

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 January 2021

Report Title: Cheshire East Children's Safeguarding Partnership (CESCP)
Annual Report

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

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report provides the Committee with the first annual report of the new Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP). The report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Annual Report provides the Committee with a detailed account of the work undertaken by the CESCP throughout the year, progress made against the priorities contained within the CESCP Business Plan and the outcomes achieved.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is recommended to note the report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The local authority has a key duty to work together with other partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Receiving the annual report from the CESCP provides the Committee an overview of the effectiveness of these arrangements.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. The Committee could consider scrutinising this activity on a more frequent basis, but that would not provide the broader performance and themes provided by an annual report.

5. Background

- 5.1. The statutory guidance, *Working Together 2018 (WT18)*, requires each area to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. This report sets out what the CЕСCP has done over the past year, along with plans for next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.
- 5.2. *Working Together 2018 (WT18)* established that Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) be replaced by new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in local areas established by three statutory safeguarding partners (the Local authority, the Police and the local Clinical Commissioning Group). In 2018-19, Cheshire East's LSCB worked towards meeting and publishing new partnership arrangements. These were published in June 2019 and implemented in September 2019. The LSCB then became the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership (CESCP). This is the first annual report from the CESCP.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the local authority is under a duty to make arrangements to promote co-operation between itself and organisations and agencies to improve the wellbeing of local children. This co-operation should exist and be effective at all levels of an organisation, from strategic level through to operational delivery.
- 6.1.2. The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, strengthens this already important relationship by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. Specifically the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.
- 6.1.3. The CESCP works within the extensive legislative framework around safeguarding children. *Working Together 2018 (WT18)* is the statutory document that provides a detailed guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. The annual report sets out the financial position of the board.

6.3. Policy Implications

6.3.1. There are no current policy implications.

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. There are no current equality implications.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. There are no current HR implications.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. It is essential to identify, analyse and prioritise risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Partnership's plans. The Partnership maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed. The Annual Report sets out a number of 'open' risks and the actions in place to mitigate against these.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. The overall role of CЕСSP is to coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. Services have had to adapt their offer in response to the global pandemic Covid-19.

6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. The CЕСSP works across all wards in Cheshire East.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. The Annual Report contains information on the CЕСSP's consultation and engagement activity.

9. Access to Information

9.1. The following information supports this report:

9.1.1. Appendix 1 – CЕСP Annual Report 2019-20.

10. Contact Information

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

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