

# Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

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**Date:** Monday, 25th November, 2019  
**Time:** 1.30 pm  
**Venue:** Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, 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 at the foot of each 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. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2019.

3. **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.

4. **Whipping Declarations**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda

5. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

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For requests for further information

**Contact** Joel Hammond-Gant

**Tel:** 01270 686468

**E-Mail:** [joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with any apologies

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

6. **Pre-Budget 2020/21 Consultation** (Pages 9 - 20)

To consider the areas within the Pre-Budget 2020/21 Consultation related to the remit of this committee, and to provide feedback on this to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to its next meeting on 9 January 2020.

7. **Cheshire East All-Age Autism Strategy** (Pages 21 - 56)

To consider the strategy.

8. **Performance Scorecard - Quarter 2 (2019/20)** (Pages 57 - 66)

To consider the performance information related to the Children's and Family portfolio, from quarter 2 of the 2019/20 municipal year.

9. **Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/19** (Pages 67 - 116)

To consider the annual report for 2018/19.

10. **SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds** (Pages 117 - 140)

To consider the final report of the task and finish group.

11. **Forward Plan** (Pages 141 - 150)

To give consideration to the areas of the forward plan which fall within the remit of the committee.

12. **Work Programme** (Pages 151 - 160)

To give consideration to the work programme

**Membership:** Councillors M Addison, J Barber, M Beanland, D Brown, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill (Vice-Chairman), S Handley, M Houston, A Moran and J Saunders (Chairman)

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

held on Monday, 23rd September, 2019 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)  
Councillor P Butterill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M Addison, S Brookfield, J Buckley, C Bulman, A Gage,  
S Handley, M Houston and D Edwardes

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor D Flude, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Louise Hurst, Head of Service: Children in Need and Child Protection Service  
Keith Martin, Head of Service: Cared-for Children and Care Leavers  
Carol Sharples, Early Start Manager  
Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Early Help and Prevention

**12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barber (substituted for by Councillor Brookfield), Beanland, Hayes and Moran (substituted for by Councillor Edwardes.)

**13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

There were no whipping declarations.

**16 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of public present who wished to speak.

## **17 CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON'S STORY**

A case study was outlined to the committee about a Summer-born child (anonymised as 'Child A') who started in reception in September 2018. Their parents had applied for a place at a primary school at which Child A's sibling attended, but had not spoken to the school about attending nursery prior to reception. The school contacted the parents in January 2018 to make the parents aware of the offer of a nursery place.

The parents of Child A wanted them to attend the nursery and so an initial visit was arranged for January. During this visit, Child A presented as a child with significant needs.

An overview of the child's needs was presented to members alongside detailed information as to; what the council did that had worked well; what the council had been worried about; what the impacts on the child had been; and what the council had learned.

Concern was raised by the committee regarding whether the Child A's additional needs could have been identified earlier, and what could be done to ensure earlier identification in similar cases in the future.

Members were advised that the council had already begun reviewing the overall parenting journey; if the eight stages of assessment were embedded, it would be easier for the council to identify any problems at an earlier stage. In addition, there was now a health visitor linked to all settings; the importance of the council working closely with Health Visitors was highlighted.

The committee questioned whether, had more Children Centres and Sure Start services been available to Child A and their parents, would their additional needs have been identified and brought to the council's attention sooner. Members were advised that there was a reliance on parents to come forward and admit when perhaps they needed assistance.

Members questioned whether systems and processes would sufficiently 'flag' to the relevant services if a child had not attended a two-year development review. It was confirmed that this type of monitoring would be put in place. It was also reported that a recommissioning of the 0 to 19 year olds service was due to take place, which presented the council with an opportunity to include within the new commission: a service specification that would highlight any child development checks that had been missed.

### **RESOLVED –**

That Child A's story, and the responses to members' questions, be noted.

## 18 PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

Consideration was given to the performance scorecard for Quarter 1 of 2019/20. Members raised comments and asked questions in relation to;

- why the number of young people not in employment, education or training had risen;
- when the council might expect the increased number of social workers to positively impact on caseload management;
- why the number of open early health assessments had risen; and
- how many cared-for children were under council care, and whether the recent increase in this number was associated with school holidays.

### RESOLVED –

- 1 That the new format and style for the performance scorecard be endorsed.
- 2 That the contents of the scorecard and attached report be noted.

## 19 CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2018/19. The Chairman was pleased to report that each of the council's political groups had signed up to the pledges outlined in the new Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-20.

Underpinning these pledges were the five Workstream Groups, which had been established to ensure that the Strategy was delivered effectively. The Chairman reported that members of the Corporate Parenting Committee would be contacted to gauge interest in being part of one of the five Strategy workstreams.

The Chairman and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families reported that they had been involved in identifying the following priorities which had helped to refresh and improve the Strategy;

- a review of the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Committee;
- continue to develop the training offer for Members of the Corporate Parenting Committee and all other elected Members of the council;
- support and scrutinise the development of the 'Bespoke' project;
- support and scrutinise the review of the council's fostering services; and
- consider the impact of the Social Care Bill.

In addition to this an overview was provided to Members on the 'mocking bird' project by the Acting Head of Service: Cared for Children and Care Leavers.

Concern was raised in respect of the management of independent children's homes. Clarification was sought as to whether or not the committee or the council could ensure that independent children's homes were inspected on a regular basis.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families spoke to the importance of all elected members of the council engaging and attending in training on frontline visits. It was reiterated that this training was mandatory for any member that sat on the Corporate Parenting Committee.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report be received.

**20 ANNUAL ADOPTION REPORT**

Consideration was given to the Annual Adoption report, which was intended to fulfil the obligations in Adoption National Minimum Standards (2011), Adoption Service Statutory Guidance (2011), and Adoption and Children Act (2002), to report to the "executive side" of the local authority.

It was noted that data and information contained within the report was accurate as of 31 March 2019. Members were advised that plans for children were dynamic and pragmatic and as such, the overall picture would have changed since this date.

Members asked questions and raised comments in relation to;

- whether the reported national shortage of adopters had shown signs of improvement or further deterioration;
- what plans the council and partners would try to put in place to prevent the continued deterioration of adoptive families; and
- how some of the figures in relation to adoptive families would look in comparison to those on non-adoptive families.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report be noted.

**21 CHANGES TO NHS - CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP 5 YEAR PLAN**

Consideration was given to the draft Cheshire East Partnership Five-Year Plan. Members gave the following feedback on the Plan, including that;

- there was a good emphasis on mental health issues within the document;
- there was not enough information/detail on children and children's services;

- there was not enough detail on waiting times for autism referral appointments;
- there was not enough detail on the current performance position, local/national benchmarks, and what the council's ambitions and objectives are; and
- there was not enough clarity on how the success of the Plan would be measured during, and at the end of, the five year period.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1 That the draft Cheshire East Partnership Five-Year Plan be noted.
- 2 That the committee's feedback be included within the Technical Appendix to the final Plan document.

**22 ELECTED MEMBER FRONTLINE VISITS TO CHILD IN NEED AND CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS**

Consideration was given to a report that set out proposals on the future arrangements regarding frontline visits to the Child in Need and Child Protection Teams.

It was reported that members on the frontline visit rota had been in place for a long period of time. Of the eight members listed for 2018/19, three were no longer elected members of the council and only two still sat on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Whilst a number of experienced councillors remained on the rota, the committee felt that there was an opportunity to encourage and enable some of the council's newly elected members to become more involved.

It was suggested that officers email the members of the committee with a list of potential dates for training to be undertaken, should members of the committee wish to participate in frontline visits in the future.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1 That the report be noted.
- 2 That the proposals outlined in section 7 of the report be endorsed.

**23 FORWARD PLAN**

The committee gave consideration to the areas of the forward plan which fell within its remit.

**RESOLVED –**

That the forward plan be received.

**24 WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee reviewed its work programme. It was reported that the spotlight review on Children's Mental Health Services would take place on Wednesday 13 November.

In response to questions from the committee, the Scrutiny Manager advised members that the SEND Task and Finish Group had worked with officers to try and complete its report on the SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds in time to present to the committee at its next meeting on 25 November 2019.

**RESOLVED –**

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 3.30 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)





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Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 25 November 2019

**Report Title:** Children and Families Budget proposals, 2020/21 to 2023/24

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Dorothy Flude, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. On 1 November 2019 Cheshire East Council issued its Pre-Budget Consultation, setting out proposals for change across the Council for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24. This report sets out the proposals in relation to the Children and Families Service.

### **2. Recommendation/s**

- 2.1. That Committee:
- a) Note the proposals set out in the Pre-Budget Consultation.
  - b) Provide feedback on the proposals as part of the consultation.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation/s**

- 3.1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide essential ongoing scrutiny to the service.

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

- 4.1. A number of other budget proposals were considered as part of the annual high level business planning process. However, those within the Pre-Budget Consultation were those supported through the initial stages of development.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1. Cheshire East's Pre-Budget Consultation was published on 1 November 2019. Set against a backdrop of increasing demand and rising costs, the report sets out service proposals and financial plans for the period from 1 April 2020 through to 31 March 2021.
- 5.2. Interested parties are encouraged to review and comment on the Council's Budget proposals at: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/budget](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/budget)
- 5.3. The consultation runs until 6 January 2020 and findings will be considered before the final budget is agreed by full council on 20 February 2020. The extracts at Appendix 1 relate to the specific budget proposals for Children's Services and are provided to the Committee as an opportunity for discussion and scrutiny of the proposals.
- 5.4. The implications of individual proposals may be much wider for individuals affected by each proposal. Where this is the case, we intend to undertake full and proper consultation with key stakeholders.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1. Legal advice will be sought, where applicable, to ensure that any changes in services do not impact on our ability to meet our statutory requirements.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1. The financial implication of each proposal is set out at Appendix 1.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1. Any policy changes as a result of the proposals will be agreed through the usual processes.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for each business case.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

- 6.5.1. If approved, there will be some implications for staffing as a result of these proposals, in particular in the way that they work. These will be subject to the relevant consultations with staff.

