

# Corporate Parenting Committee

## Agenda

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**Date:** Tuesday, 4th July, 2017  
**Time:** 4.00 pm  
**Venue:** R1 & R2 - Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and in the report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making and Overview and Scrutiny meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website.

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

1. **Appointment of Chairman**
2. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

5. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017.

6. **Terms of Reference** (Pages 9 - 10)

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**Contact:** Cherry Foreman  
**Tel:** 01270 686463  
**E-Mail:** [cherry.foreman@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:cherry.foreman@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

To consider the attached terms of reference for the Committee and whether any amendments are required. The terms of reference were previously approved in June 2016 when it was also agreed that they be reviewed annually.

7. **Children and Young People's Participation** (Pages 11 - 28)

To consider the above report.

8. **Corporate Parenting Update** (Pages 29 - 34)

To consider an update on Corporate Parenting.

9. **Corporate Parenting Operational Group Scorecard** (Pages 35 - 38)

To consider the Corporate Parenting Operational Group Scorecard.

10. **Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2017-18** (Pages 39 - 40)

To consider the Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2017-18.

11. **Feedback from Meeting With Young People**

To receive a verbal update from Gill Betton, Head of Service, Children's Development and Partnerships.

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Committee**  
held on Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor G Hayes (Chairman)  
Councillor G Merry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors P Butterill, B Dooley, S Edgar, M Grant, J Saunders, L Smetham and M Warren.

**Officers in attendance**

Gill Betton – Head of Children's Development and Partnerships  
Nigel Moorhouse – Director of Children's Social Care and Deputy DCS  
Peter Lambert – Head of Service Cared for Children  
Steve Nevitt – Senior Manager Resources  
Sheila Williams – Designated Nurse Cared for Children  
Julie North – Senior Democratic Services Officer

**47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Durham and D Flude.

**48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**49 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 7 March and 18 April 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**50 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION UPDATE**

Consideration was given to an update on social care recruitment activity and workforce stability. Members were aware that the recruitment and retention of social workers and team managers remained a challenge for all local authorities and therefore the activity continued to be monitored by the Recruitment and Retention Task Group, under the leadership of the Children and Families Social Care senior management team, following a strategy for the period 2015-17.

It was reported that turnover had continued to reduce and had stabilised, as a result of which social worker recruitment was now of a more targeted approach, as individual vacancies arose. Over half the appointments made in 2016 had been of experienced workers from other authorities, indicating that Cheshire East was being seen as an employer of choice in the region. In addition, the service had moved from a position of being reliant on agency team managers to only requiring agency cover for temporary situations as they arose.

The report included a summary of recent retention and recruitment and also a breakdown of the position in each of the local teams.

In considering the report Members of the Committee made a number of comments and asked a number of questions; they congratulated Officers for the significant improvement in recruitment and retention of social workers and team managers. Reference was made to the importance of the frontline visits and it was confirmed that Members would continue to carry out these visits and receive a written response from the Head of Service.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **51 CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE**

The Committee received an update in relation to cared for children and young people as follows:-

### **National developments**

- New Ofsted Framework
- Homeless Reduction Bill

### **Local Developments**

- Regional Adoption Agency
- Signs of Safety
- Residential Homes Re-design
- Head of Service Cared for Children – Recruitment
- Adoption and Foster Placement Disruptions
- The Cygnet Programme
- Corporate Parenting Training (Set out at Appendix 1 of the report).

The Chairman reported that, following the last Committee meeting, he had written to the Chief Executives of the CCGs to seek assurance around performance on carrying out initial health assessments for cared for children within the statutory timescales and that he had now received a response to the letter. The Chairman also noted that the current Head of Service-Cared for Children, Peter Lambert, was due to leave the Authority on 8th June and he thanked Peter for the work that he had undertaken in his role.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted and the Corporate Parenting Training for Elected Members, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be endorsed.

## **52 UPDATE ON HEALTH OF CARED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Consideration was given to a report providing information to the Committee in its role as corporate parents, regarding the health and well-being of the children in its care. It was noted that it was important to recognise both the statutory responsibilities for this vulnerable group of children and young people and the role of agencies working together as corporate parents, in having “high

aspirations". The report was to provide assurance to the Committee and to highlight any potential areas for service improvement.

The Committee had last considered this issue in February 2017 and had requested six monthly updates. Sheila Williams, Designated Nurse Cared for Children, NHS Eastern and South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), attended the meeting to present the report and informed the Committee that she would be retiring from her current post on 30 June. The Chairman thanked Sheila, on behalf of the Committee, for the great work that she had done in this role.

The Chairman expressed concern that this area was "falling under the radar", despite the Committee's best efforts and asked that the Director of Children's Social Care follow up the Committee's concerns with the CCGs. He also requested that the Chief Executives of both CCGs be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the information contained within the report be received.
2. That the Director of Children's Social Care raise the Committee's concerns with the CCGs and that the Chief Executive of both CCGs be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee to speak on this matter.

### **53 CORPORATE PARENTING OPERATIONAL GROUP SCORECARD QUARTER 3 2016/17**

Members considered the scorecard for the third quarter of 2016/17, which covered the six measures of performance, these being:

- General
- Involve me
- Provide me with a good safe home
- keep me healthy
- help me achieve
- Support me to move into adult life

The scorecard compared the current quarter with the two previous quarters and year end and indicated the quarterly direction of travel.

### **RESOLVED**

That the content be noted.

### **54 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT**

Consideration was given to the activity and progress to date against the Service Improvement Plan for Children's Social Care. The report set out the four priorities of the service and noted its achievements, key areas for improvement,

improvements to services, quality of the services and planned future improvements. as this paper had been circulated at the meeting it was agreed that any queries or issues be fed back outside the meeting.

In considering the scorecard, the Committee felt that it would be helpful to include some sort of comparison between the old and the new.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be received and any queries or issues be fed back outside the meeting.

## **55 INPUT FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to meet with the young people in the previous week, due to an administrative error. He stressed the need for a forum to engage with young people and requested that a rota be drawn up by officers to facilitate this.

### **RESOLVED**

That a rota be drawn up and agreed to facilitate engagement with young people.

## **56 DRAFT CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The draft Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2016/17 was circulated at the meeting for consideration and is attached to these minutes for information. Since its inception in May 2016, Corporate Parenting had been co-ordinated by the Corporate Parenting Committee, acting as an advisory committee to the Cabinet, and its first year of business had shown enhanced Member involvement in their roles of corporate parent. It could be seen that the key elements covered had impacted on the daily lives of the cared for children and care leavers and that the voice of the child and outcomes for children had been at the centre of the Committee's attention throughout. The work of Partners had also been key to the success of the service.

