The purpose of the SEF
- The development of Cheshire East's SEF
- The strengths and areas of development for Cheshire East
- The next steps

Board members asked that there was consistency with the information provided for the different boards and partnerships within the Council so that there was a similar approach as there appeared to be a perceived discrepancy within some areas.

In response to concerns raised in respect of the disparity of provision such as waiting lists and inconsistency in the different processes across the borough, officers reported that this was an area of great scrutiny with partners and a report will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.40 pm

Councillor S Corcoran (Chair)

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Adults and Health Committee

Work Programme 2023 – 2024

Report Reference	Adults & Health Committee	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation	Equality Impact Assessment	Corporate Plan Priority	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Exempt Item
AH/14/2023-24	02/02/2024	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2024/25 - 2027/28 Provisional Settlement Update (Adults & Health Committee)	All Committees were being asked to provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified within the Constitution and linked to the budget alignment approved by the Finance Sub-Committee in March 2023. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Corporate Policy Committee to support that Committee in making recommendations to Council on changes to the current financial strategy.	Director of Finance & Customer Services	Yes	No	Open	Yes	No

Adults and Health Committee

Work Programme 2023 – 2024

AH/23/2023 -24	02/02/2024	Adults Social Care Charging Policy	Seeking approval for the new Charging Policy following consultation	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	TBC	TBC	Open	TBC	TBC
March 2024									
AH/20/2023 -24 & CF/45/23-24	25/03/2024	One You Recommission	Seek approval for re-procurement and delegation of award decision to Executive Director	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	TBC	TBC	Fair	TBC	TBC
AH/09/2023 -24	25/03/2024	Direct Payments Policy	To seek approval for the Direct Payments Policy following consultation	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	Yes	No
AH/28/2023 -24	25/03/2024	Care Provider Consortium	This report seeks approval to commission services for individuals with Complex Needs through a Cheshire East Care Provider Collaborative (CPC).	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	Yes	TBC	Open	TBC	TBC
June 2024									

Adults and Health Committee

Work Programme 2023 – 2024

AH/22/2023 -24 & CF/18/23-24	24/06/2024	Substance Misuse Service	To provide information about the proposed substance misuse service model and for a decision to re-commission the substance misuse service	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	No	No
TBC	24/06/2024	Service Budgets 2024/25 (Adults & Health Committee)	The purpose of the report is to set out the allocation of budgets for 2024/25, for all Committees, following Council's approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2024	Director of Finance & Customer Services	No	No	Open	Yes	No
AH/31/2023 -24	24/06/2024	LD Respite Review and Redesign.	Briefing on proposal for new model	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	TBC	TBC	Open	TBC	TBC
July 2024									
TBC	22/07/2024	Update on Falls Prevention Strategy	To provide an update in terms of the delivery against the action plan	Executive Director of Adults, Health & Integration	No	No	Open	Yes	No

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**Schedule of Urgent Decisions Made by the Chief Executive
following consultation with Members**

Under Paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11 of the Committee Procedure Rules, an item of urgent business which has to be decided before the next meeting of a committee can be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the chair and/or vice-chair of the committee.

Date	Summary of decision	Decision on behalf of
29 November 2023	<p>To accept a grant for the Local Authority Urgent and Emergency Care support fund 2023/24.</p> <p>Information</p> <p>Formal authority was required to accept a grant for the Local Authority Urgent and Emergency Care support fund 2023/24, to strengthen performance and resilience this winter.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Cheshire East Council had secured £680,601 revenue funding from the Local Authority Urgent and Emergency Care support fund, which is managed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). This grant will be provided pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>The Council's formal response, agreeing to accept the grant, was required by close of business on 29 November, which provided no opportunity for a decision to be made by a committee or Council, as would ordinarily be the case.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the grant funding be accepted and that the Executive Director for Adults, health, and Integration be empowered to incur expenditure, this to be funded from the grant monies. • That the Executive Director be empowered to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Social Care, upon such terms as she deems appropriate. • That a supplementary estimate be agreed for the 2023/2024 Financial year. 	Corporate Policy Committee and Adults & Health Committee