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. There is a risk that, following consultation, some of these proposals may be subject to change or be removed from the budget. Risks on individual proposals will be considered in detail as part of the consultation process.

## **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

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

6.8.1. These proposals will impact on services for children and young people. Impact assessments have been completed for each proposal. We will work to mitigate any negative impact on children and young people.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. These proposals relate to business cases across Children's Services and all wards are likely to be affected.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. The Children and Families proposals are subject to consultation through the pre-budget consultation process. The implications of individual proposals will be subject to full consultation with key stakeholders, where appropriate.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. The full Pre-Budget Consultation document can be found at: [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/your\\_council/council\\_finance\\_and\\_governance/cheshire\\_east\\_budget/cheshire-east-budget.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire-east-budget.aspx)

## **10. Contact Information**

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

Name: Mark Palethorpe

Job Title: Acting Executive Director of People

Email: [mark.palethorpe@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:mark.palethorpe@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Children's Services Extract from the Pre-Budget Consultation 2020-24

## Proposals to vary the Budget under Outcome 3 (Education):

<b>Changing the way we work</b> <i>Managing services in a way that achieves more for less. Investing in modern technology for better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*	2022/23 £m*	2023/24 £m*
<b>8. Review of Children and Families Transport Policies and delivery arrangements (Revenue Savings)</b>  The Council currently spends a significant amount of its budget on transport within children's services. As part of an ongoing review of transport we will work with the current school transport provider, Transport Service Solutions (TSS), and other interested groups, to explore all options to provide a more cost effective solution through effective commissioning of travel across all children and families services.  <i>Impact on Education Participation and Pupil Support Service Budget =</i>	-0.280	-0.560	-0.560	-0.560
<b>9. Transport cost for SEND (Revenue Investment)</b>  Increased demand for the provision of statutory transport due to the increased numbers of cared for children, children with special education needs and school age pupils due to housing developments.  <i>Impact on Education Partnership and Pupil Support Service Budget =</i>	+0.300	+0.300	+0.300	+0.300
*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a> . Values are not cumulative				

<b>Changing the way we work</b> <i>Managing services in a way that achieves more for less. Investing in modern technology for better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*	2022/23 £m*	2023/24 £m*
<b>10. Contribution to Cheshire Youth Justice Service (Revenue Savings)</b>  <p>Cheshire East experiences below the national average of youth offending; meaning we have relatively lower levels of young people who enter the youth justice system compared to Boroughs of a similar size and demographic. Cheshire East has been part of the single Cheshire-wide Youth Justice Service since 2016. The agreed financial contribution to the service was set at £334,000 per year but saw a request to increase annually in response to inflation and pay increases for staff. There has been no reduction in the level of Youth Justice service resources for three years from Cheshire East, where other neighbouring authorities have reduced their contribution. Therefore, the proposal is to reduce the Council's contribution to deliver a single Youth Justice Service by 20% across the Cheshire Constabulary area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on Youth Justice Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.045	-0.090	-0.090	-0.090
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>				

<b>Changing the way we work</b> <i>Managing services in a way that achieves more for less. Investing in modern technology for better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2021/22</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2022/23</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2023/24</b> <b>£m*</b>
<b>11. Skills Strategy (Revenue Savings)</b>  To adjust the Lifelong Learning Team contribution as this budget has underspent over the last two years. This team and the service offer is delivered through Education and Skills Funding Agency Grant. The team fully draws down the grant and therefore the Council budget used to subsidise the staffing on this team can be reduced without impact.  This will be enabled through more efficient working supported by the development of a skills strategy for young people and new governance arrangements being established.  <i>Impact on Education Infrastructure and Outcomes Service Budget =</i>				
<b>12. Locality Working (Revenue Savings)</b>  To redesign Early Help Services on a locality delivery model, streamlining management arrangements to increase integration and reduce duplication. Evidence suggests that local areas that operate a joined-up model of locality working tend to have more positive outcomes for children and young people. We need to learn from the best to get the best for our children.  <i>Impact on Early Years and Family Service Budget =</i>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.020</b>
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.            Values are not cumulative</i>				

<b>Income generation</b> <i>Charging strategies for each service area to increase income where appropriate based on market rates and considering the price elasticity of demand for services.</i>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2021/22</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2022/23</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2023/24</b> <b>£m*</b>
<b>13. Rental Income for shared service delivery space – NHS and Nursery (Revenue Income Generation)</b>  The department has not introduced rental rates or income charges for Children Centres in the past three years. The proposal is to introduce rental charges for use of rooms and delivery spaces in the Childrens Centres. NHS agencies including delivery of the 0-19 service contract and midwifery contract currently use these facilities for free. The proposal also includes introducing room hire costs for training at Oakenclough.  <i>Impact on Early Years and Family Service Budget =</i>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.030</b>	<b>-0.030</b>	<b>-0.030</b>
<b>14. Income from Outdoor Education (Revenue Income Generation)</b>  The proposal is to generate income to fund case workers through encouraging schools to buy Cheshire East services rather than from external providers. This will be done by developing the Council's in-house Alternative Education Provision for Outdoor Education and alternative education from the Youth Prevention Service.  <i>Impact on Early Years and Family Service Budget =</i>	<b>-0.035</b>	<b>-0.085</b>	<b>-0.085</b>	<b>-0.085</b>
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.            Values are not cumulative</i>				



<b>Investment in services</b> <i>Investment will be put into systems that support key services and into other assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The impact of capital spending will be managed at affordable levels.</i>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2021/22</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2022/23</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2023/24</b> <b>£m*</b>
<b>15. Essential Kitchen Infrastructure (Capital Investment)</b>  To improve the kitchen facilities in the schools that buy-back the Catering Service by installing new dishwashers and combination ovens. The equipment will improve food quality and lead to service efficiencies which will enable the Catering Service to maintain the current levels of buy-back.  <i>New Capital Investment 2020/21 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2021/22 =</i>	<b>+0.220</b>	<b>+0.220</b>		
<b>16. Provision of Sufficient School Places - SEND (Capital Investment)</b>  The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in our schools to meet demands of the local children. Having the right educational placement for all children and young people is key to their development so this investment aims to increase the number of Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) placements within Cheshire East schools.  <i>New Capital Investment 2020/21 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2021/22 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2022/23 =</i>	<b>+1.000</b>	<b>+4.330</b>	<b>+1.000</b>	
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.</i> <i>Values are not cumulative</i>				

<b>Investment in services</b> <i>Investment will be put into systems that support key services and into other assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The impact of capital spending will be managed at affordable levels.</i>	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*	2022/23 £m*	2023/24 £m*
<b>17. Provision of Sufficient School Places – Basic Need (Capital Investment)</b>  The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in our schools to meet demands of local children. Having the right educational placement for all children and young people is key to their development so this project aims to increase the number of placements within key Cheshire East planning areas across the Borough.  <i>New Capital Investment 2020/21 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2021/22 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2022/23 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2023/24 =</i>	<b>+3.100</b>	<b>+6.150</b>	<b>+12.900</b>	<b>+4.700</b>
<b>18. Primary School Provision at key development sites within the Borough (Capital Investment)</b>  As part of developing key housing and infrastructure sites within the Borough there will be a requirement to provide additional primary school provision. Funding for school places is frequently funded from significant grant and developer contributions.  <i>New Capital Investment 2020/21 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2021/22 =</i> <i>New Capital Investment 2022/23 =</i>	<b>+1.200</b>	<b>+6.300</b>	<b>+0.700</b>	
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.</i> <i>Values are not cumulative</i>				

## Proposals to vary the Budget under Outcome 5 (Social Care)

<b>Changing the way we work</b> <i>Managing services in a way that achieves more for less. Investing in modern technology for better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*	2022/23 £m*	2023/24 £m*
<b>34. FACT 22 Investment (Revenue Savings)</b>  FACT 22 have successfully delivered a service across Crewe and Macclesfield, working intensely with Child in Need. This has been evidenced through feedback from children and families on the positive impact FACT 22 has had on their lives and also a reduction in the repeat referral rate to Children's Social Care. Over the last 6 months children's social care have significantly improved the recruitment and retention of quality social work staff across the Children In Need/Child Protection services. As such, children's social care will be able to deliver the work carried out by FACT 22 within our own service and use the residual funding in alternative ways. This new way of working will support children considered to be at risk of Contextual Safeguarding, on the edge of care or custody.  The current contract is commissioned until March 2020 and it is proposed not to recommission this service.  <i>Impact on Education Participation and Pupil Support Service Budget =</i>				
	-0.150	-0.150	-0.150	-0.150
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.            Values are not cumulative</i>				