As the Committee had only been constituted in May 2016, the report charted progress against its terms of reference and then looked at the key areas that had been scrutinised and how the work would be continued in the coming municipal year.

Committee members were requested to take the report away for consideration and to submit any comments to the Chairman by 9 May.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be received and noted and that any comments from Committee Members be submitted to the Chairman by 9 May 2017.

## 57 MEETING DATES 2017/18

### RESOLVED

That the meeting dates for the current municipal year be noted, as follows:-

- 4 July 2017
- 19 September 2017
- 14 November 2017
- 23 January 2018
- 20 March 2018
- 9 May 2018

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.15 pm

Councillor G Hayes (Chairman)

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## CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

### Purpose

The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Committee in its role as an advisory committee to the Cabinet is to ensure that the Council effectively discharges its role as Corporate Parent for all children and young people in care and care leavers from 0- 25 years of age and holds partners to account for the discharge of their responsibilities.

### Terms of Reference

1. Act as advocates for cared for children and care leavers, ensuring that their needs are addressed through key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Council and its commissioned services.
2. Ensure key strategic plans and reports relating to children in care and care leavers including the Children's Improvement Plan, Corporate Parenting Strategy and Sufficiency Statement.
3. Oversee the implementation of Cheshire East's Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan and monitor the quality and effectiveness of services to ensure they fulfil the council's responsibilities.
4. Monitor the quality of care delivered by Cheshire East's residential children's homes via the provision of regular reports including summary reports of Regulation 44 visits and Ofsted inspections.
5. Review the performance of the Council in relation to outcomes for children and young people in care via the scrutiny of both quarterly performance reports and the annual reports of the Cared for Children Service, the Independent Reviewing Service and the Virtual School.
6. Establish an environment whereby Elected Members and young people work together to address the needs and aspirations of Cheshire East's children and young people in care and empower children and young people to participate in decision making with adults.

7. Oversee, with the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the implementation of best practice principles in all aspects of service delivery, with the aim of producing positive outcomes for children and young people in care.
8. Support the work of foster carers and adopters in making a difference to the care and support they provide to children and young people in care and those adopted.
9. Make sure that staff and partners follow Cheshire East's pledge for cared for children and young people and the care leaver's charter.
10. Receive and scrutinise the Independent Review Officers' Annual Report

### Governance

The Committee will:

- meet bi-monthly;
- report to the Council's Cabinet on at least an annual basis;
- report to the Council's Scrutiny Committee annually: and
- include young people representatives from the Children in Care Council.

### Administration

The Board will be serviced by Democratic Services in line with other Council Committees.

Minutes and agendas will be distributed and published no later than 5 clear working days prior to the meeting.

The meetings will take place out of school hours to enable cared for children and young people to participate.

### Review

These terms of reference will be reviewed yearly.

## Cheshire East Council

### Corporate Parenting Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Report of:** Anji Reynolds, Service Manager, Permanence and Through Care Team  
Amanda Greenwood, The Children's Society  
Sue Preston, The Children's Society

**Subject/Title:** Children and Young People's Participation

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr George Hayes

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#### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report provides information to the committee on cared for children and young people's participation.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:
- 2.1.1 Note the contents of this report;
  - 2.1.2 Scrutinise the current provision and outcomes for cared for children and care leavers in relation to participation.

#### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. As an advisory Committee to Cabinet, it is important that Corporate Parenting Committee has a comprehensive overview of how our cared for children and young people can have a say in services that affect them.

#### 4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. Not applicable.

#### 5. Background

- 5.1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), ratified by the UK Government in 1991, was the first piece of international legislation to acknowledge that children are subjects of rights rather than merely recipients of protection. Article 12 of the Convention states that:

- Children and young have the right to express his or her views freely – about everything that affects him or her.
  - The child or young person's views must be given 'due weight' depending on his or her age and maturity.
  - The child or young person has the right to be heard in all decision-making processes, including in court hearings. The child or young person can speak for him or herself, or someone else can speak for him or her.
- 5.2. Subsequent legislation such as Children Act 1989, 2004, Health and Social Care Act 2012, Children and Families Act 2014 etc have all reiterated this commitment to children and young people's participation.
- 5.3. The Children's Society is currently commissioned by Cheshire East to provide a Children's Rights and Participation Service and they work with services within the Council and partner agencies to provide the following services:
- Advocacy and Independent Visitor services
  - Participation with children and young people

### Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services

- 5.4. The Advocacy Service assists children and young people in resolving their concerns and complaints, and provides a service that can give information, advice, advocacy, representation and support. An Advocate can help by:
- Going to a meeting with the child or young person
  - Making a phone call for the child or young person
  - Helping the child or young person to write a letter or writing a letter with them
  - Helping the child or young person to send or write email
  - Speaking for them
  - Listening to the child or young person and passing on their concerns to others
  - Speaking for the child or young person about their worries or particular problem.
- 5.5. The Independent Visitor Service provides children in care with a trusted adult to visit, advise and befriend them when it is considered to be in their best interests. Volunteers are recruited and trained to spend time with a young person in care doing fun activities, depending on the needs of the young person.
- 5.6. The Children's Society Annual Report on the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service is attached at Appendix 2.

### Participation with Children and Young People

- 5.7. The overall services priorities around participation for 2017-18 are attached at Appendix 2. These include participation with cared for children and young people.
- 5.8. There are a range of ways in which children and young people are engaged in decisions which affect them. More detail on these areas is included at Appendix 3.

### **6. Contact Information**

6.1. Contact details for this report are as follows:-

**Name:** Anji Reynolds  
**Designation:** Service Manager, Permanence and Through Care Team  
**Tel. No.:** 01606 274 387  
**Email:** [anji.reynolds@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:anji.reynolds@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

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Appendix 1



# Advocacy and Independent Visitor Report

January 2016 – December 2016

Sue Preston

Service Manager for The Children's Society



**OVERVIEW OF  
SERVICE**

The Children's Society delivers the Children's Rights and Participation Service for Cheshire East. This report is an overview of the contract from January to December 2016. We are in our 4<sup>th</sup> year of delivery and over time we have worked alongside Cheshire East colleagues to develop and improve provision.

