



#BecauseWeCare
Cheshire East Partnership

Cheshire East Place

All Age Learning Disability Plan 2024-2029



Cheshire and Merseyside



Our plan sets out our vision and aims for people of any age with learning disability in Cheshire East for the period 2024 to 2029.

We are proud to present this Cheshire East All-age learning disability plan as it has been co-produced with, and based on the views of, people with learning disability and their parents and carers. This has been possible through engagement to understand what is important to them. We are incredibly grateful for the support of all those people who have taken the time to contribute their views either in person or through written feedback.

In developing our plan, we have listened to residents with a learning disability, their parents and families, professionals and those who provide support to identify six priorities to focus on for the next five years. Our plan is a framework to support children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their families and carers in Cheshire East. Everyone is unique and services are personalised to meet need.

The next five years

While the plan details what our aims are for the next five years, this strategy builds on progress so far and seeks to maintain the very positive service developments achieved to date, delivering better health and wellbeing outcomes for people with learning disability and parents and carers.

The refreshing of the previous document maintains a further improved approach taken when it was first published in 2018, engaging closely with people and families and those who support them.

Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board have the responsibility of ensuring successful delivery of the plan. To ensure this is done, the Plan is supported by a Delivery, which has been developed from our consultation, outlining how the plan is developed into clear foundations of change.

Who are we?

The Cheshire East Partnership is a group of partners working together to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Cheshire East local authority areas. The partnership includes:

- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire and Merseyside NHS
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- East Cheshire NHS Trust
- Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- South Cheshire and Vale Royal GP Alliance
- Vernova Healthcare CIC
- Healthwatch Cheshire

They have produced a plan to explain how partners will work together to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. [The Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023-2028](#) sets out what we want to do, why we want to do

it and the difference we believe we can make to the health and wellbeing of Cheshire East residents.

What is Cheshire East Place

Cheshire East Place is an area that covers the Cheshire East Local Authority area and sits within the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, which is one of nine Places all based upon the local authority areas of Cheshire and Merseyside.

It is a platform for leadership, planning and delivery of health and local authority care services. Taking a place-based approach requires working effectively with other local authority services, other public sector organisations and with the many voluntary, community, faith and not-for profit organisations.

Our vision

To make life better for Cheshire East residents with a learning disability and their carers

Whilst our vision remains our focus for the next five years, our new plan builds on progress so far and seeks to maintain the very positive service developments achieved to date, delivering better health and wellbeing outcomes for people with learning disability and parents and carers.



Our vision is based on identifying the life outcomes that are important to people with learning disabilities and ensuring that all our commissioning activity is focused on meeting those outcomes. By identifying activities and outputs that enable people with learning disabilities to achieve the outcomes framed by their aspirations

We also contribute to a whole range of wider outcomes that benefit the whole population of Cheshire East. This has been achieved through having conversations with people with lived experience, family carers, health & social care professionals and organisations represented on the [Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board](#). Our conversations now form the building foundation for this plan, through the priorities that people have told us are important.

What we want to achieve

We want people in Cheshire East to enjoy independence, and to be in control, working with people to be as independent as possible rather than someone doing things for them. Our vision for people with a learning disability to make life better is based upon ensuring people can make informed choices and how they are able to live their lives like anyone else.

To achieve this, people with a learning disability will be involved in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs, now and in the future. The contents of our plan shapes

how we will work over coming years to ensure our vision and aims are met for the benefit of our residents, with an appreciation of change to meet the challenges in the future.

Our priorities

We want children, young people, and adults with a learning disability in Cheshire East to be safe and be part of community, learning and achieving potential, being supported into paid and unpaid work. To achieve this, our plan is built upon key priorities and aims:



The priorities have been co-produced within this plan, seeking to raise the profile of children and young people and adults with a Learning Disability to continue our work to increase community awareness and inclusion and reduce inequalities that people experience. Further, the priorities have been informed by direct feedback from people with lived experience, and act as a foundation to ensure further improved support for children and young and people and adults with a Learning Disability to live healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives.

The plan has a five-year lifespan and will be subject to progress reports through the Delivery Plan to the Learning Disability Partnership Board, ultimately reporting to the wider Cheshire Place Health and Wellbeing Board.

