

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2021

Report Title: Vision for Children and Young People in Cheshire East

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kathryn Flavell – Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe – Executive Director (People)

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 We have developed an overarching vision for what we want to achieve for children and young people in Cheshire East. This will be used to ensure all practitioners working with children and young people have a shared aim and are clear on the expectation that all work should be done **together** with children, young people and families. This will help us improve outcomes for children and young people by ensuring support is based on what works for them as individuals, there is a one team approach across the partnership centred on the needs of the child or young people, and by recognising and building on strengths within families creating increased resilience for the future.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to

- Endorse and adopt the vision for children and young people in Cheshire East
- Promote the vision widely
- Ensure these outcomes for children are achieved and decisions are made in children and young people's best interests.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet has a key role in ensuring that, as a Council, we achieve strong outcomes for all our children, young people and families, particularly those that are more vulnerable to poorer outcomes and need additional help and support.
- 3.2. We believe establishing a shared vision will help to support us to achieve strong outcomes for children across the partnership by ensuring support is based on what works for them as individuals, there is a one team approach across the partnership centred on the needs of the child or young people, and by recognising and building on strengths within families creating increased resilience for the future.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 When Ofsted carried out their inspection in November 2019, inspectors felt that although the voice of the child was embedded within services and was a strength, and partnerships were mature and responsive, that practitioners would benefit from a clear overarching vision which set out what we wanted to achieve for children and young people.
- 5.2 A considerable amount of work has already taken place with our children, young people, families, communities and partnerships to establish our existing effective partnership plans and strategies, such as the Corporate Parenting Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan, Early Help Together Strategy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy, and Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Plan. This work has informed the development of the vision, which pulls together the different elements of all of these plans into one place.
- 5.3 The vision is based on what children, young people, parents, carers and practitioners have told us is important to them. This will be used to ensure all practitioners working with children and young people have a shared aim and are clear on the expectation that all work should be done **together** with children, young people and families. This will help us to make Cheshire East a great place to be young, where all children and young people enjoy great outcomes:
 1. Children and young people we care for are happy and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

2. Children and young people feel and are safe.
 3. Children and young people are happy and experience good mental health and wellbeing.
 4. Children and young people are healthy and make positive choices.
 5. Children and young people leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and the life skills they need to thrive into adulthood.
 6. Children, young people, and young adults with additional needs have better chances in life.
- 5.4 Our three beliefs will help us to ensure we effectively support children and young people as a partnership:
- **Children are best supported within their families and their communities** – this reflects that we want children and young people to remain with their families where possible and safe to do so, so we will take a early intervention and prevention approach that is solution and child focused. Where children cannot remain with their immediate family members, we will look for ways for them to be cared for by or remain connected with their wider family and communities so they can maintain the relationships that are important to them.
 - **All children should enjoy the best education which prepares them to thrive in adulthood** – we know some groups are at risk from achieving poorer educational and employment outcomes and this reflects our ambition for all our children to achieve and enjoy their education and go on to a fulfilling and successful career, and our focus on ensuring young people are prepared for adulthood.
 - **Families and communities are strong and resilient, with the right help, by the right people, at the right time** – this reflects that we want to ensure families get support early and as soon as they need it to prevent issues from forming or becoming more difficult, and that we aim for families to be supported by someone they know and have a relationship with already where this possible and appropriate. We will always work to empower families to be strong and resilient.
- 5.5 Our vision and the work we will undertake to achieve this is detailed within the new Corporate Plan, so there is a golden thread from our strategic plan for the Council, through our children's partnership plans and strategies, down to frontline delivery with families.

- 5.6 The content of the vision is included within the Appendix. The content has been developed with children, young people, parents, carers and staff across the partnership, and their feedback has been incorporated into the final version.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1 Legal Implications

- 6.1.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

6.2 Finance Implications

- 6.2.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

6.3 Policy Implications

- 6.3.1 There are no policy implications.

6.4 Equality Implications

- 6.4.1 Part of our vision is achieving respectful and inclusive communities.

6.5 Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1 There are no additional human resource implications.

6.6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1 Establishing a shared vision and the expectation that all work is carried out together with children, young people and families will help us to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

6.7 Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1 There are no specific implications for rural communities.

6.8 Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

- 6.8.1 Establishing a shared vision and the expectation that all work is carried out together with children, young people and families will help us to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

6.9 Public Health Implications

6.9.1 The vision includes promoting healthy lifestyles and positive choices for children and young people.

6.10 Climate Change Implications

6.10.1 There are no climate change implications.

7 Ward Members Affected

7.1 All ward members.

8 Consultation & Engagement

8.1 Children and young people have been consulted and their views have informed the development of the vision.

9 Access to Information

9.1 Further background information relating to this report can be obtained by contacting the officer below.

10 Contact Information

10.1 Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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