The service comprises of:

### Issue Based Advocacy

*Advocacy guidance from HM Govt (2010) Working together to safeguard children p.236 suggests:*

*'Advocates provide independent and confidential information, advice, representation and support and can play a vital role in ensuring children have appropriate information and support to communicate their views in formal settings such as Child Protection Conferences'.*

Criteria:

- Children and young people in care 0 -21 years inclusive
- Children moving on from care to adult life and who are entitled to a service under Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and young people subject to a child protection plan
- Young homeless people aged 16/17
- Children and young people making a complaint about a social work service
- Disabled children and young people 0 -18 years irrespective of whether they have a current service plan
- Disabled young people after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday receiving transition services

- Children and young people seeking asylum

### Child Protection Advocacy

In February to May 2015, in partnership with CE, we carried out a pilot to test out a service to increase the referral rate for children and young people on Child Protection Plans. Following the success of this pilot in November 2015 we moved to an automatic referral for all children and young people on a Child Protection plan 5 and over to be referred for advocacy (*if you would like to see the evaluation of this service please see Child Protection Evaluation Report November 15 – September 16 for further information*)

Actions in CP plan as a result of advocacy Plan confirmed. *Evidence from child's input that he was afraid of the dark. (Children had been left home alone)*

### Independent Visiting

*The Children Act 1989 (schedule 2, paragraph 17) places a duty on 'the Council' to appoint an independent visitor in respect of any Cared for Children if:*

- Communication between the child and parent or any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility has been infrequent
- The child has not been visited (or has not lived with) a parent, or any person with PR for the child during the preceding 12 months.
- The child or young person agrees to an Independent Visitor being appointed.
- Where it appears to be in the child's best interests to do so

Independent Visitors are volunteers

Independent of the care system, and their role is to visit, advise and befriend



the young people allocated to them and to take a long-term interest in their welfare and development.

*(If you would like to see the evaluation of this service please see Independent Visitor Report January 2016 - December 2016 for further information)*

## Referrals in 2016

We had the following Issue Based referrals in 2016:

74 Issue Based advocacy referrals

Of which were the following:

49 Children in Care

10 Disability

7 Care Leavers

6 Private Fostering

2 were on CP but also needed issue based Advocacy

The advocates use a “toolkit” of equipment when working with children and young people in order to represent their views. Work was always child and young person led. Where a child or young person had disabilities or specific needs in relation to communication, the advocate works to enable the child's wishes and feelings to be represented.

We had the following Child Protection referrals in 2016:

109 Child Protection referrals which included 222 individual children and young people.

The categories were:

47 Neglect

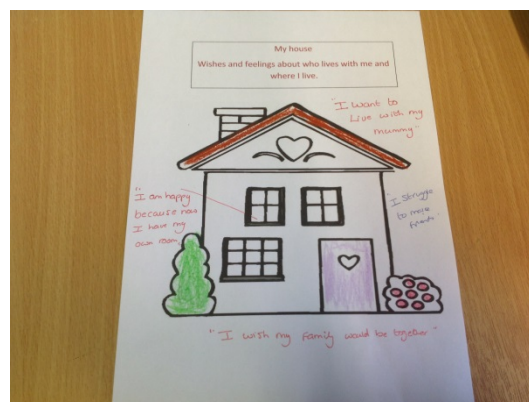
38 Emotional Abuse

12 Physical Abuse

9 Sexual Abuse

3 on CSE plans

The advocates make visual representations of the child and young person's wishes and feelings which are presented at Child Protection Conferences. This gives all present a better understanding of the lived experience of that individual child.



*The CP IRO Chairs have been very positive about the involvement of the Advocates in the Child Protection Process and they consider the Advocates are getting increasingly skilled in the role. (Shirley Jordon CP IRO Chair)*

We had the following Independent Visitor Referrals in 2016:

**Out of the 24 referrals that came in 2016 we had the following:**

- 16 Boys and 8 Girls
- 11 of those children and young people had disabilities
- 7 of the children and young people lived out of borough
- 18 lived in Foster Care
- 4 lived in residential
- 1 was on a full care order but lived with their parent and had respite
- 1 was on a full care order and lived with their parent.



We follow the National Advocacy standards in regards to our advocacy service.

### **Independent Visitor Standards**

We follow the new Independent Visitor Standards in regards to our IV service. These were developed and launched in 2014 by The Children's Society, Barnardos, Coram Voice and NYAS.

The IV standards have now been developed by children and young people into a more user friendly format.

*Since being matched, A and his volunteer have shared great times together doing things such as going to the cinema, visiting the Science and Industry Museum, bowling and going out for meals. They have a good time together, laugh a lot and A is continuing to open up to the volunteer.*

### **National Advocacy Standards**

### **Future Developments**

- ✚ **Develop the service in line with the recent Development Review we had with members of the Safeguarding Children and Quality Assurance Unit in February 2017** *See paper written by Kate Rose on 21.2.17 for more detailed information*
- ✚ **Develop an action plan to make progress towards achieving the vision for the service following the Development session sighted above**
- ✚ **Continue to listen to children and young people and share their views and advocate where needed.**
- ✚ **Promote the Independent Visitor Standards with colleagues children and young people**
- ✚ **Devise a Recruitment campaign for 2017 in order to recruit more new volunteers for our children and young people to benefit from having an Independent Visitor**



*Listening to 'little voices' may not be as easy as it sounds, and many people do not do it naturally.*

*Essentially, a whole new style of listening is required. Every time a young child says something,*

*He or she is opening a door to their experience of the world about which they are the world's foremost expert.*

*You can either keep the door open and learn something of value by asking more and more questions, or you can close it by assuming you have heard everything worth hearing.*

*If you keep the door open, you are in for a surprise children's worlds are as rich and complex as your own."*

*Grossman*

*M asked advocate "Where is my sister living, "I'm worried she has nowhere to live and scared if she was homeless."*

*"I like living here because I have my own room"*

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### **Participation Priorities for 2017-18**

- Facilitate the Children in Care Council group on a weekly basis and capture the voice of children in care living outside of Cheshire East's footprint.
- Ensure the effective input of care leavers and cared for children and young people to the Corporate Parenting Committee through a "Shadow Board" and local initiatives and campaigns.
- Attend Corporate Parenting Operational Group (CPOG) meetings to represent the views of children and young people.
- Co-deliver the Star Awards with cared for children and young people and care leavers.
- Support children and young people to engage with national and regional UKYP elections and national sittings. Support of work and activities for MYP's and Cheshire East Youth Council.
- Support the 'Make Your Mark' elections.
- Develop children and young people's focussed campaigns, education and information on key UKYP topics.
- Engage and support young people at Youthforia meetings and residentials.
- Support Youth Council and Forum meetings.
- Attend and support children and young people to engage at the Children and Young People's Trust Board and relevant sub groups.
- Link to CAMHS young advisers.
- Co-ordinate and facilitate the Participation Network, ensuring effective partnership work.
- Ensure that participation activity is promoted and celebrated through developing a communication plan, linking with the corporate Communications Team.
- Promote awareness and celebration of children's rights through coordination of November Children's Right's Month.
- Widen, train and support the embedding of participation and delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan with all Cheshire East Children's Services including:

- how to involve young people in recruitment and selection of staff
- involving young people in business planning and evaluations for service improvement and development.
- providing training and support to teams in developing and embedding a participation plan and delivering children and young people's voice and participation specifically within their service areas.

