

Cheshire East  
**TOGETHER** for Children and Young People



Cheshire East

Children & Young  
People's Trust

# Children and Young People's Plan

2022-26





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## Foreword

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. As young people we are members of the Cheshire East Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT), alongside people who provide services for children, young people, and families. We work with other groups, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership to make the lives of children and young people better.

### The 7 main outcomes of the plan are:

**Outcome 1** - Children and young people we care for are happy and able to achieve their full potential.

**Outcome 2** - Children and young people feel and are 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 and achieve and the life skills they need thrive in adulthood.

**Outcome 6** - Children, young people and young adults with additional needs have the support they need to achieve and be happy.

**Outcome 7** - Children and young people have earlier access to support when they need it.

When we reviewed our last plan (2019-21), we discussed what we would want for ourselves and other children and young people in our community in the next plan. All of these link to the main 7 outcomes, including that children and young people in Cheshire East:

- Have the right to be equal.
- Feel safe – everywhere and not just at school.
- Can be who they want to be and celebrate diversity.
- Feel happy and represented.
- Have a voice and are listened to.

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We also discussed what success would look like for children and young people:

- Children and young people would feel and know about the impact of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Children and young people would know who is responsible for services and decisions that affect their lives.
- Children and young people will know who to go to and where to go for support.
- Children and young people will work **TOGETHER** with professionals.

We feel that getting the plan right and following through with actions will mean that Cheshire East continues to be a great place to be young and provide a brighter future **TOGETHER**.



Cheshire East Youth Council Members



Deborah Woodcock  
Executive Director of Children's Services

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## Introduction

Our new Children and Young People's Plan for Cheshire East sets out the partnerships' ambition to improve outcomes for all our children and young people. This is our 4-year plan. We have set our year one priorities and will review these each year using annual reviews and reports to ensure our priorities remain relevant to children and young people.

We are committed to continually improving outcomes for children and young people in these changing times, and we will ensure that we respond to key legislation and developing priorities.

Within our plan, some support is targeted at particular groups of children and young people, however, our aim is that as a partnership we will improve outcomes for all Cheshire East children and young people through our universal services such as education and health settings, libraries, leisure centres and other council and partner services.

During the development of our plan, children and young people told us about the importance of being able to access help when they need it, to prevent problems from getting worse. To reflect this, and to ensure we have a focus on early help across the partnership, we have added an additional outcome 'Children and young people have earlier access to support when they need it'.

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## The Together Principles

### TOGETHER in Cheshire East

**TOGETHER is our shared definition of coproduction in Cheshire East because it is inclusive to all.**

**T**eamwork when designing, delivering and evaluating individual support and services

**O**pen-minded ideas and discussions

**G**enuine communication for all parties involved

**E**qual partners help to shape and improve support for all

**T**rust each other to make the right decisions

**H**onest

**E**ngage and empower children, young people, adults and families

**R**espect for everyone's views and opinions

**Working TOGETHER as equal partners towards a common goal for all of our children, young people, adults living in Cheshire East.**

#### Our TOGETHER Values and Commitment

##### We will...

- Listen to your views
- Communicate honestly
- Trust each other
- Be person centred
- Adapt to people's needs
- Respect and value all opinions
- Do what we say we will

##### We won't...

- Use jargon or acronyms
- Give too much information
- Rush meetings
- Take too long to complete our actions
- Be judgemental

Here is some further information about our four key principles of TOGETHER going forward, and who is involved in delivering that.



#### Co-Involvement

We will involve and engage with you from the very start to make you aware of changes to services and policy. Your needs will be identified and views are welcomed at every stage.

#### Co-Design

We will work closely with you to plan and design your individual support, services, and policy making sure that children, young people, adults and families are at the centre of those services.

#### Co-Delivery

We will plan and deliver services together ensuring your voice is heard and acted on at every stage.

#### Co-Evaluation

We offer opportunities for feedback so that we can improve your experience.

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**Jargon buster:** Although we have tried to make this plan simple, there are some words that might need explaining.