<b>Investment in services</b> <i>Investment will be put into systems that support key services and into other assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The impact of capital spending will be managed at affordable levels.</i>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2021/22</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2022/23</b> <b>£m*</b>	<b>2023/24</b> <b>£m*</b>
<p><b>41. Cared for Children and Care Leavers (Revenue Investment)</b></p> <p>There has been a 17% increase in the numbers of cared for children in Cheshire East over the last year, which is a situation being experienced elsewhere, both regionally and nationally. Although we are still below national and local comparators, admissions to care have continued to exceed the number of discharges and the complexity of needs of individuals are increasing due to improved assessments and effective prevention arrangements. This increase in numbers and complexity has resulted in the need for additional placement purchases, including high cost placements, and additional staffing to support children, young people and care leavers.</p> <p><i>Impact on Commissioning – Social Care – Cared for Children Service Budget =</i></p>	<p><b>+1.800</b></p>	<p><b>+3.100</b></p>	<p><b>+4.400</b></p>	<p><b>+5.700</b></p>
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for <a href="#">2019/20</a>.</i></p> <p><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>				



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Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 25 November 2019

**Report Title:** Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy 2020-2023

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Laura Jeuda, Adult Social Care and Integration  
Councillor Dorothy Flude, Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report sets out a new coproduced All Age Autism Strategy for Cheshire East. A multi-Agency Implementation Group is in place to ensure delivery and monitoring through an agreed Delivery Plan within the Strategy, which is updated annually. This strategy meets the council's statutory requirement as outlined in the Autism Act 2009 and the national adult autism strategy, which places a legal duty on all local authorities to develop and implement a local autism plan in partnership with health.
- 1.2. We are committed to commissioning high quality autism services and working with partner organisations to improve the lives and opportunities for children, young people and adults with autism. In order to achieve this, this three-year local strategy has been created with involvement and engagement from a wide range of people, including children and adults with autism and their families. Its purpose is to provide a clear plan for support in Cheshire East and identify objectives and actions, which reflect the local needs of people with autism whatever their age.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Endorse the Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy 2020 to 2023, attached at Appendix 1.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The first national autism strategy, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' was published by the Department of Health in 2010. The Strategy set out how a range of services across the public sector should improve support for adults with autism. 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' includes the government's vision for adults with autism:

*'All adults with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can get a diagnosis and access support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.'*

- 3.2. In 2014, the Department of Health published 'Think Autism', an update to the 2010 Strategy following a review of progress. 'Think Autism' reaffirmed the commitment to the five areas of action originally identified in 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' to improve the lives of adults with autism through three key principles:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Autism Aware Communities   | <i>Think Autism</i> community awareness projects will be established in local communities and there will be pledges/awards for local organisations to work towards  |
| 2. Autism Innovation Fund   | Funding for projects that promote innovative local services and projects, particularly for lower-level preventative support   |
| 3. Better data collection and more joined up advice and information service | Including a new way of social care staff recording someone's condition as autism, and a commitment to make it easier for people with autism to find information online about how their local authorities are performing |

- 3.3. The All Age Autism Strategy is presented as a coproduced partnership strategy as we recognise that the needs of autistic adults cut across services and are not exclusive to adult social care and children services. The lifespan of the strategy is three years, Central to making the autism strategy a success is to ensure we effectively plan, measure and monitor

how we will deliver the priorities detailed within this document, which will be achieved through the outlined Delivery Plan within each strategic priority.

- 3.4. The monitoring of the Delivery Plan and progress reports will be undertaken through the Multi-Agency Workstreams of the SEND Partnership Board, who in turn report to The Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the Board and Directorate Senior Management Team and published annually to support the Strategy aims and objectives.

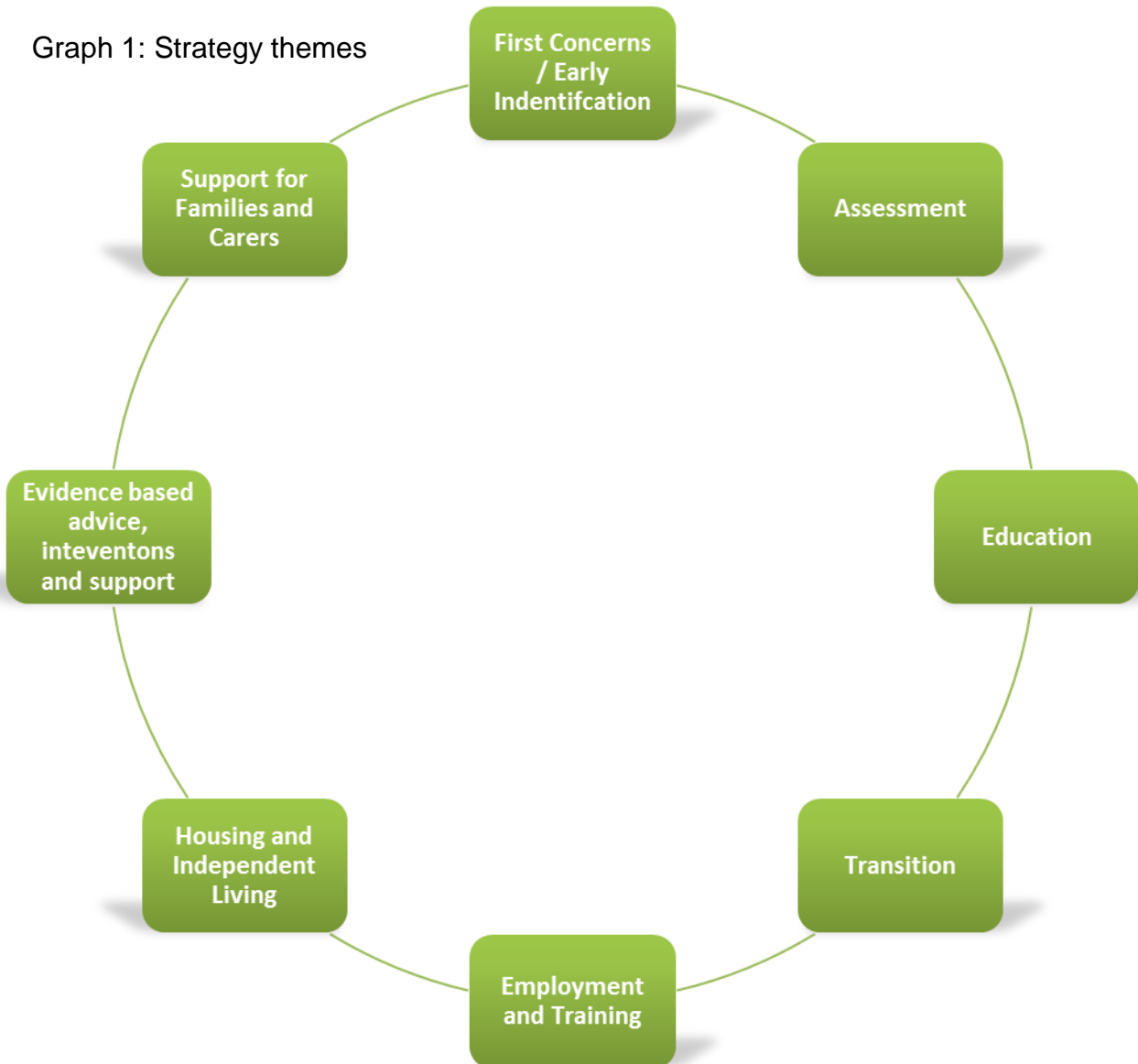
#### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. The Council have a statutory requirement to produce an Autism Strategy, coproduced with the NHS and partners, as outlined in the Autism Act 2009.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1. Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopment condition. People with autism experience challenges or differences in three key areas: social communication; social inclusion and sensory processing. Autism is a spectrum condition, which means that different people with autism experience it differently and are impacted in different ways.
- 5.2. The Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy (The Strategy) has been coproduced through the collective working of Cheshire East Council; East Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group; South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group; Cheshire and Wirral Partnership and the direct involvement of people who experience autism, their families, carers and other stakeholders.
- 5.3. The Strategy experienced formal public consultation between 04 February 2019 and 11 March 2019, in which 82 responses were received and detailed in the Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy Consultation Report (See 8.1 and Supporting document 9.2).
- 5.4. Through the combining of consultation responses and the developed work of the coproduced strategy, eight key themes and priorities have been identified (Graph 1].

Graph 1: Strategy themes



#### 5.5. Key themes and priorities:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. First concerns and early identification | To ensure people with autism, their careers and families and professionals are able to access clear, comprehensive and up-to-date information about where to go for support, and have a means of sharing knowledge and experiences with others |
| 2. Assessment                              | We will improve the diagnostic and assessment pathway by reducing the waiting times and implementing an all age autism pathway   |
| 3. Education                               | We will ensure that there are significant improvements of the timeliness and efficiency of the education, health and   |



care needs assessment processes

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 4. Transition  | We will ensure that a seamless transition for children throughout their lives and entering adulthood, including during childhood, specifically into school / primary to secondary or mainstream to special school - encouraging independence from an early stage so that individuals do not become dependent on services and are able to live a fulfilled life with the same opportunities as anyone else |
| 5. Employment and training                           | Developing pathways to suitable employment and training is not just important economically; it also offers the opportunity for individuals to feel valued, respected and included in society and can help prevent isolation   |
| 6. Housing and independent living                    | We will ensure that everybody has the opportunity to live in their own home, within a community setting, with their own front door and access to local amenities. We will improve the housing offer available and seek to provide choice, opportunities and support   |
| 7. Evidence based advice, intervention's and support | Specialist health and social care services will be provided as required and will be easily accessed by those who need them. Individuals and families encounter a range of high-quality services that are joined-up, easy to navigate and appropriate for their needs  |
| 8. Support for families and carers                   | We will seek to ensure that carers are identified, supported and empowered to manage their caring role, and are able to have a life outside of caring   |

## 6. Implications of the Recommendations

### 6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. The Care Act 2014 requires councils to make sure that any adult with an appearance of care and support needs, and any carer with an appearance of support needs, should receive a needs assessment.
- 6.1.2. The Act also requires councils to undertake 'transition assessments' if a child, young carer or adult caring for a child is likely to have needs when they, or the child they care for, turns 18.
- 6.1.3. Additionally, the local authority's legal duties in relation to people on the autism spectrum flows from the Autism Act 2009 and its accompanying statutory guidance (published in March 2015), which provides additional detail on the level of specialist knowledge and skills assessors are expected to have in autism.