## **Participation within Children and Young People**

### **Children in Care Council (CICC) - 'My Voice'.**

The Children in Care Councils (CICCs) plays a vital role in ensuring children and young people with care experience have a say in their care and the issues that matter to them. The CICC aims to bring together passionate and dedicated young people with those who run care services to share their experiences and ideas on how to improve the provision care in their area.

The group in Cheshire East is called 'My Voice' and meets each week during term time with the following aims:

- To provide a welcoming place for children and young people in care to meet up, which is safe and where they can support each other around their experiences of being in care.
- To run activities and have fun.
- To enable the children and young people to be able to raise issues and concerns about their experiences of care as well as come up with their ideas about how services could be improved.

The sessions are run in a way that engages, supports but also challenges children and young people to develop their skills, have fun but also

### **Care Leavers' Forum**

This group aims to support care leavers as they establish themselves as independent young adults with responsibilities for their lives and with help around accommodation, financial management, health and wellbeing and skills / education.

The group in Cheshire East meets fortnightly and works with the facilitator to set out their own plan for the issues and activities they want to cover.

### **Examples of activities and input to decision making.**

- Children's Trust Board input – Video Making
- Outcomes tool for pathways planning
- Review IRO Paperwork
- Councillors visit
- Case Studies work with The Children's Society
- Mental Health input with the MH nurse
- Star Awards planning
- Care Leavers Event – planning re. Care to be Different and Manchester festival
- Recruitment – planning for interviews and panel attendance

- Social Finance outcomes tool.
- Input (via TCS) to DWP consultation on Care Leaver's and issues on universal credit / benefits
- Input (via TCS) with Edward Timpson on improving support and highlighting key issues for care leavers

### **Recruitment and Selection**

Children and young people in care and care leavers have also contributed to the recruitment of staff in Cheshire East, taking part in a number of recruitment exercises over the year for frontline staff and managers.

### **Permanance and Throughcare (PTC)**

PTC staff visit children at home every 6 -8 weeks for a statutory visit. The purpose of this visit is to seek their current views around key areas in their lives such as health, emotions, education, accommodation, family etc. Regular visits and contact in between visits is essential to build a strong relationship with children.

At care plan meetings/ pathway plan reviews children are encouraged to give their views which feed directly into actions in their care plan. The child will be consulted prior to the meeting about who can attend and where and when it will take place to make sure they are comfortable with it.

An example of children making decisions is a young person working with Personal Assistant (PA) and Social Worker (SW) to decide upon their educational aspirations for the future. This could take place in the form of a Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting where a young person would be invited to the meeting and able to contribute to decisions about their education. For example a young person may wish to become a teacher in the future. The social worker with support from a Virtual schools colleague would discuss with a young person the steps they would need to take to achieve this goal. The PEP meeting should take place termly so progress can be reviewed and additional support put in if required to ensure goals are being met.

Pathway plans appear to evidence the views and voice of the care leaver who is generally consulted about their plans and participate. All care leavers have an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who independently review their pathway plan with them.

Audits capture the views of young people about their pathway plan. In very exceptional cases young people who are not engaging, are unlikely to have their current views in the plan. This related to a small percentage overall.

New in 2017, there is pre-arranged Children's Society 'drop in' at Cledford House, to speak to staff about cared for children's interest in the Children in Care Council.

The Team Manager has now attended the Care Leavers Forum twice in the past 6 months to obtain their views. There's greater scope for our PA champion to develop



these links between the service and the care leavers forum as we consider a review of our service plan and refocus on 2017/18.

Over 2017 we will also undertake a survey to obtain feedback from all care leavers we are working with

### **Readiness for Independence**

Where possible social workers and PAs try to show children their views are being listened to and they have a direct input into decisions about their lives. An example of this is a number of care leavers aged 16/17 have said they now feel ready to live independently and they would like to move out of their foster placement or Children's residential home. Whilst this is unrealistic for some young people due to their level of need or personal circumstances it is possible for others.

### **Housing**

As a service we listened to the views of young people and we have created a process giving young people (15½ plus) more choice and a voice about their next step options and have set up the Ignition Panel. The Ignition Panel, which is an innovative project that has been established to support young people to have the best, most appropriate transition for when they leave care, consists of a panel of accommodation providers. They read a case summary about a young person and discuss which provision may best meet their needs. Care Leavers have the opportunity to attend the Ignition Panel meeting with the support of their PA or Social Worker. The young person would be asked questions as to why they think they are ready for independence and what they have done to prepare themselves for independent living.

Last year 25 young people were referred to the Ignition Panel. Making sure our young people start independence at the right time and in the right place provides the best chance for a positive journey to adulthood and will support the best possible life chances. The panel shares ideas, suggestions, good practice etc. to develop an action plan that will support each young person to achieve their future living goals. This may be accessing a taster house, supported lodging or being supported through a semi-independent setting with a phased transition to young people being in their own property. Three young people who attended panel availed themselves of the taster flat over a 6 month period. Others obtained advice, more options to consider while others moved on to semi-independent provisions.

There are several trainer flats in Crewe designed to be used solely by 17 year olds who feel they are ready to live independently. The idea being by the time they turn 18 they could potentially have their own property via Homechoice or choose to privately rent.

### **Health**

Having focused a great deal on those not in education, employment or training (NEET) last year, we have chosen to prioritise work around health for this year and

have some great initiatives planned with care leavers to include them in peer support and shared interests together as a group.

One such initiative that we have recently piloted and is now operational since April 2017 is the 'How am I doing?' tool to assess a young person's emotional well-being. This has been used to good effect from April 2017. A number of agencies have worked together on this from October 2016 to March 2017, alongside young people seeking their views who have helped us to shape this tool and make this more meaningful and relevant to them. As part of this work a PA dedicated to working with this group has currently 7 young people referred to her to engage in a positive activity of their choice to improve emotional well-being. Thus far, up to 30 young people have engaged in this task using the tool with social workers and/or their PA's. This tool results in a support plan being devised to promote better emotional well-being around the 5 key NHS outcomes e.g. be mindful, connect.