Jargon	Meaning
CAMHS	NHS service to assess and support children and young people with emotional, behavioural, or mental health difficulties.
Cared for child or young person	Those children and young people who the local authority look after when they are not able to live with their families. Often this will be with other family members, or perhaps in foster care or residential care.
Care Leaver	An adult (an adult 18 or over) who has spent time in care before the age of 18.
Commissioned Provider	A service we have chosen to do a piece of work.
Contextual Safeguarding	Where we are worried about the risk of harm to children and young people from people beyond their family.
Co-Production	Working on a project from the start to the end with those who use the service. In Cheshire East, we call this <b>TOGETHER</b>
County Lines	Groups or gangs that use young people to carry and sell drugs from borough to borough, and across county boundaries.
EHC	Education, health, and care.
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	A plan for children and young people aged 0-25 in education who have additional needs.
Green paper	Proposals made following a government review into how services can better help children and young people with SEND.
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)	When agencies come together to look at the health, care and wellbeing needs of a community.
Multi-Agency	When a range of different agencies such as health, education, or social care work together.
NEET	Unemployed or not in training or in education.
Neglect strategy	A plan that we will work to across the partnership to support children and
No Wrong Door	A new way of providing support to young people who are within or on the edge of the care system. It compliments traditional council-run young peoples' homes with hubs which combine residential care with fostering.
Quality Assurance	Checking that services are delivering things to a good standard.
SEND	A child or young person who has a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support, which is shortened to SEND (special educational needs and/or disabilities).
Targeted Offer	Support and services for children, young people and families with low level worries who need some extra help.
Universal Offer	Support and services for all children, young people, and families.
White paper	A government paper detailing how the education system will ensure all children are supported to achieve their potential.

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## Outcome 1 - Children and young people we care for are happy and able to achieve their full potential

**Why this is a priority** - Cared for children face some of the biggest challenges in life. Their experiences before they come into care can impact significantly on their outcomes. However, with the right support, we can shape their future happiness and set the foundations for what they can achieve throughout their adult lives. This responsibility means that all those working in children's services must do for them what any good parent would do for their own child.

### **Our children and young people asked us to:**

- Always think about the language we use when working with them so that it is straightforward and to say what we mean.
- change some of the phrases we use when talking about their lives, e.g., permanence and corporate parenting.

### **Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:**

Our previous Corporate Parenting Strategy has been refreshed and is now our Cared for Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-26. The plan sets out the following pledges to improve outcomes across different areas, i.e., we will:

- **Care for our cared for children and care leavers as any good parent would.**  
Develop a new governance structure to deliver the new Cared for Children and Care Leavers strategy and actions.
- **Improve education, employment, and training outcomes.**  
Ensure a robust action plan is in place to reduce NEET and encourage re-engagement opportunities for our care leavers.
- **Work to give all children and young people a forever home and to keep them safe.**  
Development of the No Wrong Door model and principles within Cheshire East.
- **Improve health and wellbeing outcomes.**  
Develop an effective tool that can be used to measure health outcomes for cared for children.
- **Prepare young people for adulthood.**  
Ensure care leavers are supported to make decisions that affect their lives such as housing, jobs, etc.
- **Work TOGETHER with children and young people.**  
Embed the **TOGETHER** approach with our children and young people, making sure that all staff, partners, and elected members are working to listen to and act on what children and young people tell us.

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## Outcome 1 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Corporate Parenting Committee (the name of our Corporate Parenting Committee will soon be changed in line with feedback from children and young people)

### We will know we have made a difference when:

- More children and young people live closer to their families.
- More care leavers in education, employment, or training.
- More of our cared for children will have a forever home with foster carers.
- More of our care leavers will have a health passport.
- More of our care leavers will have a plan in place for their future (a pathway plan).



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

**Why this is a priority** - We want all children and young people to be safe and to feel safe in their families and communities. We must tackle the risks that they face, including issues such as bullying, domestic violence, substance misuse and more complex safeguarding issues such as neglect, sexual exploitation, and county lines. To achieve this, we need to work together as a partnership and with all services that support children and young people to identify when help is needed and how best to provide that help. By reducing levels of risk to children and helping families, we can lessen the impact and reduce and prevent problems from reoccurring.