6.1.4. The Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy 2020-2023 demonstrates compliance with the Council's legal responsibilities as described.

## **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. There are no financial implications from the recommendations of this report. The council services detailed in this strategy are existing services, and reporting and attendance at the boards will be met via existing staffing resources.

## **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. This strategy positively supports The Council's Corporate Plan 2017 – 2020, in its priority that children and young people should get a good start in life, are prepared for the world of work and are equipped to live independent, self-sufficient lives, and to realise their particular talents and abilities. The Corporate Plan also looks to ensure quality and best value for local people, striving to get it right first time, and acting with integrity, being open, honest, accountable, and delivering on our promises.

## **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. An Equity Impact Assessment has been completed (see 9.3). The assessment details that the aims of the Autism Strategy are to promote equality and inclusion by working with and improving outcomes for people with autism and people who experience autism.

## **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no direct implications for human resources

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. Children, young people and adults, together with parent and carers are a vulnerable group that is at risk from a number of factors – poor education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood. This Strategy aims to ensure all services work collaboratively providing improved and person centred support, and as such mitigate these risks to our most vulnerable residents.

## **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

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

6.8.1. The Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy directly supports the aims and objectives for our services for Children and Young People, as outlined within the Written Statement of Action in response to the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspection in March 2018.

6.8.2. Further, the strategy works to directly link with the national autism strategy, as such positively supporting for the transition of children and young people into adult services. Further, it is aligned with a number of other key strategic documents that outline support for children with autism. This includes the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy that is in development for children and young people aged 0-25.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. Implementation of the All Age Autism Strategy will promote health and wellbeing by ensuring a joined-up partnership approach to identification and support for people with autism spectrum conditions and working towards improved service standards and outcomes.

6.9.2. In directly supporting the health and wellbeing of Cheshire East residents, the Council will ensure that people with autism that is eligible for services, continue to be able to access support to meet their needs. At the same time, working with partners to support people with autism across the spectrum to live as independently as possible, and prevent, reduce or delay their needs from becoming more serious.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. All wards are affected.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. Extensive, consultation and engagement has taken place. A formal consultation was conducted during February and March 2019, in which 82 respondents were received (see 9.2). We consulted with individuals and groups of people who experience autism on a daily basis, seeking views on the strategy through face to face conversations; telephone calls; emails;

meetings; workshops and questionnaires in which the which have informed and shaped the key priorities of this Strategy.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. Appendix 1 - Cheshire East All-Age Autism Strategy, 2020-2023

## **10. Contact Information**

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

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Job Title: Integrated Commissioning Manager

Email: [gerard.buckley@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:gerard.buckley@cheshireeast.gov.uk)



# Cheshire East

## All-Age Autism Strategy

### 2020-2023

Cheshire East  
SEND Partnership



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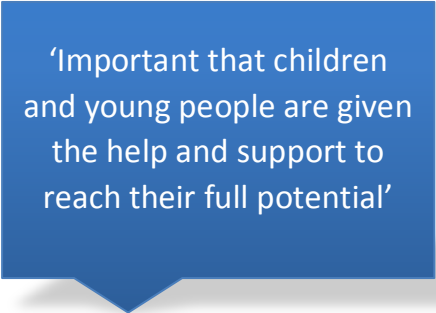
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The strategy contains quotes and thoughts from some Cheshire East residents; parents, carers; children and young who experience autism in their daily lives, captured during recent consultation in the development of the strategy

## Foreword

This strategy has been developed through co-production and engagement with all our partners; stakeholders, and importantly Autistic people, their families, and carers in line with the TOGETHER co-production principles. “Think Autism”, the National Strategy, places an expectation on local councils and health services to develop plans to ensure that Autistic people who live in their area get the help that they need. This strategy responds to that expectation, developed in line with the Autism Act (2009); the National Autism Strategy and the local Written Statement of Action following the local area SEND inspection.<sup>1</sup>

Autism is a lifelong condition that can significantly affect the lives of people living with it, and it is part of the daily life of around 600,000 people in the UK.<sup>2</sup> In Cheshire East, there are an estimated 1,594 children and young people assessed onto the autism spectrum, and 728 adults<sup>3</sup>. **Autistic people** are valued members of our communities and this Strategy reflects a shared commitment to improve the health, wellbeing, and opportunities for both children and adults with autism.



‘Important that children and young people are given the help and support to reach their full potential’

Preparing for adulthood is a recognised challenge. While most young people with autism will not need specialist services as an adult, they will need support as they move towards adulthood in developing independence – for example; learning additional life skills, travelling independently and seeking opportunities for further education, employment, and independent living.

The Strategy seeks to ensure that **Autistic people**, their families and carers are able to achieve their full potential by bringing together health and social care, educational settings, local employers, service providers, voluntary organisations and the people of Cheshire East.

To do this, the Strategy contains clear aims and objectives, which have been defined and shaped by the key priorities. The Strategy is supported by a Delivery Plan - which will be updated throughout the lifespan of the Strategy, reflecting changes in national and local policy to ensure we capture every opportunity to further enhance our vision for improved health, wellbeing, and quality of life for **Autistic people**, their families, and carers.

We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to its development. The Strategy provides an opportunity to make a significant difference to the lives of **Autistic people** and its success lies in the extent to which it achieves this. Our challenge now is to work together and make those aspirations real.

<sup>1</sup> [Cheshire East Written Statement of Action for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities \[SEND\] Aug 2018](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The NHS Long Term Plan S.2.31. January 2019](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#).

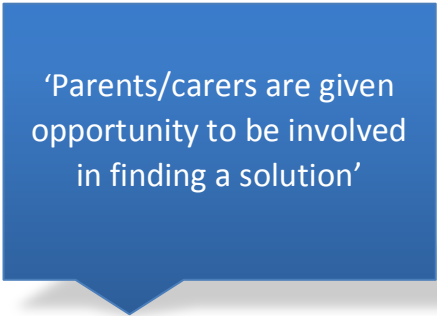
## Executive Summary

The Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy makes a commitment to improving services and support for children and adults with autism, and their families and carers. This Strategy acts as a roadmap for commissioning intentions and service re-design and improvement initiatives throughout its lifespan.

Autism touches the lives of many people in Cheshire East, and it is therefore essential that we have an all-age Strategy which enables us to work in partnership to support **Autistic people** and their families in the most effective way. This includes raising awareness and understanding of autism in our wider communities, whilst also ensuring young people in the transition into adulthood reach their educational potential, gain employment, have a choice of housing, and have access to local services which are autism friendly.

To steer and inform the strategy, a working group was established of **Autistic people**, their families, and carers, representatives from Social Care, Education, Housing, Local Area Coordinators, Health, Employment Support, Criminal Justice, Police, Advocacy, autism specific agencies, as well as community and third sector organisations.

As the Strategy highlights, we have also collected the thoughts, experiences, and suggestions of people with autism, their families, friends, and carers in what needs to be improved. Combining this with recent national and local data and evidence, we have identified key themes and priorities, which are explored throughout the Strategy.



'Parents/carers are given opportunity to be involved in finding a solution'

Autism is everyone's business, and we know if we get things right for children and young people, they are more likely to enter adulthood with the appropriate level of advice, information, self-management strategies, and support and therefore have greater opportunity to achieve their aspirations and live happy and safe lives.



## Our Vision

In Cheshire East we are committed to improving the lives of individuals who experience autism. We will do this by working with **Autistic people**, families, carers, local groups, and partner organisations to address the existing issues in accessing a number of services. It is critical that a significant amount of focus is placed in improving access to a multi-disciplinary assessment pathway to support diagnosis. Our vision includes a consistent and integrated autism assessment pathway, which is compliant with NICE guidance and Quality Standards, and includes access to evidence-based pre and post diagnostic support.

We want to empower individuals and families to participate in decisions about assessments and diagnosis, to receive support, information and advice as early as possible as soon as needs have been identified. We want to provide support to help families to understand the diagnosis pathway.