Every Monday evening the Care Leavers football group meet and there are an average of 7 young people each week and up to 20 young people in total who have participated. This started out in Crewe initially; then moved to facilities in Middlesbrough and now has a permanent fixture in Congleton. The group are now attending a 7 a side League and currently sourcing sponsorship for next year. They are participating in a Care Leaver Tournament on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The PA's report the young people look forward to attending and enjoy the competitiveness. They say it keeps them fit and healthy, makes them feel happy and they feel they've achieved something, especially if they win. The only thing they don't like is getting beat!

Our PA Champion for Health is in the process of setting up a Positive Parenting Group for our pregnant and parent care leavers. Twelve parents have been invited to attend (13 children) and there are currently 3 heavily pregnant and 6 recent pregnant, also invited. A date has only just been confirmed so we are unsure of numbers attending at this stage but there is great interest in this. PA's are all willing to engage in the parenting group and appear to be quite excited about being a part of it.

One of our PA's is starting a fortnightly Health and Well-being drop in with Kirsty Savage the 16+ nurse. The pilot is due to start at the end of July in Macclesfield and letters will be going out to our care leavers in the next couple of weeks.

One of our PA's has had some interest in setting up a Clubercise group (fit dance in the dark with glow sticks) for our girls and is currently gathering interest to move this forward.

### **Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)**

In order to effectively engage children in making decisions IRO's must first be proactive in building a positive relationship with young people. It's not enough to simply attend a review every 6 months. An IRO should do a visit or call a child before the review to discuss the review process and any concerns they may have. A pre-review consultation form is sent out to each child and this feedback informs the review process.

IRO's must have an in depth knowledge of the child and any potential barriers to being able to effectively engage them such as learning difficulties or disabilities. The language used should be clear and information should be summarised in a way that is meaningful to the child.

An IRO is there to act as an advocate for the child and challenge any decisions if they think it's not in the Child's best interest. An IRO can help to engage a child in the decision making process by coming with an idea perhaps the SW or PA hasn't thought of. This could be a suggestion of a referral to another specialist service or some direct work.

IRO's have a flexible approach particularly when working with younger children and they will use direct work techniques such as asking children to draw images to represent their feelings. This approach may work better on a child who finds it difficult to verbally communicate their wishes and feelings.

One of our IROs is doing some participation work with care leavers focusing on how to improve the review process. He is currently working with young people helping them devise questions and take part in interviewing new IRO's. This extra participation work will hopefully improve the review process, thus enabling more young people to be actively involved in decision making processes.

### **Fostering**

Fostering involve children in decision making processes by gaining they views during reviews and visits. Supervising social workers aim to include children in meetings to empower them to get their voices heard and influence decisions about their own lives.

Fostering has support workers who can meet with children on a more frequent basis to assist them by providing information, advice and guidance.

### **Star Awards**

The Star Awards is an annual ceremony for our children in care and care leavers usually held in November during Children's Rights month. Last year it was run by the Children's Society so we are working with them and using their knowledge to assist in planning for this year's event with staff across children's service working with the Permanence and Through Care team meeting as a group tasked with planning and organising the Star Awards celebratory event in November 2017. To date have been 3 meetings – 9<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June. The next meeting is to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. We have agreed the 19<sup>th</sup> November and the venue is booked for Wychwood Park. Planning is well underway and catering, nomination forms, publicity, discussions with the young people about theme are in the pipeline.

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## Cheshire East Council

### Corporate Parenting Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Report of:** Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care

**Subject/Title:** Corporate Parenting Update

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr George Hayes

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#### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Corporate Parenting Committee on national and local developments in relation to cared for children and young people and care leavers.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. Corporate Parenting Committee is asked to:

2.1.1 Note the contents of the report.

#### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. The Corporate Parenting Committee is as advisory group to the Cabinet and, as such, needs to be aware of any national or local issues that are likely to impact on cared for children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Committee need to be able to scrutinise and challenge performance to improve outcomes for cared for children and young people.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. None; this is an update report.

#### **5. Background**

##### **National Developments**

##### **Children and Social Work Act**

- 5.1. The Children and Social Work Act, which gained Royal Assent on 27 April, introduces a range of changes for local authority duties on looked-after children, local safeguarding arrangements, the regulation of children's social workers and how children and young people are taught about sex and

relationships. The following areas are of particular relevance to Corporate Parenting Committee:

**5.2. Looked after children and care leavers**

**5.21 Corporate parenting principles**

- A set of corporate parenting principles were introduced which local authorities must “have regard to” when carrying out their functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers.
- The principles include: acting in the best interests of the child; health promotion (physical & mental); encouraging them to express their views, wishes and feelings and taking these into account; promoting high aspirations and seeking to secure best outcomes; promoting safety and stability in home lives, relationships, education and work; preparing young people for adulthood and independent living.
- The Secretary of State has the power to develop statutory guidance on the principles.

**5.22 Extending local authority support for care leavers (Local Offer for care leavers and extension of Personal Adviser)**

- Under s2 all local authorities must develop a “local offer for care leavers” which outlines the services that it must provide under the Children Act 1989 and other services the local authority provides to support care leavers into independent living.
- Before publishing its local offer, which can be updated from time to time, a local authority must consult relevant persons.
- The provision of a Personal Adviser is extended from the age of 21 up to 25, as is the eligibility to have a pathway plan developed and support outlined in that plan provided (s. 3).
- Where the young person leaves care at 21, the local authority are under a duty to offer the extension of support to the care leaver as soon as possible after turning 21 and at least once every 12 months whilst under the age of 25.
- In other cases, the duty is on the care leaver to request the support to carry on, and can do this at any point whilst under the age of 25.
- Provisions to place children in secure accommodation elsewhere in Great Britain.
- Makes various amendments existing legislation to make it legal for local authorities in England and Wales to place children in secure accommodation in England and Wales and vice-a-versa (s.10)

5.3. **Safeguarding children**

5.31 Reviewing cases when there are serious safeguarding failures (replacing Serious Case Reviews)

- A new national “Child Safeguarding Review Panel” will be established. Panel members will be appointed by the Secretary of State. The panel will report annually to the Secretary of State. (s. 12)
- The role of the panel will be to review complex safeguarding failures in England or cases which are deemed to be of national importance. The panel’s role is to supervise the reviewing of the case and publish a report based on the findings, which will highlight learnings.
- Local authorities are under a duty to notify the panel if they know or suspect a child has been abused or neglected, and then that child dies or is seriously harmed, or if the child (who is usually resident in their LA) dies or is seriously harmed outside of England (s.14).