### **Our children and young people asked us to think about:**

- Sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- Resilience and recovery.

### **Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:**

- Work as a partnership to protect children and young people from **contextual safeguarding**.
- Support the **emotional health and wellbeing of our vulnerable children and young people**.
- Develop a **Pan-Cheshire ‘All Age Exploitation Policy’** to support those older children transitioning into adulthood that still require support.
- Develop the **connectivity between community mental health services and early help provision** to reduce the number of children who need additional support and care in hospital (called a tier 4 bed).
- Continue to **implement our plan to achieve consistently good quality social work practice** and have high ambition for children and young people.
- **Embed our Neglect Strategy** and work as a partnership to deliver this, to reduce the number of children and young people who experience neglect and the duration they experience it.
- Continue to **embed our SHOUT campaign to raise awareness of sexual harassment** and support schools and colleges to address these issues.
- **Respond to the findings of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care** to improve the child protection system and support families to care for their children and keep them safe from harm as effectively as possible.

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## Outcome 2 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Safeguarding Children Partnership.

**We will know we have made a difference when:**

- Fewer children, young people and families will need to have support from services more than once.
- More children, young people and families having assessments completed on time (in 45 days) to identify the right support.
- More children, young people and families having their CP plans reviewed on time to ensure the right support is in place.
- More contacts made to the front door will have a completed neglect screening tool, to help identify support.
- We will provide good or outstanding services to children and young people, as recognised by Ofsted.





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

**Why this is a priority** - Children's emotional wellbeing is just as important as their physical health. Improving mental health for mothers (called maternal mental health) is a key influence in children's outcomes therefore services will be offered to ensure children have the best start in life and parents are supported during parenthood. Good mental health helps children and young people to develop the resilience they need to cope with future challenges in life. Many of our young people have told us that COVID-19 has had a big impact on their mental health. Most mental health problems are preventable and almost all are treatable.

### **Our children and young people asked us to think about:**

- A whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.
- The increase in mental illnesses, e.g., psychosis and eating disorders.

### **Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:**

- Continue to **deliver Cheshire East's All Age Mental Health Strategy 2019-2022**, which sets out a whole system approach to improve the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and their families, including improving mental services for our most vulnerable children and young people such as, those in transition (i.e., between services), children and young people with autism and learning disability, cared for children and young people and care leavers, those in supported employment, those at risk of entering or in the youth justice system; and those who are experiencing or have experienced abuse. It also sets out plans to improve crisis care services. We will work to **update this strategy and consider any new priority areas identified for 2023**.
- **Revisit the Taboo conference model** to deliver an updated event that considers the wellbeing of young people post COVID-19.
- **Improve maternal mental health in pregnancy and during parenthood** to ensure all children have the best start in life.
- Undertake a deep dive needs assessment (known as a joint strategic needs assessment) to help us **better understand the emotional and mental wellbeing needs of children and young people** and ways we can support and work with families to improve emotional and mental wellbeing.

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## Outcome 3 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Cheshire East Mental Health Partnership.

**We will know we have made a difference when:**

- More children and young people who report good wellbeing.
- Improved waiting times for access to services.
- Fewer children and young people reported to have attend A&E due to self-harm.
- Improved availability of information to children and young people.
- Improved numbers of parents reporting good mental health.





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

**Why this is a priority** - In general, the health of children and young people in Cheshire East is good. However, there are still some big differences across the borough, which means that the quality of health and how long a person lives depends on where they grow old in Cheshire East. We want to work to address these inequalities by providing extra help for those who need it more.

### **Our children and young people asked us to think about:**

- COVID-19 recovery.
- Sexual health, rights, and consent.