More information about our priorities

Becoming an adult	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have the right support and choices at the existing stage of life for people with a learning disability turning 18 years of age ▪ I want to feel well supported and know where to get the help and information I need as reach the age of 18 ▪ feel happy that your parents and carers have the right information about making choices together with you
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure integration of social workers through CYP and ASC ▪ Continue to improve pathways for young people approaching adulthood based on our Plan for Adulthood ▪ Continue working of the aligning multi-agency systems in both children’s and adults’ services
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An increase in satisfaction rates for Adult Social Care among people with learning disability aged 18 to 25 year-olds ▪ Reduction in the number of young people aged 18 to 25-year-olds who live in residential care home ▪ Increase in the number of young people aged 18 to 25-year-olds with a learning disability in paid, unpaid employment or in training ▪ Information and/or training is available on life impacting health transitions
Right care and support	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have access to current information provided in different ways so that it is accessible to all ▪ have a greater say and share information about good practice from self- advocacy organisations locally and nationally ▪ have access to a broad range of activities and learning opportunities, universal opportunities being open to everyone

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have a care and support plan about my life and my future care not just about money and how I pay for care
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure an integration of health and social care commissioners develop services that maintain a culture of valuing people ▪ Process of assessment and care and support plans are clear and transparent and include future life planning ▪ Co-produce care and support plans with the individual ▪ Develop services that are person-centred and focused on the individual
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An excellent quality of life ▪ Care and support that is person centred, including advance care planning ▪ People are supported who are eligible to have a Personal Health Budget, Direct Payments and Individual Service Fund (ISF) ▪ You, your family, and carers will have the right information at the right time
Choice and control	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have equal access to various kinds of services that meet your need ▪ have a say about choices made for you ▪ have a say about how services are designed and delivered ▪ be able to go out more and enjoy a social life
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure you have a person-centred plan and have control of it ▪ Have choice of how you pay for services, through direct payments, personal budgets, and personal health budgets and ISF ▪ Ensure you are listened to and valued in making choices for your life and end of life ▪ Maintain you are supported with your friendships and relationships
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are supported to make decisions about every aspect of your life including end of life ▪ There is an increase in the number of people who report they had a say in the way their care or support is being provided

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measure occasions when people are supported to go out when they want ▪ Promote the increased use of assistive technology to support people to be independent
My home	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ feel safe and have a choice of accommodation ▪ receive valuable information and advice on your housing options ▪ have choice and control about who you live with ▪ be close to family and friends ▪ have access to good transport ▪ have good accommodation that is of good quality and flexible for your needs
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detailed plans to develop more accommodation options ▪ Make sure people are given clear information and have choice about where to live, and who to live with ▪ Make sure there is enough local support for people who come back to Cheshire East ▪ Develop plans to support people to live in their local community as independently as possible ▪ Review and promote Shared Lives
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased offers for suitable accommodation ▪ Housing that enables inclusion and supports choice and control, and quality of life ▪ Develop homes for life ▪ Information and advice on housing and support is consistent, available, clear, and accessible
My community	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ feel supported to be part of where you live ▪ live your life to the full ▪ have the opportunity to gain experience and develop ▪ be able to contribute to the community in which you live
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work towards you feeling part of your community and directly involved in the area you live ▪ Ensure we are understanding and acting on what a person wants and needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop existing community assets and resources to enable residents with Learning Disabilities to have the opportunity to access them ▪ Co-design and implement a Relationships Policy and guidance including training programme for residents with Learning Disabilities
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and support to access activities in the community ▪ Providing information about different types of activities - universal and specialist, to understand how inclusion is progressing for you ▪ An increased awareness of the needs of adults with learning disabilities within the community and the promotion of inclusion ▪ Improved opportunities to access the community ▪ Feeling happy about where you live
Good health	We want you to....
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ feel well and be healthy ▪ have good mental health ▪ have annual health checks ▪ good access to services is available at the right time and it is easy to find support
What we will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making sure more people have a health check each year for people aged 14 years and above ▪ Ensure we work together so more people have Health Action Plans ▪ Look at why people remain in long stay hospitals ▪ Review health impacts of loneliness and isolation ▪ Assess instances of individuals at risk of admission to hospital to take action to prevent admission
How will we measure progress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An increase in the number of young people and adults with a health passport and fast track ID when they go into hospital ▪ Young people and adults with long term conditions and their families and carers are supported to manage their health ▪ Awareness of sexual health for young people and adults with a learning disability