5.32 Changing local safeguarding arrangements in England by abolishing Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards and establishing Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

- S.30 abolishes LSCBs by removing the relevant sections from the Children Act 2004. In their place, s.16 of the Act requires local authorities to make new safeguarding arrangements with the core safeguarding partners (local authority, police and clinical commissioning group) and any other relevant agency the local authority deems appropriate. Local authority and safeguarding partners will work together to identify and respond to needs of children in the area.
- S.17 places a duty on the safeguarding partners (local authority, police and health) to (1) identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance within the area, (2) review those cases where it is considered appropriate in order to identify learning. These are known as Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The report must be presented to the national panel.
- The Secretary of State may make regulations outlining how local reviews should be undertaken.
- Under s.21, two or more local authorities and their safeguarding partners in England can agree to be treated as a single area by combining or delegating their functions.

5.33 Social work in England

- New social work regulator “Social Work England” formed.
- The overarching objectives of Social Work England are: protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of the public; promote and maintain public confidence in social workers in

England; and promote and maintain proper professional standards for social work in England.

- The regulator will be responsible for maintaining a register of social workers in England and will be responsible for 'fitness to practice' hearings.
- SWE will develop and consult on a set of professional standards and will also set standards of education and training of social workers.

### **Local Developments**

#### Regional Adoption Agency

- 5.4. From 3 July 2017, adoption services in Cheshire East will be delivered through an integrated service called Adoption Counts. Stockport Council will act as the host agency, and will work with Cheshire East and Manchester, Trafford and Salford local authorities. By 2020, the government expects all adoption services to be delivered via regional adoption agencies.

#### Update on Fostering Collaboration

- 5.5. Work continues on developing sub-regional collaborative arrangements around fostering services. On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Cabinet considered a report, which sought approval to progress the development of a shared fostering service for Cheshire East alongside Warrington, Halton and Cheshire West and Chester. The report also sought approval to explore the feasibility of a single local authority delivering the functions of the fostering service on behalf of the partnership.

#### Fostering Care Fortnight

- 5.6. Foster Carer Fortnight took place between 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The campaign is the UK's biggest foster carer recruitment drive, which aims to raise the profile of fostering and to show how foster care transforms lives. Cheshire East are working closely with other local areas to recruit much needed foster carers through a campaign called 'You Can Foster'.
- 5.7. Staff from the children and families service have been backing the campaign saying 'do something incredible for Foster Care Fortnight'. Our existing foster carers have also backed the campaign, telling their stories to Silk 1069 radio breakfast show.

#### New Head of Service, Cared for Children

- 5.8. A new Head of Service for Cared for Children has been appointed. Kerry Birtles joins the service in August.



## **6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members**

- 6.1. Although the number of Cheshire East cared for children and young people is relatively small, they are a vulnerable cohort, who live across Cheshire East and in other local authority areas.

## **7. Implications of Recommendation**

### **7.1. Policy Implications**

- 7.1.1. There are a number of policy implications as a result of local and national developments and these will be reported, as appropriate to the relevant Committee.

### **7.2. Legal Implications**

- 7.2.1. The national and local developments described in this report are wide ranging and will in many particulars have legal implications. Legal advice will be sought, as appropriate, upon all relevant emerging issues.

### **7.3. Financial Implications**

- 7.3.1 There are no immediate financial implications related to the contents of this paper.

### **7.4. Human Resources Implications**

- 7.4.1. There are no immediate human resource implications related to the contents of this paper.

### **7.5. Equality Implications**

- 7.5.1. There are no equality implications as a result of this paper.

### **7.6. Rural Community Implications**

- 7.6.1. None.

### **7.7. Public Health Implications**

- 7.7.1. None identified at this stage.

## **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1. Cared for children and care leavers are a vulnerable group that are at risk of a number of factors – poor education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood.

## 9. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

**Name:** Gill Betton  
**Designation:** Head of Children's Developments & Partnerships  
**Tel. No.:** 07764 166262  
**Email:** [gill.betton@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:gill.betton@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 1 16-17	Qu 2 16-17	Q3 16-17	Q416-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
General															
G1	Number of cared for children				380-430	387	400	398	420	422		↑	It is being reported nationally and locally that numbers of cared for children are increasing. Cheshire East remains at the lower end of our statistical neighbour group, with latest figures from CWAC and Warrington showing much higher rates. We have amended our target to reflect a range which is considered more appropriate.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
G2	Rate per 10,000 cared for children		56	60	50.7-57.3	52	53	53	56	56		↑	Cheshire East in the mid range of our statistical neighbour group range of between 35 -79 per 10,000 of population. Latest NW region figures range from 53 to 174 per 10,000 and we are substantially lower than both Warrington and CWAC as stat neighbour and have the 2nd lowest rate in the NW (Stockport being the lowest at 53 per 10,000). We are one of only two LA's in the NW below the England average.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
G3	Number of care leavers					225	201	202	195	199			This represents all eligible, relevant and former relevant care leavers who are supported with access to a Personal Advisor (PA) to offer help and guidance as they move to independence together with financial support as appropriate to individual needs.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
Involve Me															
P1.1	Number of eligible children and young people accessing advocacy services	High is Good				22	27	14	101	127			There were 127 advocacy cases open in Quarter 4, of which 31 were 'issue based' cases (19 in care, 5 Care Leavers, 5 disability, and 2 Private Fostering). There were also 96 cases open to children who were on a child protection plan. Awareness raising with staff continues through attendance by The Children's Society at Practice and Performance Workshops, team meetings etc.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P1.2	% cared for children reviews in timescales	High is Good				97%	97%	89%	99%	98%		→	Where individuals are reviewed in a series of meetings occasionally the system doesn't record the timescales correctly. All those showing as reviewed out of timescales will be manually checked for the annual returns and amended accordingly. Indicative full year figures shows that we have performed in line with last year	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 6
P1.3	% of children and young people chairing their own reviews	High is Good								2.75%			Five out of 182 individuals aged over 4 co-chaired their own reviews in quarter 4.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 7
Provide Me With a Good Safe Home															
P2.1	Number of cared for children in internal foster care (including friends and family placements)	High is Good			215	210	191	188	200	209		↑	This is an improving figure quarter to quarter. When we exclude CE foster carers who have been approved for respite provision only, the current CE foster care bed occupancy rate is 82% which is consistent with last quarter. There is a small increase in the number of beds not available from 17 to 19, however for 5 of these it is due to either a staying put post 18 placement or and SGO/placed for adoption placement which is positive.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.2	Number of cared for children in external foster care	Low is Good			85	89	97	88	90	95		↑	There has been a small drop in the percentage of the individuals in external foster care placed on a full care order with plans to remain in placement with carer long term/ until they reach 18 from 83% to	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.3	% cared for children placed over 20 miles from home address (Cheshire East and out of borough)	Low is Good				17%	20%	21%	22%	22%		→	Over 25% of these are placed either with family/ relatives or in adoption placements.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.4	% of children and young people in residential care	Low is Good			8-12%	9%	11%	12%	9%	9%		→	We are currently within the target of 8-12% of our cared for population residing in residential care. This is in line with comparator authorities and is considered good performance.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.5	Number of Cheshire East foster carers	High is Good			165	153	156	153	149	150		→	Several foster carers have converted to special guardianship orders providing permanence for children and therefore have resigned as foster carers.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.6	Long term placement stability - % cared for children in care for 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 years (under 16 years old)	High is Good		68%	75%	67%	70%	65%	62%	59%		↓	Placement stability is currently an issue for Cheshire East and a working group has been convened in order to achieve a greater understanding of the issues and deliver an action plan in response. Issues being considered relate to earlier identification of risk of breakdown and re focusing key resources. The Resource and Accommodation Panel is also now scrutinising all requests for new placements ensuring resources are in place to support placements at an early enough point to impact change	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.7	Number of cared for children that went missing 5 times or more (quarterly figure is 5 or more times in any month in that quarter)	Low is Good			5	16	7	supressed	6	supressed		→	Due to discrepancies in the data provided by the police the figures for the full year have been revised. There have been 14 Cheshire East cared for children that have gone missing more than 5 times in anyone month whilst in the care of the LA. This is a reduction from last year however many of these individuals have a very high number of episodes. A much more detailed analysis of the missing incidents will be provided in separate analysis.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.8	% of children and young people placed with providers with good/outstanding Ofsted judgements	High is Good				81%	81%	75%	93%	90%		→	The majority of the providers with judgements of Requires Improvement (RI) are Independent Fostering Agencies, in particular Lorimer who have 5 children placed with their carers. The last inspection for Lorimer was May 2014 so a new inspection can be expected to be undertaken in the next year or so. If Lorimer move from RI to Good then the overall percentage would improve further to 95%. The cared for children placement team and commissioning will continue to endeavour to source placements with good or outstanding providers in what is a difficult market.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.9	% of children ceased to be looked after due to granting of special guardianship order (SGO) - year to date figure	High is Good			12%	18%	12%	11%	16%	17%		↑	Accumulative figure 25 out of 145 children in 2016-17 ceased to be cared for due to granting of SGO	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5

Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 1 16-17	Qu 2 16-17	Q3 16-17	Q416-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
P2.10	% of children ceased to be looked after due to adoption - year to date figure	High is Good			20%	13%	21%	20%	15%	18%		↑	Accumulative figure 26 out of 145 children in 2016-17 ceased to be cared for due to granting of adoption order	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.11	Number of children adopted in period (YTD)	High is Good			30 annually	18	9	16	16	26		↑	The total number of children adopted by the end of 2016-17 was 26. In addition, there are 27 individuals with an adoption plan, 15 of which are living with their adoptive family/ foster to adopt placement.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.12	% children who wait less than 16 months between entering care and moving in with adoptive family	High is Good			58%	83%	84%	84%	83%	84%		→	This continues to be a focus to ensure that timely decisions are made to ensure children and young people are in a permanent placement as quickly as possible. There is now a specific Independent Reviewing Officer identified to track the progress for these children to ensure there is no delay.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.13	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family (A1 national indicator)	Low is Good			426	545	936	678	678	541		↓	Although this has been RAG rated amber, the story behind the data is very positive. This is due to the extremely positive outcome of children and young people being adopted by foster carers after a number of years due to a freestanding application. This is reflected in the reduced figure 2.15 below.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.14	Average number of days between placement order and match with adoptive family (A2 national indicator)	Low is Good			121	99	49	70	70	66		→	The number of days has reduced slightly and remains well within the national target of 121 and ahead of last year's position.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P2.15	Average number of days between entering care and moving in with adoptive family/ foster carer who becomes adoptive family	Low is Good			426	477	243	265	265	284		↑	Whilst the number of days between a placement order and match with an adoptive family has increased, it still remains well within the national target of 426 and a substantial improvement on last year's position.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
<b>Keep Me Healthy</b>															
P3.1	% of initial health assessments requested within 48 hours of coming into care	High is Good			90%	11%	69%	68%	82%	64%		↓	There was a temporary dip in quarter 4 due to an increasing number of children becoming cared for and an increase in the number of court applications. This has placed additional pressure on CIN/CP teams. A deep dive of the late requests indicates that 16 children's requests were late, 11 were only 1-2 days late and 2 were in care a short period and did not require IHA. The process for requesting IHA's has been reinforced with teams.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.2	% of initial health assessments completed by paediatricians within 20 working days	High is Good			100%	34%	36%	52%	30%	58%		↑	The improvement in performance around initial health assessments completed by paediatricians within 20 days from quarter 3 to quarter 4 is as a result of work around developing a better process and pathways around this service. Whilst this increase is positive, it is still well below the target required and further improvements are	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.3	% of children in care over 12 months up to date with statutory health assessments (6 monthly for under fives, annual thereafter)	High is Good	84%	90%	100%	71%	71%	70%	75%	81%		↑	Of the 295 individuals recorded as being in care for over 12 months as at the end of March 2017, 55 had either no health check date loaded or a health check dated over 12 months. It is noted that there is a backlog in uploading completed health check forms. The indicative figure is 74% for the year currently but this is likely to rise.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.4	% of children and young people with immunisations up to date.	High is Good		87%	95%	83%		83%	84%	79%		→	Actual performance on this measure is believed to be higher. Work is being undertaken through the year end returns to ensure that all children's immunisations have been loaded to liquid logic.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.5	% of children and young people who have had an annual teeth check up by a dentist	High is Good		84%	95%	82%	30%	43%	57%	58%		↑	A backlog in uploading dental check information is impacting on performance against this measure. A review has been conducted to understand the backlog issues and to seek a more streamlined process. Every cared for child has a regular independent review of their care plan which provides reassurance that children are having annual teeth check up by dentists.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.6	% of young people who have had a developmental assessment.	High is Good		90%	95%	76%							This figure has previously been recorded manually on an annual basis. Performance will be reported quarterly once the information is uploaded to Liquid Logic	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.7	Number of pregnant care leavers (eligible, relevant and former relevant) 16+	Low is Good					9	7	6	7			This is a new figure which is being collated due to perceived high numbers of pregnancies.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
P3.8	% of young people with a SDQ score of 20 or above	Low is Good				26%	25%	24%	23%	23%			At a time when anecdotal evidence suggests that the complexity of the challenges presented by C4C is increasing, it is encouraging that SDQ scores in this regard are stable; the C&FST uses high scores as a basis for intervention and has had some level of involvement with around 85% of these children.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 5
<b>Help Me Achieve</b>															
P4.1	% of children taking up their early years entitlement – 2, 3, 4 year old offer - all cared for children	High is Good			90%	93%	93%	93%	90%	95%		→	21 out of 23 child in settings. Of those not in setting, one is new into care and one placed for adoption	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.2	% of children achieving a good level of development at the end of foundation stage. (Annual check)	High is Good			33%	20%		40%	40%	40%		→	This figure is based on a very small cohort - less than 10 children	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.3	% personal education plans (PEPs) for children of statutory school age completed since start of term	High is Good			90%			52%	94%	83%		↓	250 out of 306 PEPs returned within term. Quarter 4 was a short term so PEPs done during latter weeks not returned by end of term. All will be chased in new term along with next PEP.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.4	% attendance at school of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared for children at month end rather than those in	High is Good	95.50%	96.10%	95%	94%	89%	94%	94%	94%		→	Latest percentage attendance is 95% for primary schools and 93% for secondary schools.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.5	% school age persistent absence of children in care (quarterly figure is all cared for at month end rather than those in care for 12mths which are published figs)	Low is Good			10%	15%	18%	11%	11%	12%P 17%S		→	The primary figure includes one individual newly into care and 2 on reduced timetables as they integrate to new schools. The secondary figure includes 4 children on integration plans - showing improved attendance since entering care. Includes 2 children who refused to engage -one has now moved and another has tuition and is subject to joint planning with Social Care.	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.6	Number of permanent exclusions starting in month - All Children	Low is Good				37	11	7	12	10		↓	This data is being reported on a half termly basis on the 14-19 skills report card. From Q1 2017-18 this will be amended for	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3