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Cheshire East Council Budget Challenges

Adults, Health and Integration MTFS workshop

15 December 2023



OFFICIAL
OFFICIAL



2023/24 - Financial Reviews

- **2023/24 net budget = £353.1m**
- **FR1 - Forecast variance = +£12.8m**
 - This included ‘potential’ mitigation of £13.8m compared to a gross position of £26.6m
- **FR2 - Forecast variance = +£18.7m**
 - Increased as ‘potential’ mitigations not certain enough
 - £7.9m of actual mitigation was identified and more certain
- **General Reserve is inadequate @ £14.1m**

Urgent Response Ongoing

- CE Budget emergency response team (**CEBERT**)
 - Chair – CEO
 - Attendees – workstream leads (CLT + support)
 - Frequency – weekly on a Tuesday for 1hr
 - Purpose:
 - Update on progress towards financial stability
 - Make decisions and set out next steps
 - Co-ordinate activity to reduce net spending

CEBERT - Workstreams

- **Committee Cells (x7) (committee lead officers - CLT)**
- **Financial review mitigation workstreams:**
 - Establishment management (vacancy / agency data)
 - Procurement management
 - Pricing strategies
 - Grant management
- **Other supporting activities:**
 - Mandatory vs discretionary oversight
 - Government /network engagement

Current Position – 2023/24

Committee	2023/24 Net Budget £m	FR2 £m	Latest Forecast £m	CEBERT Improvement (8wks)
Adults & Health	136.5	+4.7	+4.7	(0.0)
Children & Families	80.3	+10.8	+10.0	(0.8)
Corporate Policy	41.1	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.1)
Economy & Growth	24.8	(1.9)	(2.7)	(0.8)
Environment & Communities	48.7	+3.5	+3.3	(0.2)
Highways & Transport	11.2	+1.2	+0.2	(1.0)
Finance Sub (Central)	10.5	+0.9	(0.1)	(1.0)
Deficit / (Surplus)	0	+18.7	+14.8	(3.9)

S114 - Definition

- The risk materialising with the scale of the challenge is that the council could act illegally and trigger a s114 report
- s114 can be triggered from two distinct sources
 1. Spending plans that exceed the available resources of the council. This would unbalance the budget, which is unlawful.
 2. Spending decisions that hide actual spending, or are outside the powers of a local authority, may not trigger an immediate overspend, but are in fact based on unlawful activity.

s114 - Impact

- Immediate consequences of s114 would be only statutory services and existing contracts should incur expenditure.
- s.114 does not remove the duty of councillors to approve a balanced budget.
- Councillors would be required to meet within 21 days to consider the report and propose alternative spending plans to return the council to a legally compliant position.
- DLUHC likely to appoint commissioners to oversee.

CEC is not an isolated case

Eight local authorities have issued s.114 notices to date:

- Birmingham City, Northamptonshire County, Nottingham City*, Northumberland County, LB Croydon, Woking Borough, LB Thurrock, Slough BC

(*Nottingham City Council issued a further s114 report)

Press articles regularly report other s.114 notices are imminent:

- Middlesbrough, Kirklees, Hastings, Kent, Stoke, Somerset, Guildford, Southampton, BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole), Trafford, Medway, Havering....

