

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	11 July 2022
Report Title:	Children and Young People's Plan, 2022-25
Report of:	Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/12/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report sets out our new Children and Young People's Plan for Cheshire East which sets out the ambition of the partnerships to improve outcomes for all our children and young people. Whilst some of our support is targeted at groups of children and young people, the aim is that as a partnership we improve outcomes for all Cheshire East children through our universal services.
- 1.2. The Children and Young People's Plan meets the strategic aims and objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-25 as it contributes to 'A council which empowers and cares about people' and the priority 'All children to have the best start in life with ongoing opportunities to maximise their potential'.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of the Children and Young People's Plan is to support the aim that every child and young person in Cheshire East will have the best start in life, be safe, happy, healthy and to reach their potential. The outcome areas set out in the plan that we want to achieve for all of our children and young people are:

Outcome 1 – Children and young people we care for are happy and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Outcome 2 – Children and young people are and feel safe.

Outcome 3 – Children and young people are happy and experience good mental health and wellbeing.

Outcome 4 – Children and young people are healthy and make positive choices

Outcome 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.

Outcome 6 – Children, young people and young adults with additional needs have better life chances.

Outcome 7 – Children and young people have access to early help and prevention when they need it.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Children and Families Committee is recommended to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan 2022-26.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. The Children and Families Committee is recommended to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan 2022-26 to ensure that we have a current and relevant plan, put together with Cheshire East children and young people, to improve their outcomes.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. There is an option not to have a Children and Young People's Plan, but that would mean not listening to what children and young people have asked for and potentially lead to silo working across partnerships.

6. Background

- 6.1. The existing Children and Young People's plan runs from 2019 to 2021. Feedback from children and young people during the development of the new plan was that the overarching outcomes of this plan are still relevant, so only minor amendments have been made to refresh these.
- 6.2. As children and young people told us that early help and prevention is important to them, an additional outcome has been added to the plan to reflect this.
- 6.3. The Children and Young People's Plan will run from 2022-26. Children and young people told us that they would like the plan to remain relevant. We have therefore set out our priorities for 2022-23 and will refresh these priorities on an annual basis, reflecting on what we have achieved and what we still need to do.
- 6.4. Each outcome has a lead partnership agency, a named outcome lead and a named young person lead, who will work together and report progress to the Cheshire East Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT).

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1.** The Children and Young People's Plan 2022-26 has been developed TOGETHER with Cheshire East Youth Council and the Children and Young People's Trust. The Cheshire East Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT), includes representatives from children and young people, and staff from a range of agencies across the partnership such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1.** There is a range of legislation and statutory guidance that sets out the role of the local authority and partners in respect of children and young people, including the Children Act 2004 that focuses on the wellbeing of children and young people and the Children Act 1989 that defines the local authority's broader range of duties and responsibilities.
- 8.1.2.** Whilst there is no legal duty to produce a children and young people's plan, doing so promotes and enables engagement in the prioritisation of cross-cutting outcomes and actions across the partnership.
- 8.1.3.** The outcomes within the new plan will be developed in line with current legislation and best practice.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1.** There are no direct finance implications of this plan. Individual projects and actions that have financial implications either have finances already agreed or will go through the relevant approval processes before progressing.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1.** Cheshire East is ambitious and committed to ensuring that together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young. Our priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people are driven through the Council's Corporate Plan, the Children and Young People's Plan, and the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy. Amendments to the plan may be required in line with emerging policies such as the SEND and alternative provision green paper, the schools white paper and proposals from the independent review of social care.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1.** Good quality practice with families ensures that all children and young people's needs are considered and supported.
- 8.4.2.** An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be published with the endorsed plan.

8.5. Human Resources

8.5.1. There are no direct HR issues in developing the new plan, although delivery of the outcomes will need sufficient staff with the right skills to deliver them.

8.6. Risk Management

8.6.1. There are reputational and financial risks of not providing good children's services, as well as risks to individual children and young people. The plan enables engagement across partnerships to ensure agencies are working together to provide quality services to improve outcomes for all our children and young people.

8.7. Rural Communities

8.7.1. The Children and Young People's Plan aims to improve outcomes for all children across all communities in Cheshire East. This includes ensuring that our services can be accessed in a range of ways to benefit those living in our rural communities.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1. Our plans intend to improve the experiences and outcomes for all children and young people across the borough, in particular those that are most vulnerable.

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. The Children and Young People's Plan aims to address health inequalities for children and young people. Outcomes 3 and 5 specifically aim to improve the physical and mental health of children and young people.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. Children's services continue to support the council with climate change objectives.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Laura Hindhaugh Laura.Hindhaugh@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07442 963620
Appendices:	Appendix 1- Children and Young People's Plan, 2022-26 Appendix 2- Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	The Children and Young People Plan 2019-21 can be found at: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/livewell/childrens-trust/children-and-young-peoples-plan-2019-21.pdf