Developing our plan

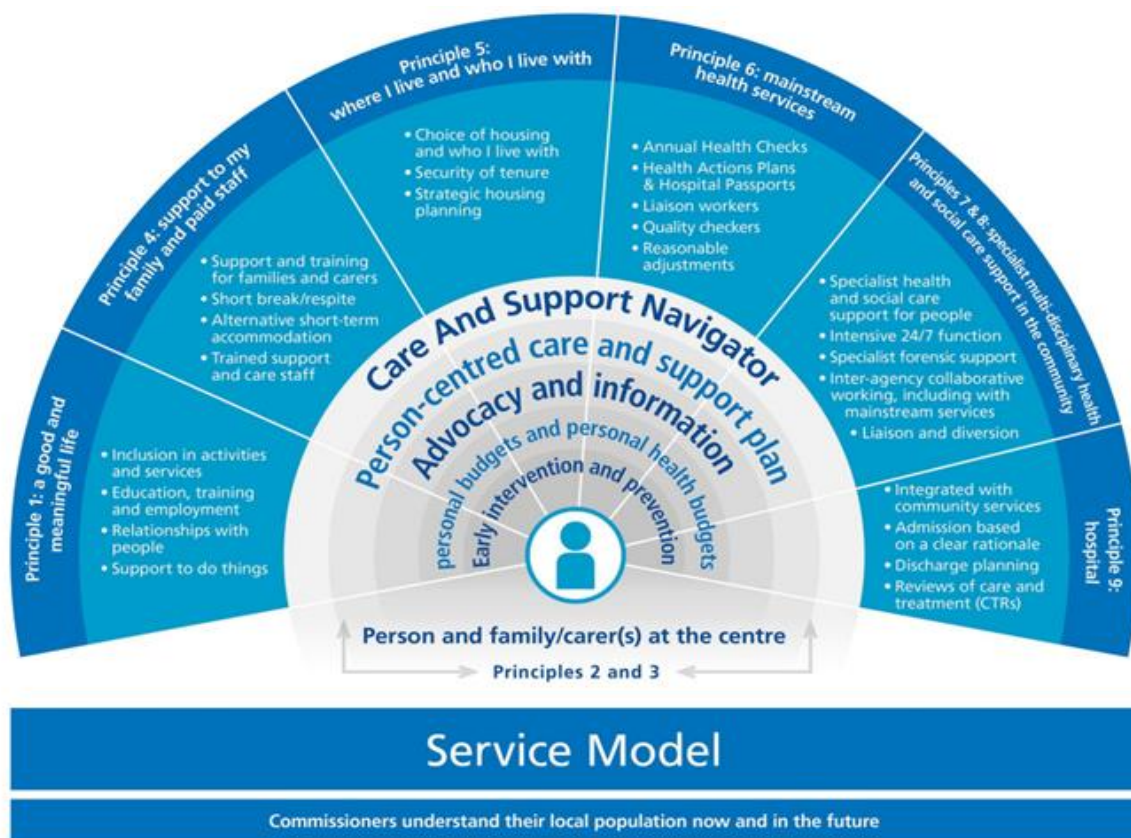
Lots of people have been working to produce this plan. The co-production of the plan was developed with the Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) and included input from many people;

- Self-advocates of young people and adults with a learning disability
- Parents and carers
- Schools
- Health practitioners
- Service commissioners and social workers
- Providers of services

The vision of our five-year plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities, enabling people to live longer and healthier lives. We will do this by creating and delivering safe, integrated, and sustainable services that meet people's needs by the best use of all the assets and resources we have available to us. The plan is an update of our previous strategy for Cheshire East, taking many actions and tasks further forward. The plan supports Cheshire East Councils' [Corporate Plan 2021-2025](#) and particularly our priorities;

An open and enabling organisation	A council which empowers and cares about people	A thriving and sustainable place
<ul style="list-style-type: none">⑩ Listen, learn and respond to our residents, promoting opportunities for a two-way conversation⑩ Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce health inequalities across the borough• Protect and support our communities and safeguard children, adults at risk and families from abuse, neglect and exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⑩ A great place for people to live, work and visit• Welcoming, safe and clean neighbourhoods

While the NHS has experienced changes within this field with integrated care systems replacing clinical commissioning groups, the nine principles within the National Service Model¹ remain as important as outlined in the Service Model.



Also, the plan further supports the **NHS The Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR)**² and subsequent change to new name for the LeDeR programme will be Learning from Life and Death Reviews³ This is a programme commissioned to improve the standard and quality of care for people with a learning disability and will help people with a learning disability enjoy a range of life opportunities without constraint on their choices.

