

# REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
**Report of:** Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive  
**Subject/Title:** Children and Young People's Improvement Plan.

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## **1 Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board on the proposed action plan to address the recommendations and areas for improvement identified by Ofsted in its inspection report of Children's Services, published in September 2015.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report, the draft improvement plan at Appendix 1 and action plan at Appendix 2;
  - b) Propose any suggested amendments to the documents; and
  - c) Endorse the arrangements for submitting the plan to the Department for Education and Ofsted in December 2015.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to improve the health and wellbeing of the children, young people and their families in Cheshire East, reduce health inequalities and promote the integration of services. It is important that the Health and Wellbeing Board is appraised of the strengths and areas for improvement within Children's Services and is assured that arrangements are in place to develop, implement and scrutinise plans that meet the areas for improvement as set out in the improvement plan.

## **4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- 4.1 Outcome one of *The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Population of Cheshire East 2014 - 2016*, 'Starting and Developing Well' sets out the Health and Wellbeing Board's priority to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life; they and their families or carers are supported to feel healthy and safe, reach their full potential and are able to feel part of where they live and involved in the services they receive. The children and young people's improvement plan has been developed to address the areas of improvement and will need to align closely with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 The effectiveness of Cheshire East's arrangements for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was inspected by Ofsted in July 2015. Inspectors also carried out a review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Inspection report of their findings, published in September 2015 identified 17 recommended actions for the local authority and partners and a further 8 recommendations for the LSCB to get to a consistently 'good' standard.
- 5.2 Significant engagement has taken place with stakeholders since the publication of the report, including workshops with senior managers, other staff and partners and reports and presentations to Cabinet, the Children and Families Scrutiny and Overview Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Improvement Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Corporate Parenting Board and Children's Trust, involving the views of children and young people.
- 5.3 Discussions are currently underway with Ofsted around holding an improvement planning seminar with them to better understand their findings and the best possible responses to these; the plan will be amended, as appropriate.
- 5.4 The local authority is required to submit an action plan to address Ofsted's recommendations to the Department for Education and Ofsted by 22 December 2015. The current draft Children and Young People's Improvement Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The action plan to address the recommendations is set out at Appendix 2, including the impact measures that will be used to scrutinise and challenge progress in these areas.
- 5.5 There are a number of supporting documents to the action plan, set out below, and these are available on request:
- Governance Framework
  - Quality Assurance Framework
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Risk Register

- Core Training Offer for Social Workers and Managers
- Ofsted recommendations from the Inspection in July 2015
- Ofsted recommendations from the Inspection in March 2013 and Improvement Notice Actions

5.6 The Improvement Plan has a risk register that includes three key risks;

- The recruitment and retention of Social Workers and Practice Managers
- Partnership engagement and pace of improvement; and
- Managing the increased demand for services

## **6 Access to Information**

6.1 Cheshire East's Ofsted Inspection Report is available on the website <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/cheshire-east>

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

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