### **Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:**

- Deliver our **Cheshire East Partnership Five-Year Plan for 2019-2024 to tackle inequalities.**
- Undertake a deep dive **needs assessment around the impact of poverty** to help us understand the impact of poverty on both children and adults and identify ways we can further support and work with those experiencing poverty to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Undertake a deep dive **needs assessment focusing on Crewe which will help us understand health and wellbeing challenges**, and ways we can support and work with people in Crewe to improve their wellbeing.
- Undertake a deep dive **needs assessment on Special Educational Needs and Disability, Autism and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder** to understand health and overall wellbeing in children experiencing these challenges and ways we can support to improve their wellbeing.
- **Review how we can adjust spending across children's services** to ensure we are funding the right services to help children and young people at the right time.
- **Support the promotion of inclusivity of LGBTQIA** (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual and allies) young people in school/education to help support better health outcomes within this community from increased confidence, sense of self and belonging.
- **Develop our child health hubs** with a focus on responding to the findings of 1001 critical days review, maternity wellbeing, respiratory, obesity, SEND and children and young people's mental health
- Develop Services that support **drug and alcohol awareness** with our commissioned provider Change, Grow, Live (CGL) to include training in schools and education settings and children's services.

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## Outcome 4 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Cheshire East Integrated Care Partnership.

### We will know we have made a difference when:

- More children being seen in health clinics.
- More babies born with a healthy birth weight.
- Levels of infant mortality have improved.
- More children experience better dental health
- More children have a healthy weight.
- Fewer children and young people going into hospital for common conditions.
- Fewer children and young people experiencing the impact of parental substance misuse.



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## 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 in adulthood

**Why this is a priority** - Most children in Cheshire East have access to high quality education across our early year's settings, schools, and colleges. Whilst we strive for the best outcomes for every learner, a number of our more vulnerable pupils do not always access full time education, employment, or training and therefore this impacts on their future opportunities in life. There are also certain groups that do less well than their peers in terms of academic progress and personal development and we need to address these inequalities. The recent white paper for education and the green paper for SEND will help us shape the strategic vision for our young people going forward and ensure Cheshire East continues to be an excellent place to live and achieve.

### **Our children and young people asked us to think about:**

- Keeping them safe in education from sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Increasing the availability of apprenticeships and supported internships.

### **Our priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:**

- Develop and **deliver the next stage in our school organisation plan** to ensure we have sufficient school places/provision including for children with special education needs.
- **Respond to the emerging agenda as outlined in the recent white paper and green paper for SEND.**
- Develop a collaborative support framework for attendance and behaviour in settings.
- **Review our early years support** through better use of national best practice.
- **Embed Education Wellbeing recovery** to enable schools to support the wellbeing of staff and children and young people in our education settings.
- Support children and young people to access **further education, training, or employment through our Journey First programme.**







## Outcome 5 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Education Extended Senior Leadership.

**We will know we have made a difference when:**

- More of our primary, secondary, and special schools will be good or outstanding.
- More of our vulnerable children and young people are in full time education (i.e., not missing education, low attendance, excluded etc.).
- Improved annual outcomes for disadvantaged learners at the end of key stage 2 and 4.
- More young people are in education, employment, or training (NEET).





## Outcome 6 – Children and young people with additional needs have the support they need to achieve and be happy

**Why this is a priority** – Our vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is the same as for all children and young people - that they achieve well in all aspects of their lives and are happy, fulfilled and play an active role in their communities. We want children and young people with SEND and their families to feel supported by all services in Cheshire East through earlier support to receive high quality education, care, and health provision.

### Our children and young people asked us to think about:

- Preparing for adulthood and social activities
- Support in transitions moving between provision and services

### Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:

To deliver SEND Strategy 2021-2024 with a focus on the following 5 priorities:

- **Improve communication and coproduction with families who have children with SEND.**  
We will ensure we work **TOGETHER** with families in all that we do.
- **Ensure children and young people with SEND have access to the provision and support they need.**  
We will provide early support and access to good quality, local schools.
- **Improve the timeliness and quality of the annual reviews of EHC plans.**  
EHC plans will consider the whole range of needs of children and young people and will include preparation for adulthood.
- **Ensure we have an effective and supported workforce.**  
A workforce that is knowledgeable and flexible, passionate, and dedicated.
- **Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.**  
We will have an effective SEND partnership that manages crisis situations well.