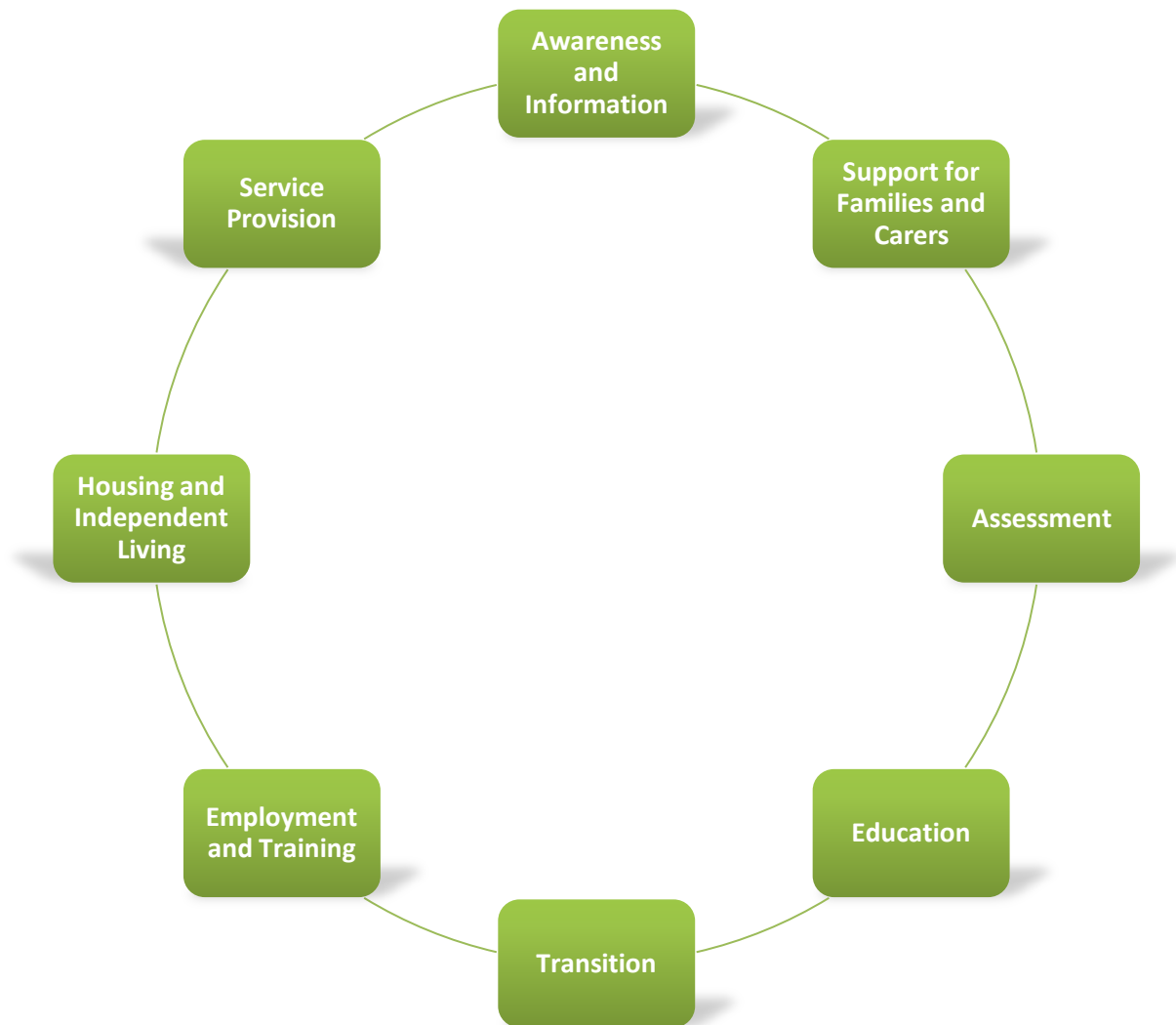
The strategy is intended to provide more consistent and effective early intervention support to children, young people, adults, and families. There is an ambition that having appropriate and timely advice, information, self-management strategies and support for our residents who experience autism. As far as possible, we wish to ensure that all professionals and organisations working with children, young people, and adults are able to demonstrate a good understanding of both autism and reasonable adjustments and arrangements needed to enable **Autistic people** to access services, education, employment, and housing.

Our approach will emphasise the importance of effective, well led transition planning throughout an individual's life by promoting independence and enhancing lives. We want people to feel that Cheshire East is a place where you can participate socially, feel safe and lead an independent life, including reaching their educational potential, gaining and maintaining employment, living close to family and social networks, and taking part in leisure and social activities.

The purpose of this strategy is to help guide us towards achieving our vision over the next 3 years, by setting the tone and direction to improve outcomes for **Autistic people** and their families. Our ambitions and the success of the priorities are dependent on partner organisations working in an integrated way to achieve the same goals.

## Our priorities

In order to meet the ambitions set out within this Strategy, we have agreed a number of key priorities, which have been co-produced through extensive engagement and working with Autistic people, their families and carers and professionals within the sector.

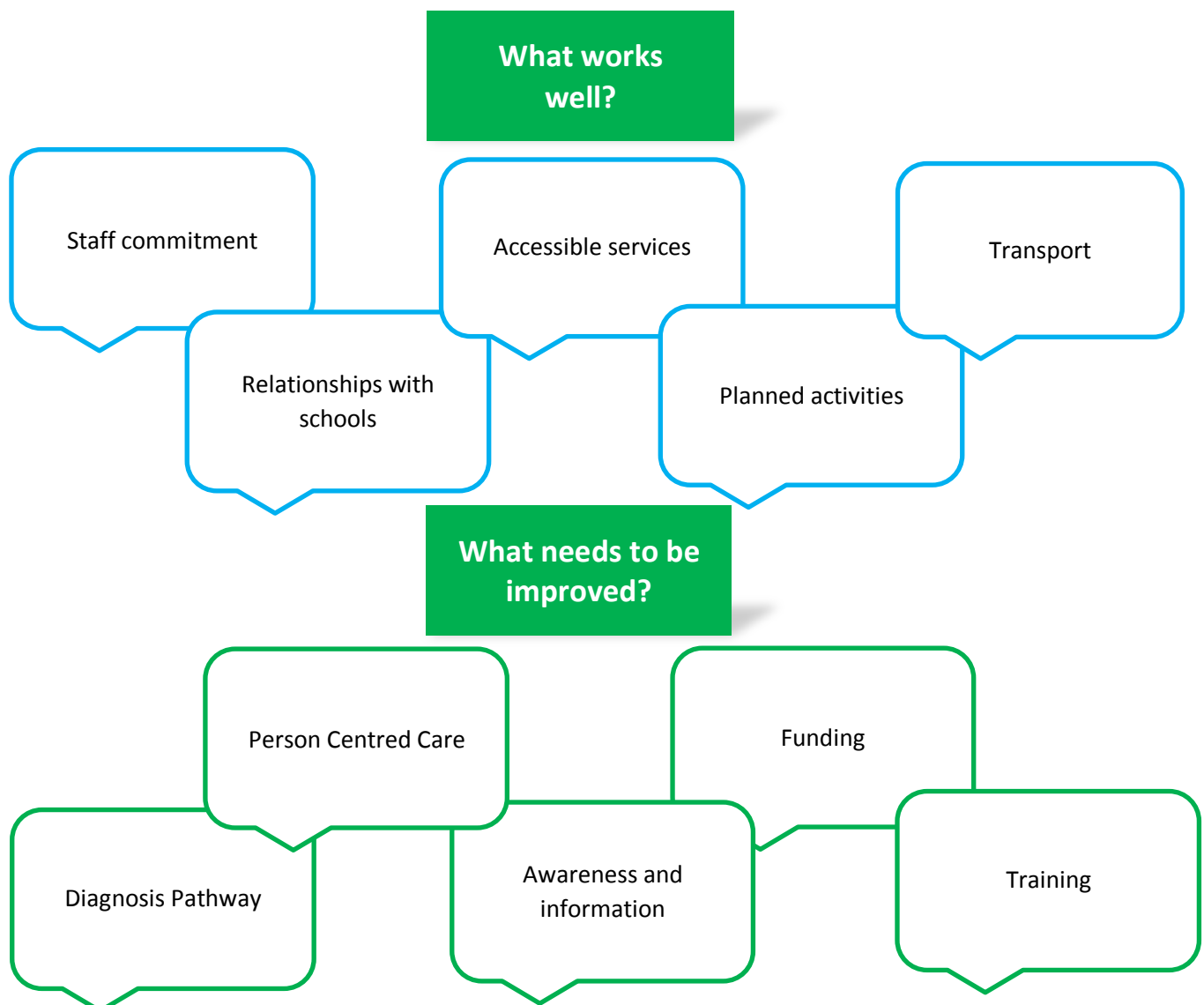


## How this strategy was developed

### Co-production and consultation

The development of our All Age Autism Strategy has been linked to the updating of our Cheshire East Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)<sup>4</sup>, through a multi-agency Autism Strategy and JSNA Working Group. Further, we have been working extensively to develop this strategy through consultation events over recent years within the SEND Partnership, service users, and parent carers.

A formal consultation was conducted during February and March 2019 in which 82 respondents were received (See Appendix 3). We consulted with individuals and groups of people who experience autism on a daily basis, seeking views on the strategy through face to face conversations; telephone calls; emails; meetings; workshops and questionnaires<sup>5</sup> - in which the following was clearly emphasised and which have informed and shaped the key priorities of this Strategy:



<sup>4</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#)

<sup>5</sup> To further support the development of the Strategy, a service user online questionnaire, hosted by The independent [Cheshire East Parent Care Forum](#). The Autism Questionnaire was sent out to a number of service user and parent carer groups throughout Cheshire East between December 2018 and January 2019. 28 returns were received, together with personal comments

## How the strategy will be used

This Strategy represents the collective view of Autistic people and their families as well as professionals and organisational representatives, on priorities for Autistic people in Cheshire East for the next three years.

