

OPEN

Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee

2 December 2025

Cared for Children and Care Leavers Annual Report 2024-25

Report of: Allison Sollom, Head of Service – Cared for Children and Care Leavers

Ward(s) Affected: All

For Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee Annual Report 2024-25 at Appendix 1 sets out the work of the committee and progress against the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy since April 2024.
- 2 This report supports the work of the committee in achieving the aim in the council's Corporate Plan to 'be the best corporate parents to our children in care.'

Executive Summary

- 3 The purpose of the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee as an advisory committee to the Children and Families Committee is to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as corporate parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers from 0-25 years of age and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee is recommended to:

1. Scrutinise the contents of the Cared for Children & Care Leaver Annual Report 2024-2025 & note the contents therein.

Background

- 4 The Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee Annual Report details the progress and achievements over 2024-25 against the six pledges the Council has made to cared for children and care leavers in the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy.
- 5 Key stakeholders, including cared for children and young people and care leavers, are regularly consulted on the work of the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee and Council and partner services. The six pledges within the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy are based on what young people told us matters most to them.
- 6 As an advisory committee to the Children and Families Committee, one of the roles of the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee is to act as advocate for cared for children and care leavers, ensuring that their needs are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council and its commissioned services.

Consultation and Engagement

- 7 There is no consultation required; the report is for information and scrutiny.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 8 The Committee's role includes scrutinising the performance of Children's Services so this report is for information and scrutiny.

Other Options Considered

- 9 Not applicable; the report is for information and scrutiny.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 10 The recommendations proposed fall within the remit of the Cared for Children & Care Leavers Committee as outlined in the functions of the committee in Chapter 2 Part 4 of Cheshire East Constitution.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 11 There are no direct financial implications or changes required to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as a result of the recommendations in this report. Services which support and deliver the Local Authority's corporate parenting role will continue to work to ensure that they operate within the MTFS approved budgets. For context the 25/26 Cared for Children net budget is £45.513m.

Human Resources

- 12 The number of children in care and care leavers has implications for staffing, both within children's social care and enabling services.

Risk Management

- 13 Cared for children and care leavers are a vulnerable group for whom there are a number of risks, including poor outcomes in education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood. The Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy outlines plans to mitigate these risks.

Impact on other Committees

- 14 This report will be relevant to the Children and Families Committee given their function includes oversight and scrutiny of performance within Children's Services.

Policy

- 15 There are no direct policy implications.

Commitment 1: Unlocking prosperity for all	Commitment 2: Improving health and wellbeing	Commitment 3: An effective and enabling council
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 16 There are no decisions or proposals being made within this paper which require and Equality Impact Assessment.

Other Implications

- 17 None identified.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy):</i>			
Ashley Hughes/ Chris Benham	S151 Officer/Deputy S151 Officer	18/11/25	19/11/25

Kevin O'Keefe	Interim Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	19/11/25	27/11/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Jennie Summers	Interim Head of Legal Services	19/11/25	24/11/25
Kathy Oliver	Principal Accountant	19/11/25	24/11/25
<i>Other Consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors</i>			
Dawn Godfrey	Executive Director, Children's Services	18/11/25	18/11/25

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Allison Sollom Allison.sollom@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Cared for Children and Care Leavers Annual Report 2024-25.
Background Papers:	No background papers