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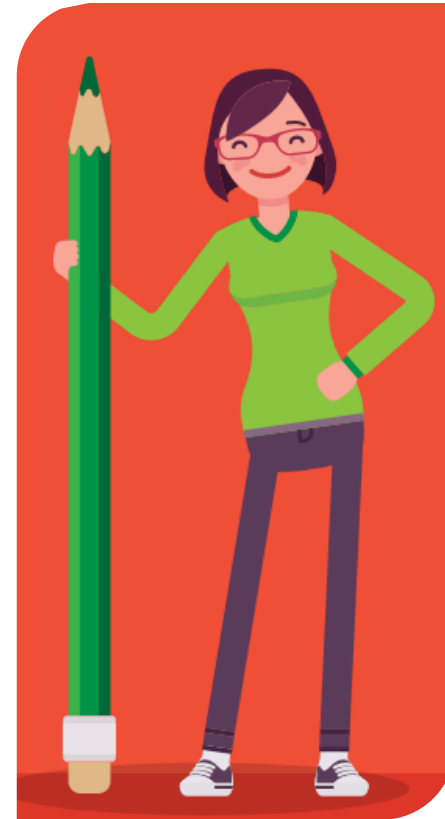


## Outcome 6 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** 0 -25 SEND Partnership.

**We will know we have made a difference when:**

- More Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will be completed in 20 weeks.
- More requests for advice from an Educational Psychologist will be completed within 6 weeks.
- More EHCP plans will be graded as good or outstanding.
- Children and young people will spend less time waiting for an autism assessment.





## Outcome 7 – Children and young people have earlier access to support when they need it

**Why this is a priority** - Having a strong universal and targeted early help offer is important to ensure we provide families with the support they need as soon as they need it, and we prevent problems from getting bigger. Without this early support, problems can cause serious harm to children and young people in the long term and become more difficult to address. A range of agencies are involved in identifying where families need additional support, and in providing early help. A consistent and coordinated approach across the partnership ensures all families can expect the same support and good quality service no matter what their needs are and where they live.

### Our children and young people told us:

It's vital to have an outcome around early help as it's important to get help before it's too late.

### Our year one priorities for 2022-23 will focus on the following:

- **Respect and build on the relationships and trust families have in us**, work with children and families and keep children's lived experience is at the centre of all we do.
- Ensure our **workforce across the partnership has the support, skills and training they need** to deliver good quality support to families
- **Strengthen the Early Help Board** to drive workstreams to improve outcomes for children.
- **Develop an early help offer that gives parents and families the best chance to adapt and thrive when they are struggling** to cope and supports older children that have had adverse childhood experiences. Improve outcomes for children and young people by making sure staff can identify and tackle problems early.
- **Strengthen our Integrated early years offer** particularly focussed on universal and targeted provision that supports early intervention and develop our offer so that more of our children meet their early developmental milestones and are school ready.
- **Embed the principles of Family Hubs**, so professionals work together to deliver early help and preventative services for families aligned to our schools, academies, and early years settings to ensure we improve access to advice, help and support at the earliest opportunity.
- Empower families by developing a **parenting strategy** to support children, young people and families by commissioning evidence-based programmes and services.

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## Outcome 7 – Continued

**Lead partnership responsible:** Early Help Together Board.

**We will know we have made a difference when:**

- More children and young people being supported by partner agencies.
- More children being supported to access early education through 2-year-old and 3/4-year-old funding.
- More children will be ready to start school with a good level of development in early years foundation stage.
- More children who are at or above the expected level in communication skills as part of their 2 - 2/12-year review
- More children and young people being accessing the Youth Support Service.
- Fewer children and young people entering the youth justice system for the first time.
- Fewer children experiencing the impact of parental conflict.





## Summary of our Plan and priorities

### Outcome 1 – Children and young people we care for are happy and able to achieve their full potential.

- Care for our cared for children and care leavers as any good parent would.
- Improve education, employment, and training outcomes.
- Work to give all children and young people a forever home and to keep them safe.
- Improve health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Prepare young people for adulthood.
- Work TOGETHER with children and young people.
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### Outcome 2 – Children and young people feel and are safe.