Ref	Measure	Polarity	Stat Neigh Av	National Av	Target	Yr. end 15-16	Qu 1 16-17	Qu 2 16-17	Q3 16-17	Q416-17	RAG	Quarterly dir of travel	Comments	C&YP Plan Priority	Corporate Priority
P4.7	% of Year 6 children achieving national age expectations	High is Good		45%	30%	50%	50%	22%	22%	22%		→	This is an annual figure, 30% of children in cohort did not complete tests due to SEN. 61% of cohort had SEN .	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.8	% children achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English/Maths (eligible cohort). Annual Check	High is Good		15%	15%	25%		10%	10%	10%		→	Annual figure, 15% (3 pupils) predicted to achieve failed to gain maths or English but are planning to re-take these	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.9	Number of cared for children/care leavers academic age 16-18 in apprenticeships.	High is Good			5	9	7	8	9	7		↓	Data now taken from child's case record (data up to quarter 3 was from Youth Support Service report)	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.10	% of cared for children in good or outstanding schools	High is Good			85%	83%	84%	84%	83%	82%		→	One pupil has transferred to a new academy which has no current Ofsted rating	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.11	% not in education, employment or training (NEET) academic age aged 16, 17 and 18	Low is Good			30%	27%	27%	20%	24%	20%		↓	New reporting system in place since January 2017. Data is now for aged 16 and 17 only	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
P4.12	% not In education, employment or training (NEET) aged 19, 20 and 21	Low is Good		39%	38%	42%	47%	40%	46%	43%		→	NB THIS WILL DIFFER FROM THE RETURNED FIGURE. ALSO PLEASE NOTE THAT WE MUST EXCLUDE POSITIVE ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T MEET THE CRITERIA FOR THE REPORTED FIGURE. This figure relates to the 19th, 20th and 21st birthday cohort only and details their latest status. When taking into account all individuals engaged in positive activities leading towards entering into education, employment and training then this percentage reduces to 29%. Each individual will have a designated PA and work continues to engage individuals where possible	5 Best Skills & Quals	Outcome 3
<b>Support me to move into adult life</b>															
P5.1	Number of care leavers accessing Higher Education (University)	High is Good				12	12	10	12	10			A total of 10 care leavers aged 18-21 are currently accessing higher education on a full or part time basis	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
P5.2	Number of Cheshire East care leavers in apprenticeships (18+)	High is Good					9	7	4	9			9 individuals are currently employed on an apprenticeship scheme	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
P5.3	The number of young people with a CSE plan - All Individuals					7	6	7	9	10			NB this is all individuals - not just those in care (that would be a suppressed figure)	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.4	Number of individual offences committed by cared for children	Low is Good				16	29	13	11				Youth Justice Service merged with Cheshire East YES to become one Service towards the later end of 2016, however the systems did not merge 1st March 2017. The previous 2 databases were very different and therefore the migration of data could not be 100% successful. Therefore for Q4 we do not have data around Children in Care as all Young People known to Cheshire East Children in Care would need loading into our Legal Screen before a report could be generated.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1
P5.5	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High is Good			96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%		→	This relates to the 19th, 20th and 21st birthday cohort only. This includes individuals currently in custody. Improved tracking in the care leavers service means that these young people are known and work continues to engage them where possible to improve their accommodation and support.	2 Feel & Be Safe	Outcome 5
P5.6	Number of cared for children offending	Low is Good				6	8	6	7				Youth Justice Service merged with Cheshire East YES to become one Service towards the later end of 2016, however the systems did not merge 1st March 2017. The previous 2 databases were very different and therefore the migration of data could not be 100% successful. Therefore for Q4 we do not have data around Children in Care as all Young People known to Cheshire East Children in Care would need loading into our Legal Screen before a report could be generated.	4 Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices	Outcome 1

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## Corporate Parenting Committee Forward Plan 2017-18

Meeting Date	Meeting Content
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b>Health Annual Report (focus area) incl CAMHS</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q1)
	IRO Annual Report
	Fostering Panel Report
	Adoption Panel Report
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>Education Annual Report (focus area)</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	LSCB Annual Report
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	<b>Placement sufficiency including fostering, adoption, residential care, out of county placements (focus area)</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	Independent Inspections of Children's Homes (Reg 44 report)
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q2)
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	<b>Provision and outcomes for care leavers including care leavers strategy – includes update on ignition and SPEED (focus area)</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	Foster carer fortnight
	Foster carer survey and action plan
	Update on vulnerable groups
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	<b>Staffing and infrastructure including recruitment and retention report, staff turnover, staff absence, update on signs of safety (focus area)</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	Improvement Plan progress
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q3)
	Draft Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report
Tbc July 2018	<b>Participation and Engagement – foster carers, young people (focus area) – including Advocacy and Independent Visitor Annual Report</b>
	Input from children and young people
	Update Report
	Corporate Parenting Performance Scorecard (Q4)

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