

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: Cabinet

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2011
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Children's Services
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Family Support Services Review

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This is a response to the report on the Review of Family Support Services presented by the Task and Finish Group of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and considered by Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

### **2.0 Decisions Requested**

- 2.1 That Members note the responses to the recommendations made to Cabinet in the report by the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee entitled Review of Family Support Services on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010.
- 2.2 That Members endorse the response to the Review of family Support services recommendations.
- 2.3 That the Director of Children's Services be charged with taking steps to secure the implementation of the recommendations to ensure early intervention and prevention services are delivered to best meet the needs of families in Cheshire East

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The implementation of an early intervention model for Family Support in Cheshire East will ensure families' needs are met at the earliest point possible which in turn will reduce the need for more complex, expensive interventions at a later stage.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All

## **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 The recent cross party government report Good Prevention, Great Kids, Better Citizens clearly sets out the argument that prevention is better than cure and provides a firm foundation on which to build effective early intervention family support services.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 7.1 The 2011-12 budget included a savings target of £450,000 for Family Support, which was to be achieved through the rationalisation of the Family Centres and a restructure within the Family Support service. The creation of the new Early Intervention and Prevention service and the appointment of the Head of that service has resulted in a wider review of the early intervention services provided by Cheshire East, including Family Support which will ensure these savings are realised.
- 7.2 Where costs are likely to be incurred in the responses to the recommendations in the Annex, these will all be met within existing Council resources.

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific legal implications in respect of this report...

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 Failure to build capacity to provide early intervention services will result in delays in families accessing services resulting in an increased risk of more complicated and severe problems arising at a later date.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 On the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 Cabinet considered a report by the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee entitled "Review of Family Support Services". The report acknowledged that prevention is better than cure and it is widely recognised that early intervention works, both with regard to improved outcomes and greater efficiency of resources and services being delivered.
- 10.2 The report made 23 recommendations relating to future delivery of Family Support provision for children in Cheshire East. Responses to the 23 recommendations is attached as an annexe.
- 10.3 Cabinet received the report and endorsed the recommendation that the Children and Families Portfolio Holder report to a future meeting of the Cabinet with a formal response to each recommendation.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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