The primary causes of financial pressure

- National economic and demographic factors for all councils:
 - Inflation (pay, materials, contracts)
 - Demand (population, complexity of need)
 - Interest rates (borrowing)
- CEC additional factors:
 - The provisional outturn 2022/23 (£6m deficit)
 - Challenging medium term financial strategy (MTFS) -£42m of savings required
 - SEND increasing to £85.9m (interest and transport revenue impact)
 - HS2 £11m spent, £8m could convert to revenue

MTFS - 2024/25 @ Feb 2023

(and confirmed at Finance Sub-Committee -June 2023)

Committee (all figs £m)	2023/24 Budget	= Total Change	2024/25 Budget
Council Tax	271.1	+16.8	287.9
Band D increase 4.99% (inc 2% ASC)		+13.4	
+ 2,200 Band D Properties		+3.4	
Business Rates Retained	55.3	-	55.3
Revenue Support Grant	0.4	-	0.4
Specific Un-Ringfenced Grants	26.4	+2.7	29.1
Net Revenue Budget	353.1	+19.6	372.7

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Open

Fair

Green

2024/25 Changes Presented to Committees (Oct / Nov)

Committee (all figs £m)	2024/25 Budget (@ Feb 23)	- Target Changes (New)	2024/25 Proposed Budget
Adults & Health	142.4	-4.5	137.7
Children & Families	82.0	+7.0	89.0
Corporate Policy	42.0	-0.8	41.2
Economy & Growth	27.4	-0.4	27.0
Environment & Communities	48.1	-0.9	47.2
Highways & Transport	12.6	-0.3	12.3
Finance Sub (Central)	18.4	-	18.4
Net Revenue Budget	372.7	-	372.7

2024/25 – Current Position

2024/25	2023/24 Budget	Forecast Growth	Forecast Budget	Target (affordable) Budget	Total Savings to find
Adults and Health	136.3	6.9	143.2	137.7	5.5
Children and Families	79.1	14.2	93.3	89.0	4.3
Corporate Policy	41.1	1.0	42.1	41.2	0.9
Economy and Growth	25.0	5.0	30.0	27.0	2.9
Environment and Communities	48.3	3.6	51.9	47.2	4.9
Highways and Transport	11.0	6.4	17.4	12.2	5.2
Finance Sub	12.3	13.8	26.1	18.4	7.7
Total	353.1	50.9	404.0	372.7	31.4

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Achieving Net Budget Reductions

- Increasing Income
 - Higher taxation
 - Reducing or eliminating subsidies
- Doing Things Differently for Less
 - Service cuts
 - Reductions in retained services
 - Service efficiencies

Next Steps (see dates on next slide)

- Continue CEBERT activity
- Member and officer feedback used to create high level consultation material aligned to council plan consultation
- Draft high-level business cases, to meet targets, for January committee cycle (with final drafts for council)
- Engage with members /committees / wider stakeholders
- Government settlement pending
- Any funding gains must go to reserves

High Level Timetable

Activity	Purpose	w/c 20/11	w/c 27/11	w/c 4/12	w/c 11/12	w/c 18/12	w/c 25/12	w/c 1/1	w/c 8/1	w/c 15/1	w/c 22/1	w/c 29/1	w/c 5/2	w/c 12/2	w/c 19/2	w/c 26/2
Member Briefings	Provide informal updates to all members on current stage															
Consultation Design	Officers prepare material for public consultation															
Autumn Statement	Analyse potential impact on CEC															
High Level Business Cases (Prep)	Officers prepare HLBCs and EIAs aligned to latest proposals															
High Level Business Cases (Publish)	Officers Publish HLBCs and EIAs to website															
Sign-off	Agree material for publication															
Consultation Period	Public / Stakeholder engagement															
LG Settlement	Detail from DLUHC															
Consultation Results	Analyse results for Committees															
Service Cttee Meetings	Recommend budget proposals															
Corporate Policy Meeting	Recommend budget proposals to Council															
Council	Approve Budget and Council Tax															

Adults Budget Strategy – 2023/24

- Contain prices as much as possible
 - Alternative way of contracting
 - Restrict choice
 - Increase income
- End non-essential expenditure
 - Close a day service
 - End non-statutory contracts
 - Reduce other contracts by 25%
- Offer non-care options at the front door
 - Technology as first option
 - Increase use of voluntary sector
 - Increase support to unpaid carers
- Alternative community-based options
 - Increase domiciliary care hours but tighten criteria and reduce hours
 - Care4CE as preferred provider
 - Increase rates for Direct Payments and Shared Lives
 - Invest in training to increase numbers of Personal Assistants
- Reduce use of short-term beds
- Continued use of short-term grants

Open

Fair

Green

What have we delivered?