Combining an integrated approach is further supported through the **Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028**⁴, in which it outlines their high-level vision and aspirations to:

Reduce inequalities, narrowing the gap between those who are enjoying good health and wellbeing and those who are not	Improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all of our residents	Help people to have a good quality of life, to be healthy and happy.
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¹ [Transforming Care: service model specification January 2017](#)

² [NHS Learning Disability Mortality Review \(LeDeR\) Programme: Action from Learning](#). May 2019

³ [NHS Learning from Life and Death Reviews](#)

⁴ [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028 The Cheshire East Partnership Five Year Plan](#)

How we developed our plan

Engagement and consultation




A review of the previous All Age Learning Disability Strategy was undertaken to assess its success which was presented to the Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board, and a project group was developed. The learning from the review was that the new strategy should be called a Plan, which needs to have a clear and SMART objective (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely), workstreams to take forward actions and that there is clear accountability in which to monitor progress.

We undertook two online consultations during the past two years in the lead up to developing our plan, gaining feedback from people with lived experience and partners in seeking to shape our refreshed plan.

What people told us

Even through our most challenging time during the Covid 19 lockdown we undertook online engagement events, including surveys and online meetings, which has now shaped and informed the contents of this new plan.

To acknowledge coming out of lockdown, and to get everyone together again the Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board hosted a face-to-face conference in June 2022, celebrating with over 200 self-advocates, parent carers, professionals and people with lived experience what we have achieved in recent years, and the issues that are important to people now. This has now not only influenced this plan, but also based on what people had told us, three key actions were formulated into an Acton Plan, see below.

Some of what people told us	Key actions to make improvements
 <p>'We would like to go out more'</p> <p>'We get to access the community and meet new people'</p> <p>'More social and evening activities to let people stay up late'</p> <p>'Better transition working'</p>	<p>Make things better for people who want to stay up late</p>
 <p>'Staff, personal assistants, and carers don't get enough praise'</p> <p>'More events and chances for people to have their say on services'</p> <p>'I have difficulty in getting to events as no transport'</p> <p>'Make work in care more attractive'</p>	<p>Give people more chance to have their say on services and what they want to do</p>
 <p>'Better access to information'</p> <p>'Services that meet the needs of people and what they want to do'</p> <p>'More choice of services for people with learning disabilities'</p>	<p>Provide better access to information for people with learning disabilities and carers</p>

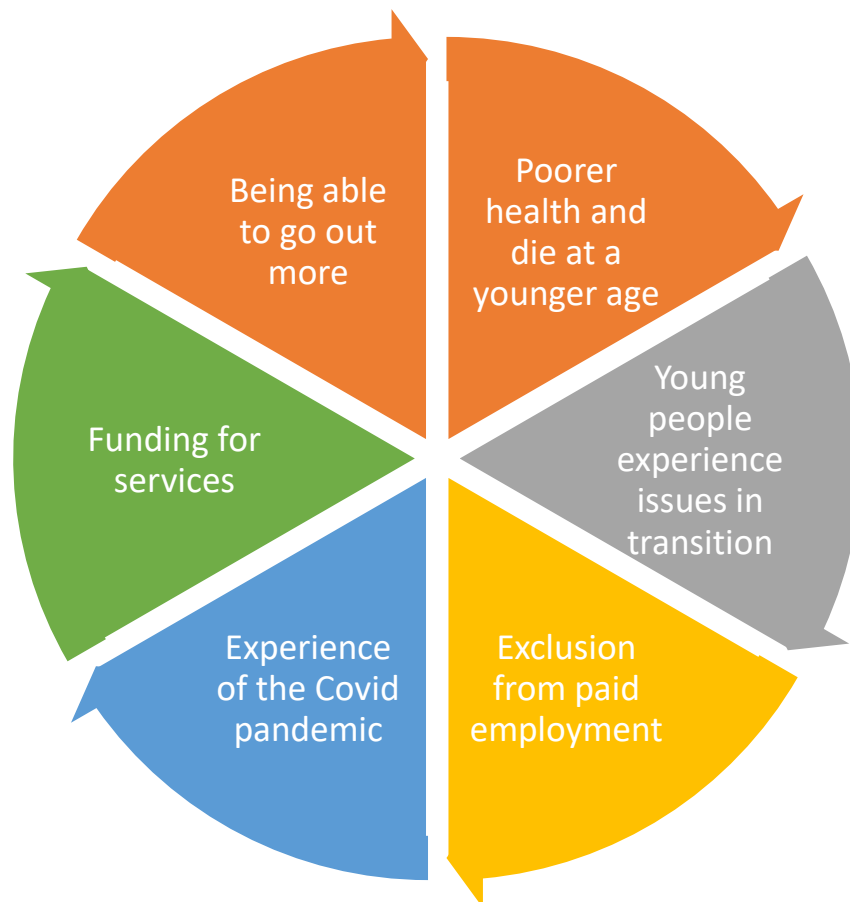
Listening and working together to reflect the voices of many, requires a balance between what people want and need and the challenges faced in the current environment. Our shared experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted again that it is often the most vulnerable in society who are likely to suffer most from these kinds of significant impact events, dealing with feelings of isolation and lack of control.