We have deliberately chosen to maintain a focus on the themes that have arisen through consultation and joint working and improvements that families, people with lived experiences and organisational representatives view as needed in the future. Strategies usually start with where we are now, set out work undertaken as part of the previous strategy, and then describe future needs and priorities. We've chosen to focus on the future and not dilute the message by detailing work that has already been done. We are not underestimating the effort that has gone into developing services and support for Autistic people over the last three years, but are choosing to focus on the future.

'Joined up health, social and educational services and plans is vital'

There are many different views on what the priorities should be. Given the wider national context in public service funding, there is no new money. What needs to be achieved must be done within existing, and possibly reducing resources. Everyone involved in producing the strategy therefore agreed that focus and clarity is key. Our aims were:

- To get as clear about the priorities as we could
- To accept that tough choices have to be made about the use of limited resources
- To support commissioners in making choices by identifying criteria against which decisions could be measured

## Terminology

For consistency with the National Strategy and associated guidance, recent research into terminology, and in line with an aim to de-medicalise autism, the terms 'autism community', 'autism' and 'autistic' will be used in the context of our All Age Autism Strategy. These terms are taken to cover various descriptions of autism, diagnosed or otherwise, and include Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger's Syndrome, Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), and neuro-divergence.

## Defining autism

Autistic individuals experience the world differently and often view autism as a fundamental aspect of their identity. Autism is not an illness or disease. In order to de-medicalize autism, thereby removing the overuse of inappropriate terminology, support is growing for the reframing of autism as a socially constructed human difference rather than pathology. Autistic individuals, their families and carers, have a great many gifts and strengths.

With the right sort of support, everyone can learn, develop, and live more fulfilling lives of their own choosing. However, it needs to be acknowledged that living with autism is often stressful and stress is linked to episodes of mental and emotional ill health. Periods of increased vulnerability can occur at many life stages. For example during transition of late adolescence to early adulthood.

An individual's quality of life, as well as that of their families or carers, can be substantially affected. Where no crisis pathway is in place, autistic individuals often fall through service gaps. The long-term nature of autism, and any variation in the severity of impact, means that the needs of individuals, families, and carers are not directly comparable with people requiring care and support for other reasons.

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people and the world around them. Autism touches individuals in many different ways, although Autistic people will experience difficulties in the following areas:<sup>6</sup>

- Social Communication: Using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice
- Social interaction: Recognising and understanding other people's feelings and managing their own
- Restrictive Behaviours: The world can seem a very unpredictable and confusing place to autistic people, who often prefer to have a daily routine so that they know what is going to happen every day
- Highly Focused Interests: Many autistic people have intense and highly-focused interests, often from a fairly young age. These can change over time or be lifelong, and can be anything from art or music, to trains or computers.

Some Autistic people may also have a learning disability and many of these qualify for support from learning disability services.<sup>7</sup> Others may be of average or above average intellectual ability, have good communication skills and show knowledge or skill in specific areas. They may still experience significant difficulties in key areas but, since they do not require support for a learning disability, find a lack of alternative support to meet their needs. This leaves people in this situation more dependent on families,

'Housing is potentially one of the greatest challenges...commissioners should plan not just for today'

universal services, and community based support delivered by local authorities and through the voluntary and community sector.

Research indicated that even though mental illness can be more common for people on the autism spectrum than in the general population, the mental health of Autistic people is often overlooked.<sup>8</sup>

An inability to communicate effectively, meet self-expectation or those of others, or problems engaging in everyday life can lead to anxiety or depression. Insufficient understanding of autism can also lead to risk of misdiagnosis, such as psychosis or obsessive-compulsive disorder, with inappropriate prescribing of drugs. Difficulties with communication, interaction, and social imagination can also leave people vulnerable to misunderstanding others' intentions and sometimes poor judgement which can lead to exploitation, exposing individuals to risk of victimisation or criminalisation.

Autistic people can also experience a number of additional neurodevelopmental conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and attachment Disorders. ADHD is common in Autistic people. If someone has ADHD, they have significant difficulties with things like poor attention, over-activity and impulsiveness. This can lead people to experience difficulties accessing support and services.

<sup>6</sup> [National Autistic Society: What is autism](#)

<sup>7</sup> Around 40% of Autistic people have a learning disability, compared with just 1% of people without autism. [Autistica \(autism research charity\)](#). March 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Dr Anastasios Galanopoulos, Dr Dene Robertson, Ms Debbie Spain, and Dr Clodagh Murphy. This information is drawn from an article that first appeared in the Mental Health supplement of [Your Autism Magazine, Vol 8\(4\), Winter 2014](#).

## National context

The Autism Act (2009) Section 29 states that we need to make services better. It says that Autistic people may not always get the help that they need; it is the only condition-specific legislation of its type in England. The statutory guidance places a duty on all local authorities and NHS bodies to produce an autism strategy. We must legally take notice of the guidance and follow the relevant sections, failure to do so without a good reason why specific actions have not been met can lead to us being liable for judicial review or action by the Secretary of State.<sup>10</sup>

The need for an All Age Autism Strategy for Cheshire East has been informed by several drivers;

- Think Autism 2014
- Equality Act 2010)
- The Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Assessment regulations (2014) & Transforming Care Recommendations
- Accessible Information Standards NHS England 2016
- United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions 2014
- Safeguarding requirements
- NICE Guidance CG142, QS51 & Professional Standards and guidance
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Lenehan Report (January 2017)
- Building the Right Support 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The NHS Long Term Plan 2019

## Transforming Care

Transforming care is all about improving health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home. The function of Transforming Care Partnerships is to work with people with a learning disability, autism or both and their families and carers to agree and deliver local plans for the programme.

There has been a greater focus on children and young people more recently concerning services and pathways to avoid children and young people being required to go into hospitals or residential placements and supporting them to remain in mainstream education.

## Care Education and Treatment Reviews

Care Education and Treatment Review (CETR) standards have been set out to offer a process for those at risk of admission or who have been admitted. This Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Care and Treatment Review Standards. Either a CETR or a CTR always needs to be commissioned for any autistic person who might be at risk of admission or has been admitted to any mental health or learning disability inpatient unit regardless of the reason for admission in line with national guidance. CETR are for people whose behaviour is seen as challenging and /or for people with a mental health condition. They are used by commissioners for people living in the community and in learning disability and mental health hospitals.

<sup>9</sup> [Autism Act 2009 S. 2](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy](#)

## Building the Right Support

Building the Right Support was published in 2015, and sets out a clear framework to develop more community services for people with learning disabilities and/ or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition, and closes some inpatient facilities.

## Think Autism Strategy (2014) – Review

The government's decision to update the National Autism Strategy in England to include children and young people has been welcomed by the sector, who had been calling for a national strategy to meet the needs of children on the autism spectrum. Through the review the Government will collect evidence from autistic children, families and their carers on how to improve current levels of support. This is explored throughout this Strategy, in which to capture:

- Continued improvements to the needs autistic children's and young people holistically
- Increase poor understanding of autism
- Develop diagnostic services to seek diagnose autism earlier, in line with clinical guidance
- Enhance the transition pathway between children and adult services

## The Lenehan Reports

The Lenehan report provides strategic overview and recommendations about the practical action that can be taken to co-ordinate care, support and treatment for children and young people with complex needs (and behaviour that challenges) involving mental health problems and learning disabilities and/or autism. The 'Think Autism' national strategy (published in 2014) and the subsequent 'Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations' (published in March 2015, and then updated in 2018, to support implementation of the 'Adults Autism Strategy') have provided detail on what improvements need to take place to make meaningful changes for Autistic people.

## The NHS Long Term Plan

The NHS Long Term Plan<sup>11</sup> released in January 2019 goes some way to address physical health issues as it sets out the intention for the delivery of health services in England over the next 10 years. Amongst a wide range of sections and priorities that will apply to autistic people there are certain specific items on the physical health of autistic people. The NHS Long Term Plan includes Autism for people of all ages, and in particular seeks to address the needs of children and young people and the health inequalities that those on the autistic spectrum may face. It states: 'Across the NHS, we will do more to ensure that all people with a learning disability, autism, or both can live happier, healthier, and longer lives.'

With the focus on prevention, the NHS Long Term Plan promises to offer timely support to children, young people, and their families. It also commits to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to enable access to mainstream health services and improve the health and wellbeing of children and adults on the autistic spectrum. This includes access to eyesight, hearing, and dental services for children as part of the general screening reviews. By 2023/24 a 'digital flag' on patient records will identify if a patient has a known learning disability or autism. It further seeks improvements by the introduction of diagnosis Waiting List Standard for children and young people.

<sup>11</sup> [NHS England. NHS Long Term Plan January 2019](#)

## The local context

### Economic Impact

A respected study commissioned by *The National Autism Project*<sup>12</sup> estimated spend on autism across the lifespan to range from £0.80million to £1.23 million depending on the co-occurrence of an additional intellectual disability diagnosis. This research shows that for adults with autism the highest spend are those generated by health and social care provisions (59%), followed by lost employment (36%) and family expenses (5%).

We should approach the spending challenge with an attitude of invest to save. With this economic perspective in mind, it is essential to have a firm appreciation of the current level of autism funding in order to strategically invest in interventions that lead to better outcomes. High care spending is often associated with crisis situations, which have arisen as a consequence of unmet need.