- Home First: Decommissioned Covid short stay beds (baseline Aug 22 x231 beds) – now 89 short stay placements achieving the £4m target
- Decommissioning non-essential contracts £245k
- Communities Team (alternative provision i.e. VCFSE) £750k
- Learning Disabilities Future Services Development and Review £1.75m
- Planning for the DP Audit reclaim due in Jan/Feb 24 – 22/23 proposal target £750k – projected £1m
- ASC Earmarked Reserves £500k
- Resettlement Grant £850k
- Buildings Based Day Services £229k & Day Care Review £150k
- Maximisation of Supported Living Networks and efficiencies in Care4CE £369k

Open

Fair

Green

Additional Developments

- Joint review of 1:1s / Enhanced Observations with the ICB: 117 people reviewed £146k (50% for the LA = £73k)
- Review of staffing establishments including agency
- Quality, Performance, Delivery Board (QPDB)
- Review of Debt Recovery Risk
- Hospital Discharge – Pathway 3 process review
- Care Cubed – Tool to support cost of care exercises / fee reviews with Providers

Adults and Health Position 2023/24

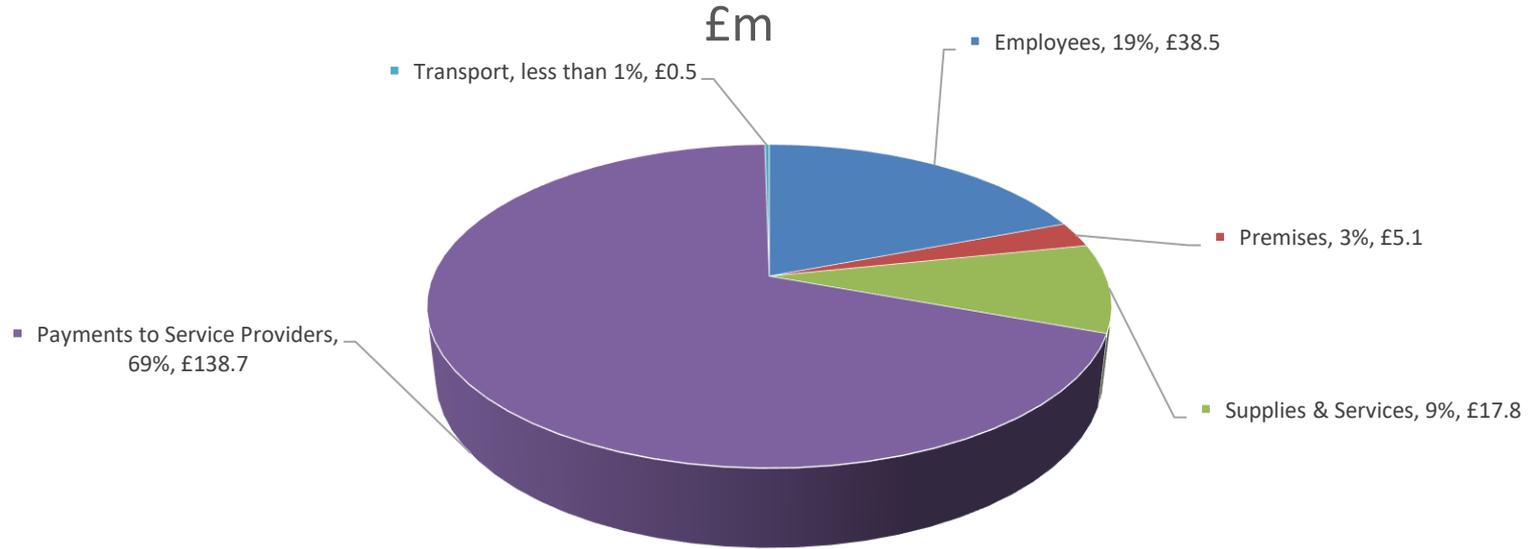
- The cost and demand pressures that drove the deficit in adult social care and health services in 2022/23 continue, locally and nationally, and this is reflected in the forecast outturn at the end of quarter 2 for 2023/24, with the forecast pressure of £5.0m split between commissioning costs and staffing costs.
- The costs of adults social care is a concern for many local authorities and not unique to Cheshire East.
- The budget outturn for Adult Social Care remains under extreme pressure and the position reported for FR3 is dependent upon the successful delivery of on-going mitigations.