However, the pandemic has brought forward opportunities within communities themselves for new ways of working, the use of new and emerging technology and heightened the awareness of the good that communities can do for each other. Our plan will set out how we will look to continue this shift and make the most of the benefits of engaged and supportive communities.

Our challenges

We have achieved a lot since our first coproduced strategy and worked to improve the lives of people with a learning disability.

Guidance has been provided to support health, social care, and other public services to further support people with a learning disability to have more independency and control of their lives and the service they receive. However, we still have work to do and there are still challenges that we face for people with a learning disability, including:



More information about our challenges

<p>Being able to go out more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teenagers take part in fewer leisure activities • Our experience of lockdown made people feel isolated • People tell us they want to go out more in the evenings and weekends 	<p>Poorer health and die at a younger age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People still experience health inequalities • Experience poor mental and physical health • Ensuring effective services are in place so fewer people die early 	<p>Young people experience issues in transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring there are good pathways established • Making sure young people and their families get the right information • Ensuring teams are in place to support young people 14-25 with SEND
<p>Exclusion from paid employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences in education affect ability to access employment • Feel out of place, different, forgotten, worthless and isolated • Need the support and help of carers, family, friends and people they know and trust 	<p>Experience of the Covid pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally there was an increased risk of illness and death during the COVID-19 pandemic • Linking health inequalities and experiences of Covid to support improvements 	<p>Cost of living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rising costs of living is having an immediate effect on people with a learning disability • We are seeing an increase in demand for services and a reduction in budget • Ensuring that support needs match the individual's care and support plan for personal budget

Meeting these challenges are reflected within this plan, explored in seeking to meet successful outcomes. It would need to be acknowledged that there will be less money available than in the past. We need to be spending money more targeted for better outcomes for the individual ensuring a better and measurable outcome.

Our local need⁵



Our numbers

In Cheshire East 5,253 adults and 2,647 children are estimated to have a learning disability.

The number of adults with a learning disability is projected to stay around the same at 5,244 by 2030.



Population growth in Cheshire East

Numbers of people will change as our population grows and people generally live longer.

By 2040 Cheshire East is expected an increase of 0.33% of people, from 390,980 to 415,756



Housing offer....

There are many people seeking accommodation and support to live independently. Just under 80% of current supported living provision for LD is within shared housing when people tell us they prefer their own front door.



Access to training and employment

In 2018/19 12% of the 940 working age adults with learning disabilities known to services in Cheshire East were in paid employment

Of these, 69 were male and 44 were female



Not everyone in Cheshire East needs support....

In Cheshire East, 1,050 children have a SEN related with a learning disability and 1,567 adults were registered with a GP and accessing support

In 2017 there were 10,029 people with learning disabilities, this includes 7382 adults (15+) and 2647 children and young people (0-14 years)