### Housing and independent living

Within the autism community, almost half of adults over 25 continue to live in the family home and over half are dependent on their parents for financial support.<sup>13</sup> Moving out of the family home is one of the biggest milestones in a person's life. However, for autistic individuals this can be a long and challenging process. We have chosen to take an all-age approach to its strategy in order to ensure commitment and collaborative working across services. By working in partnership with individuals, families, and carers, gaps in provision can be identified and predicted, therefore ensuring that resources are used wisely which, in turn, should enable smoother transitioning from children to adult services, and into older age.

Locally, of the 234 residents with a recorded health condition of autism who had contact with adult social care during 2017/18:<sup>14</sup>

- 50 (24.9%) are living in a care or nursing home setting
- 49 (24.4%) are living in accommodation with structured support e.g. sheltered housing, Shared Lives
- 75 (37.3%) are living with friends or family
- 27 (13.4%) are living independently (owner occupier / shared ownership scheme; tenant – social housing; tenant – private landlord; other temporary accommodation)

All resident over 65 are living in accommodation where there is support from others, either in a care or nursing home, sheltered accommodation or living with family/friends. Commissioners will look to encourage care and support providers to develop bespoke accommodation within Cheshire East which is autism-friendly and sensory buildings that underpin the support required.

While continuing to contribute to the Vulnerable and Older People Housing Strategy,<sup>15</sup> we will ensure that provision is designed for a range of people including those who struggle with sensory issues and/or sharing space, those who struggle with change and also those that present behaviours that cause harm to themselves or others. We aim to focus on commissioning support to reduce the behaviours that are of concern and promote skill building to support greater independence.

<sup>12</sup> [The Autism Dividend: Reaping the rewards of better investment](#). Martin Knapp Et al. January 2017

<sup>13</sup> [Housing with support options](#). National Autistic Society November 2015

<sup>14</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA July 2019. Housing](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Cheshire East Council Vulnerable and Older People Housing Strategy](#)



## Access to employment

Through a study by The National Autistic Society<sup>16</sup> It is estimated that only 15% of autistic individuals are in full-time employment and 9% are in part-time employment. 79% in receipt of out-of-work benefits say they would like to work but require the right support. Moreover, 26% of autistic graduates are unemployed; around twice the proportion of any other disability group.

Experiences in Cheshire East of the 234 residents with a recorded health condition of autism who had contact with adult social care during 2017/18, 52 (22%) have an unknown employment status. 99% of the 182 adults where employment status was recorded are of working age (aged 18-64). Analysis of these people shows that:

- 94% (171) are not in paid employment, of which only 4% are actively seeking work
- While only 6% are in paid employment, less than 1% work 16 hours or more

One third (34%) of residents (79) with a recorded health condition of autism are aged 18-24 years. 25% of these residents having an unknown employment status. Of those where employment status was recorded, 97% are not in paid employment and 88% are not seeking work. It is not known whether 7% who are not in paid employment are seeking work.

## Criminal justice system

Over the past decade, there has been significant increase in the understanding of Autistic people within the criminal justice system.<sup>17</sup> However, there is a clear lack of data, both nationally and locally of its prevalence. Autistic young people and adults frequently experience increased episodes of trauma due to their additional needs going unrecognised.

We are committed to identifying and addressing the barriers to support and participation experienced by specific groups such as older people, people from BAME communities, women, and those who are LGBTQ+. We will set up an engagement plan with community organisations working with BAME communities, LGBTQ+ communities, older adults, and women for autistic adults and family members in order to try to understand what those barriers are and to encourage people from those communities to access support and services. After a period of scoping we will develop a plan for each of those groups to increase engagement.

## Ethnicity

Ethnicity remains a key determinant of health inequalities in England.<sup>18</sup> Individuals, families, and carers from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities face disparity in relation to healthcare access, positive outcomes, culturally sensitive support, and innovative forms of engagement. Autism within BAME communities is less likely to be diagnosed, and those affected by autism are unlikely to be in receipt of appropriate service provision.

## Gender

It is becoming clear that women of all ages and ethnicities may be underrepresented in terms of diagnosis. Published studies reveal high rates of suicide among autistic individuals, with women at greatest risk of taking their own lives.<sup>19</sup> A non-gender biased model that encompasses the varied ways in which autistic traits present would go a long way toward reducing the invisibility of autistic girls and autistic women.

<sup>16</sup> [The Autism Employment Gap](#). The National Autistic Society. August 2016

<sup>17</sup> [Autism, Culpability and The Criminal Law](#). Daniele Age UWL. Vol 5 Issue 1 April 2019

<sup>18</sup> [Diverse Perspectives: The challenges for families affected by autism from BAME](#). Guy Slade National Autism Society 2014

<sup>19</sup> [Girls and Autism: Flying under the radar](#). NASEN March 2016

## Prevalence in Cheshire East

Nationally, the prevalence of autism is rising. Based upon the combined Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys (APMS), there are approximately 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK – that is more than one in 100. If you include their families, autism is a part of daily life for 2.8 million people.<sup>20</sup> This suggests that nearly 15,000 people are affected daily within Cheshire East.

### The local picture for children and young people (0-24)<sup>21</sup>

1,594

Estimated number of children and young people assessed as being on the Autistic Spectrum in Cheshire East

The National Autistic Society has published estimates of the prevalence of autism in the UK, which note that although the figures for the prevalence of autism cannot be precisely fixed, it appears that a rate of around 1 in 100 is a best estimate of the prevalence in children. The children and young people may not necessarily have been diagnosed as having autism. There will also be children who are receiving support from schools / colleges who are not recorded on council systems and there may be children and young people with ASC who do not need additional support from services.

The current Cheshire East Autism Spectrum Condition JSNA includes more details on how local numbers of children and young people with ASC compare with the estimated numbers. However, the age distribution shows lower than expected numbers of school age children identified as requiring support from associated services than would be expected using latest national prevalence estimates. Very few children are recorded in local authority systems in their first 4 years of life. Levels of identified need peak at age 13-14 years, the age children move to secondary school, when the number of children in contact with services exceeds those that might be expected.<sup>22</sup>

It is acknowledged that current there remains differences in assessments for male and female. Currently there is no evidence to suggest that neurodiversity disproportionately affects boys more than girls, but studies suggests that girls are less likely to receive a diagnosis due to differences in presentation and the preconceptions of a male model focused observer. This has resulted in no agreed prevalence rate for ASC in females but might be as high as one female for every two males. An increase in the number of females diagnosed will increase the national prevalence above 1.5%.<sup>23</sup> Studies have shown a steady increase in prevalence over the years. A recent large US study reported an overall prevalence of 1.68% in 8 year olds but rates ranged from 1.31-2.93% across the study sites.<sup>24</sup> If the maximum age-specific rate of 2.8% is the true prevalence within Cheshire East, there are

‘In our experience transition seems to throw up the greatest challenge to all stakeholders’

<sup>20</sup> [The NHS Information Centre, Community and Mental Health Team, Brugha, T. et al \(2012\).](#) Estimating the prevalence of Autism spectrum conditions in adults: extending the 2007, updated in 2014. Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey. LNHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

<sup>21</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#). Children and young people aged 0-24 diagnosed and those receiving support

<sup>23</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#). Prevalence of autism and gender differences

<sup>24</sup> [Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 8 Years — Autism and Developmental Disabilities](#) Baio J, Wiggins L, Christensen DL, et al. (2014) Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2014. MMWR Surveill Summ 2018;67(No. SS-6):1–23. DOI: Link to article

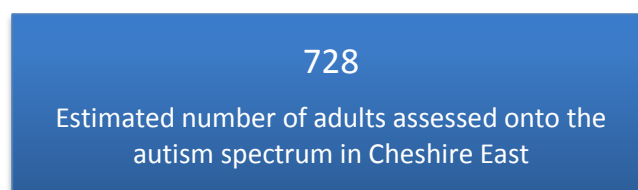
potentially over 1300 more children and young people (0-24 years) currently awaiting diagnosis or not yet recognised as having autism in Cheshire East. The majority of these are currently pre- and primary school age. Autistic people can also experience a number of additional neurodevelopmental conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and attachment Disorders. ADHD is common in people with autism. If someone has ADHD, they have significant difficulties with things like poor attention, over-activity, and impulsiveness. This can lead people to experience difficulties accessing support and services.

### Assessment and support

The Thrive model is being used to organise services (pathways) to respond to the needs of CYP with autism. Taken from mental health service re-design it promotes a flexible response to CYP, families and carers recognising different levels of need at different times in children's lives:



### The local picture for adults



Across Cheshire East, there are 728 adults over 25-year olds assessed with autism, which is a shortfall of over 3,600 across both NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) compared to the estimated 4,374. These low diagnosis rates and the low numbers of adults accessing support indicates that the needs of adults with autism may not be known or being met effectively.

Data from GP systems giving the numbers of people diagnosed by age of diagnosis shows an increase in the number of people age 25 and over coming forward for a diagnosis in the last 10 years.<sup>25</sup> Older adults with autism have received little attention to date, at least in part because historically there has been a lack of awareness, understanding and acceptance of the condition, highlighting the need to improve the identification of autism in older adults to ensure needs are being met effectively.