Adults and Health Committee

MTFS work to date

- The rolled forward proposals from last year's MTFS process included growth for care costs as well as savings linked to additional client income and maximisation of supported living.
- To recognise the significant pressures being realised in the Children's directorate it was necessary for other directorates to support the need to set a balanced budget, through the identification of further savings.
- **It was proposed to allocate Adults and Health a savings envelope of £4.5m to recognise these pressures (after additional grant income was factored in)**

Analysis of Gross Expenditure Budget 2023/24



How to make savings

Four ways to reduce social care expenditure in short-term

- Reduce number of people seeking a service
- Reduce the amount of service each person receives
- Reduce unit price of service
- Staff mix and numbers

Areas of focus

- Services and contracts to be cost efficient and increase productivity
- Diverse service offer to ensure service mix is cost effective
- Change traditional models of care

Growth - Investment in Adult Social Care

- Growth of £6.7m
- Budget of £141.5m
- Forecast growth, to be funded by the Council, arising from demographic changes including an ageing population and increased levels of need for care and support for adults of a working age.
- Pressures from increasing care rates linked to high inflation and market profile.

Summary of Main Savings Proposals

Savings Proposals	2024/25 £m
Client contribution yield offsetting growth	-0.800
Maximisation of Supported Living	-0.369
Fees and Charges	-1.500
Older People - Reduce, Prevent, Delay	-1.566
Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay	-1.467
	-5.702

Open

Fair

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Saving - Client contribution yield offsetting growth

- Saving of £0.8m
- Total Client income budget of £33.4m
- Increase in income from client contributions arising from the inflation increase for pensions and benefits paid to individuals.

Saving - Maximisation of Supported Living

- Saving of £0.369m
- Budget of c£29m for external Supported living
- It is proposed that as part of the review of the Council's Learning Disability Service offer that we identify ways in which our Care4CE can provide care and support to improve value for money. This includes the review and maximisation of our Supported Living Networks.

Saving - Fees and Charges

- Saving of £1.5m
- Total Client income budget of £33.4m
- A fees and charges consultation is underway. The initial high-level estimate of the proposals is a £1.5m benefit to the budget. The actual value achievable is pending the consultation responses.

Saving - Older People - Reduce, Prevent, Delay

- Saving of £1.566m
- Budget of £87m for 65+ external care costs
- Delivery savings identified via independent review of services for older people:
 - Reduce number of new admissions to residential care
 - More effective use of reablement
 - Diversify the range of commissioned care available within and provided by community organisations
 - Removing 1-1s
 - Reducing “Choice”
 - Reducing respite

Saving - Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay

- Saving of £1.467m
- Budget of £59m for 18-64 external care costs
- Delivery savings identified via independent review of services for people with learning disabilities:
 - Increase the use of Shared Lives
 - Increase the use of Direct Payments
 - Review Supported Living Packages to ensure the right level of provision
 - Removing 1-1s
 - Removing sleeping nights
 - Reducing levels of respite care

Cost Avoidance

- Preparing for Adulthood - Prevent, Reduce, Delay
 - Investment in new accommodation
 - Investment in new models
 - Investigation of alternative funding approaches
- Pricing for care – Care Cubed and Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Extra care

Risks

- No growth for NMW increase
- Limited view of SEND impact post-18
- NHS demand and funding issues

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