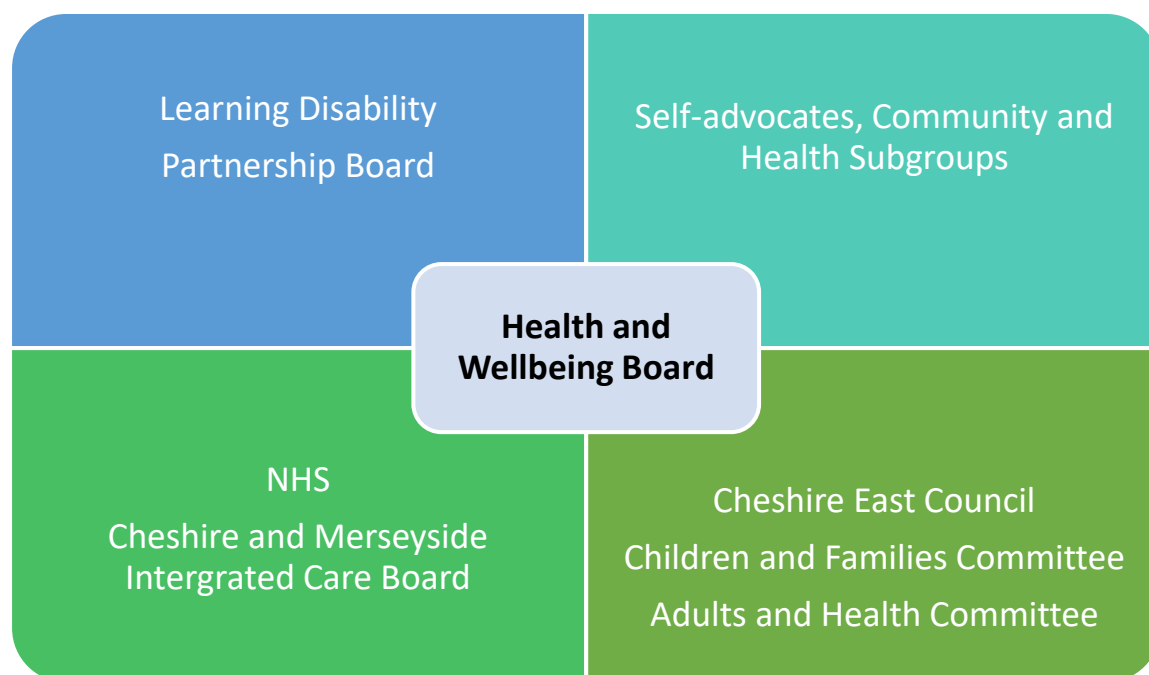
⁵ Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2020; Cheshire East Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019; Cheshire East Population Statistics ONS 2023; Cheshire and Merseyside Transforming Care Partnership Assessment of future accommodation with support needs October 2022

How will we monitor this plan

Together, we will develop a comprehensive delivery plan which will set out in more detail the tasks that need to be undertaken to deliver the plan, and this will be updated at least annually.

Regular review and monitoring of this plan will also ensure that any future stakeholder feedback can be considered, and changes made to this plan and delivery plan where appropriate.

The delivery plan will be overseen through relevant Council and partnership governance, and have overall responsibility to the Cheshire East Place Health and Wellbeing Board ;



Next steps

We have undertaken a lot of engagement and consultation in order to develop this plan to ensure we have included what is important to the people of Cheshire East. The consultation period confirmed support for the broad priorities in the strategy, and some changes and additions to the plan will be made because of the consultation received during this period.

However, this is not the end of the conversation; once the strategy is adopted, it will be kept under regular review to ensure that we continue to put the needs of our residents and service users at the forefront of our plans.

Words and terms used in this plan, and what they mean

ASC	Adult Social Care
CEPCF	Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum is a group of parents and carers of disabled children and young people. Our aim is to make sure the services in Cheshire East meet the needs of disabled children / young people and their families.
CYP	Children and young people
CQC	Care Quality Commission the independent regulator of health and social care in England
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan is a legal document which describes a child or young person's aged up to 25 special educational needs, the support they need, and the outcomes they would like to achieve.
ICB	Integrated Care Board is an NHS organisation which is responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget, and arranging for the provision of health services in a geographical area.
ICS	Integrated Commissioning System are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area.
LA	Local Authority
LDPB	The Cheshire East Learning Disability Partnership Board is a partnership of agency, for example the Council, NHS, community groups, and self-advocates and parent carers with a role is to represent everyone in Cheshire East who has a learning disability and to be your voice.
LeDeR	Learning Disabilities Mortality Review - Established in 2017, founded by NHS England and NHS Improvement, LeDeR is a service improvement programme that improve care, reduce care inequalities, and prevent people with a learning disability and autistic people from early deaths
NHSE	National Health Service England
Personal outcomes	Describes what a person wants to achieve. These are goals that the person receiving care and support, and their care worker or carer work towards
Priorities	The priorities within this plan are the things everyone feels is important and want to work together to achieve
SEND	Special Education Need and Disabilities
SMART	SMART objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, and timebound. They help to organise, track, and accomplish long and short-term goals in an effective way, for example in our Delivery Plan
Social prescribing	Social prescribing refers to when health professionals refer patients to non-clinical support services in the local community to help their health and wellbeing where appropriate
Vision	The vision set out the ambition for the future