

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	10 January 2022
Report Title:	Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2020-21
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/34/21-22
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1.** This report will provide the Children and Families Committee with an update on progress against the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership priorities over 2020-21. It also includes the plans for the partnership for the next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1.** This report will provide the Children and Families Committee with an update on progress against the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership priorities over 2020-21. It also includes the plans for the partnership for the next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1.** The Children and Families Committee is recommended to scrutinise the progress by the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and the impact for children and young people, recognising the achievements and progress made, and to seek assurance around ongoing areas for further development.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1.** The Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan aim to 'protect and support our communities and safeguard children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, adults at risk, and families from abuse,' and its objective that 'children receive the right support, by the right people, at the right time, so they are effectively protected from harm, and are supported to stay within their families and communities.'
- 4.2.** One of the key areas of focus for the Children and Families Committee is to review and scrutinise the effectiveness of services for children and young people.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1.** This section is not applicable.

6. Background

- 6.1.** The statutory guidance Working Together 2018 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. The report has been scrutinised by the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership statutory representatives from Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and Cheshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

7. Implications

7.1. Legal

- 7.1.1.** The Council is defined by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as a safeguarding partner in partnership with the Cheshire NHS clinical commissioning group and chief officer of police for Cheshire. This partnership operates within that guidance.

7.2. Finance

- 7.2.1.** The council, along with other partners, contribute financially to support the partnership's activity. Financial plans are due to be reviewed to ensure that the service can continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people in Cheshire East.

7.3. Policy

- 7.3.1.** Cheshire East is ambitious and committed to ensuring as a partnership, we work together to make Cheshire East a great place to be young.

7.4. Equality

- 7.4.1.** Good quality practice with families ensures that all children and young people's needs are taken into account and supported.

7.5. Human Resources

7.5.1. Developing high quality practitioners and managers is crucial in supporting us to achieve consistently good practice for children and young people. The Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership provides a training programme and coordinates the development of practice guidance which contributes to this.

7.6. Risk Management

7.6.1. There are reputational and financial risks of not providing good Children's Safeguarding Services, as well as risks to individual children and young people. The council must continue to ensure that these risks are minimised by ensuring effective plans are in place to improve where areas for development are identified.

7.7. Rural Communities

7.7.1. Vulnerable children and young people are present in all communities in Cheshire East.

7.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

7.8.1. The partnership's priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan aim to 'protect and support our communities and safeguard children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, adults at risk and families.'

7.9. Public Health

7.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

7.10. Climate Change

7.10.1. Children's Services continue to support the council with climate change objectives.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2020-21
Background Papers:	None