- Work as a partnership to protect children and young people from contextual safeguarding.
- Support the emotional health and wellbeing of our vulnerable children.
- Develop a pan-Cheshire 'All Age Exploitation Policy'.
- Develop the connectivity between community mental health services and early help provision.
- Continue to implement our plan to achieve consistently good quality social work practice.
- Embed our Neglect Strategy.
- Continue to embed our SHOUT campaign to raise awareness of sexual harassment and support schools and colleges to address these issues.

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

- Deliver Cheshire East's All Age Mental Health Strategy 2019-2022 and review for 2023.
- Revisit the Taboo conference model.
- Improve maternal mental health in pregnancy and during parenthood.
- Needs assessment to better understand the emotional and mental wellbeing needs of children and young people and their parents.

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

- Deliver our Cheshire East Partnership Five-Year Plan for 2019-2024 to tackle inequalities.
- Undertake a deep dive needs assessment around the impact of poverty, focusing on the Crewe area.
- Review how we can improve spending across children's services.
- Support the promotion of inclusivity of LGBTQIA.
- Develop our child health hubs with a focus on maternity wellbeing, respiratory, obesity, SEND and children and young people's mental health.





## Summary of our Plan and priorities – Continued

### **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 in adulthood.**

- Develop and deliver the next stage in our school organisation plan.
- Embed Education Well-being recovery.
- Respond to the emerging agenda as outlined in the recent white paper and green paper for SEND.
- Develop a collaborative support framework for attendance and behaviour in settings.
- Review our early years support through better use of national practice.
- Support children and young people to access further education, training, or employment through our Journey First programme.

### **Outcome 6 – Children and young people with additional needs have the support they need to achieve and be happy.**

- Implement our SEND Strategy 2021-2024 with a focus on the following 5 priorities:
- Improve communication and coproduction with families who have children with SEND.
- Ensure children and young people with SEND have access to the provision and support they need.
- Improve the timeliness and quality of the annual reviews of EHC Plans.
- Ensure we have an effective and supported workforce.
- Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Outcome 7 – Children and young people have earlier access to support when they need it.**

- Respect and build on the relationships and trust families have in us.
- Ensure our workforce across the partnership has the support, skills and training they need to deliver good quality support to families.
- Strengthen the Early Help Board.
- Develop an early help offer.
- Strengthen our Integrated early years offer.
- Embed the principles of Family Hubs.
- Develop a parenting strategy.

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## How we will know we have made a difference

We will measure the success of this plan against the difference we make to the lives of our children and young people. We will use the following sources to inform us on how well we are performing, what's working well, and where we need to take action to achieve change.

### What our performance tells us

We have a number of scorecards in place which tell us how well we are performing. The Trust will monitor the key measures set out in this plan, along with any other relevant information, to check changes in performance over time.

### What our audits tell us

A number of single and multi-agency audits are carried out across children's services. We will use the findings of these to tell us whether the quality of what we are doing is getting better.

### What young people and their families tell us

We will continue to work **TOGETHER** with our young people and their families as they are the experts on what works for them.

### What staff tell us

We will listen to what staff working directly with children, young people and their families tell us as they have a good insight into what needs to improve.

## How we will check on our progress

Each outcome has the following:

**A lead partnership** – this is the multi-agency partnership that has the most focus on the outcome area and will closely monitor progress.

**An officer outcome lead** – This officer will be the key link between the lead partnership and the Trust and will coordinate information to the Trust on progress and issues.

**A young person outcome lead** – There will be at least one young person with a focus on each outcome area. They will link with the officer outcome lead to ensure that work is done **TOGETHER**.

Progress against our plan will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Trust. Progress against individual outcome areas will also be monitored by the lead partnership.

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Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is the overarching board for the Trust. The HWBB will sign off this plan; ongoing updates will be provided to the board. Individual agencies will also be encouraged to share progress and issues through their own governance and other relevant boards will be informed/consulted, as appropriate.

Following each meeting, the Trust will continue to send out an easy read newsletter to update all on progress.



**If you have any views on this plan or how we can improve our services, please contact us at [Childrenstrust@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Childrenstrust@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**

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