<sup>25</sup> [Cheshire East JSNA](#). Estimated prevalence compared to numbers diagnosed across Cheshire East for adults aged 25 and over

## Service Provision

### Children and young people

#### Assessment

The care pathway for referral, diagnostic assessment, and service provision for children and young people is currently being reviewed. Preschool children who show possible signs of autism, communication, or behavioural issues can be referred for a general developmental assessment; an autism specific diagnostic multi-disciplinary assessment may be undertaken within the preschool social communication clinic. Children and young people of school age who show signs of possible autism can be referred by any professional working in primary care, education, or social care to The Cheshire East Autism Team (CEAT).<sup>26</sup> Importantly, a diagnosis of autism is not needed for CEAT to become involved in supporting a child or young person.

The pathway for referral, diagnostic assessment, and service provision for children and young people is set out in Appendix 4. Preschool children who show possible signs of autism, communication, or behavioural issues can be referred for a general developmental assessment; an autism specific diagnostic multi-disciplinary assessment may be undertaken within the preschool social communication clinic. Children and young people of school age who show signs of possible autism can be referred by any professional working in primary care, education, or social care to a multi-disciplinary assessment for on-going support.

#### Support in educational settings

The Cheshire East Toolkit for SEND provides educational settings with detailed guidance on how they can identify children and young people with different types and levels of special educational need, and information on appropriate steps and strategies to support them. It provides clear information about when a request for an Education, Health, and Care needs assessment, or specialist services, may be required.

#### Transition

From home to early years setting – If a child has significant identified needs which are highly likely to impact upon transition into an early year setting there is a Settling In Process, which is linked to a Settling In Grant. The named Health professional can liaise with the setting to coordinate a transition planning meeting and invite a representative from the Early Start Team. This takes place for all children with significant special educational needs of all types, and so is not ASC specific.

From Early Years (EY) setting to school – During the summer term prior to the child starting school, the setting, supported by the Early Start team, organise a transition planning meeting linking in with the receiving primary or special school.

If a child has Autism or social communication difficulties, Cheshire East Autism Team (CEAT) will be invited to attend, so that school receive CEAT support from September when the child transitions into school. As above, this process is not an ASC specific offer. Cheshire East continues to develop and administer an effective transition arrangement for young people with disabilities preparing for adulthood. A new transition framework will be established to ensure improved shared working arrangements, oversight and scrutiny, and to deliver a robust professional service to young people moving to adulthood.

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<sup>26</sup> [Live Well Autism CEAT](#)

Where an individual is on the autistic spectrum but without an associated learning disability, the learning disability service will consider such referrals for assessment. Depending on the presentation of the individual, such assessments will be conducted jointly with another service, such as mental health. Upon transition from children to adult's service, this joint assessment would determine which service is best able to support the service user if they are eligible for care and support under the Care Act 2014.

## Adults

### Assessment

The pathway for adults with autism for a Care Act assessment is via the First Point of Contact and will depend on whether or not the person has an accompanying learning disability or not. People with autism and a learning disability will be referred to the learning disability team and those without an accompanying learning disability will be referred to the mental health social workers. From January 2019, the Council introduced a new model of social work support within the CMHTs so that acceptance by them of a referral is no longer determined by the eligibility criteria of the Care Programme Approach (CPA). Under the CPA, the primary criterion for eligibility is the presence of a severe and enduring mental illness, thus precluding many Autistic people. From January 2020, mental health social workers will be working to the eligibility criteria of the Care Act.

It is important to note that the Council does not necessarily consider the diagnosis as the primary reason for a social care assessment of an individual but considers their presenting needs.

### Operating models

The Care Act 2014 provides the statutory framework for the assessment of adult social care needs, including young people who may be eligible for care and support when they reach the age of 18. The fundamental starting point of the Care Act is the wellbeing principle which includes:

- Personal dignity
- Physical and mental health and well-being
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Control by the individual over day to day life
- Participation in work, education, training or recreation

Both the learning disability team and the community mental health teams will now be working to new team operating models, which have an explicit acceptance of autism within their acceptance criteria. It is important to note that the Council is in the process of re-establishing a specialist learning disability team and some people with a learning disability and or autism will continue to be managed by generic community teams, until the learning disability team has been fully established. It will, however, take full responsibility for all young people with a learning disability and or autism coming through from transition from January 2019.

The social workers within the community mental health team will continue to work in a multi-disciplinary environment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP), but from January 2019 will work with Care Act eligible adults with autism who may or may not have a severe and enduring mental health problem. Currently, acceptance into the community mental health team is predicated on the presence of a severe and enduring mental illness, which can exclude some Autistic people who still have significant needs.

## Commissioning

Services which are by Cheshire East Council through a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for individuals (16+) with complex care needs, including those with ASC. These services will be outcome focused and enable individuals to be confident and reassured that they receive the right support, at the right place and right price. Services commissioned through DPS include supported living; floating support; day opportunities and befriending services.

Cheshire East Council have also commissioned a more flexible offer of respite support which is available to adults and those in transition to adulthood who have eligible support needs, including those with autism, this includes accommodation-based overnight respite and community-based respite. Through this new model we will be able to deliver a more effective range of respite services to be available to both carers and the cared for person, offering a range of personalised options, appropriate to meet the needs of many and offering best value.

## Delivering our priorities

The monitoring of the Strategy through progress reports will be undertaken by reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board, through the multi-agency SEND Partnership Board; Health Governance; the Autism Group and the Learning Disability Partnership Board. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Directorate Senior Management Team and published annually to support the Strategy aims and objectives.

During the lifetime of our strategy, we will;

Awareness and information	
Our ambition....	Increasing awareness and understanding of autism is central to this strategy and is fundamental to achieving our ambition of making Cheshire East an autism-friendly borough, in which the general population are aware of autism and have a better understanding of the condition
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the level of training needed for each member of staff within the Council, based on their role</li> <li>Ensure that an e-learning programme is available for raising autism awareness</li> <li>Develop an autism champion network of knowledgeable individuals, their families and carers to promote consistency and clarity</li> <li>Maintain the <a href="#">Live Well</a> pages ensuring that there is clear transparent information for parent carers and children</li> <li>Ensure support and information is available for autistic people and their families to access as soon as it is needed</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autistic people, their family and carers and professionals report increased awareness of the resources available</li> <li>Autistic people, their family and carers and professionals report satisfaction with the information and resources available</li> <li>Everyone is aware who their autism champion is – including a database of champions throughout the support networks of individuals with autism, their families and carers and professional</li> </ul>

Support for families and carers	
Our ambition	Our Strategy aims to ensure that carers are identified, supported, and empowered to manage their caring role, and are able to have a life outside of caring. When professionals understand autism, the positive effects on the individual, their families, and carers can be immense
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Embed Think Carer throughout services and Continue to strengthen Person Centred Planning</li> <li>▪ Provide appropriate support throughout transition stages from Children and Young People's Services / CAMHS into Adult Services</li> <li>▪ Promote Respite provision, developing databased of Respite requests</li> </ul>
Outcome.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access to information and advice so that the right support can be identified and provided effectively</li> <li>▪ Set standards of self-advocacy</li> <li>▪ Improved and flexible services available for Autistic people and their carers including respite</li> </ul>

Assessment	
Our ambition....	As a partnership, working together to jointly commission a consistent and integrated autism assessment pathway, which is compliant with <a href="#">NICE guidance and Quality Standards</a> , and includes access to evidence-based pre and post diagnostic support. We will reduce waits for autism assessment.
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a single point of access for autism assessment</li> <li>▪ A co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary assessment and decision-making to support assessment</li> <li>▪ Address the gaps in diagnosis for BAME Autistic people</li> <li>▪ Focus on needs of adults</li> <li>▪ Manage access to a clear local offer</li> <li>▪ Provide greater choice and breadth of provision</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first concern and assessment pathway and post support for children and adults crisis and risk support to be clear, transparent and communicated effectively</li> <li>▪ Simplified access and a standardised referral process</li> <li>▪ Reduction in waiting time</li> <li>▪ Providing the most appropriate interventions, support and strategies to ensure all professionals are working together in partnership with the family to deliver a single, agreed plan of support</li> </ul>



Education	
Our ambition....	Making sure that everyone has access to appropriate educational provision so they can fulfil their potential as learners
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure all pre-school child facing staff receive good quality autism awareness training from trainers such as Autism Education Trust (AET)</li> <li>▪ Toolkit for SEND or relationship with EHCP quality improvement</li> <li>▪ Continue to collect and analyse data through the JSNA on the number of children and young people on the autism spectrum in the area</li> <li>▪ Record where young people go after they leave school and post 16 education to help assure themselves that they are equipping pupils on the autism spectrum as effectively as possible for adult life</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring that children, young people and their families are supported at the earliest stages</li> <li>▪ Improved intelligence to inform commissioning decision making</li> <li>▪ Raised awareness of autism amongst all education professionals</li> <li>▪ Continually support through the child and young person's transition</li> </ul>
Transition	
Our ambition....	We will ensure that additional and relevant advice, information, and support are provided at all transition points to facilitate a smooth transition. This will ensure a seamless transition for children throughout their lives and entering adulthood, including during childhood, specifically into school / primary to secondary or mainstream to special school.
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve the quality of transition assessments</li> <li>▪ Provide appropriate information sharing agreements in place</li> <li>▪ Improve access to support within the further education / training setting</li> <li>▪ Provide more life skills training for young Autistic people</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A clear understanding of young people's needs so the right support will be put in place to achieve their full potential</li> <li>▪ Young people will not have to retell their story and information will be shared between services appropriately</li> <li>▪ An increased number of young will achieve qualifications, which will lead to employment</li> <li>▪ Increased opportunities for children, young people and adults to access meaningful employment and vocational training</li> </ul>



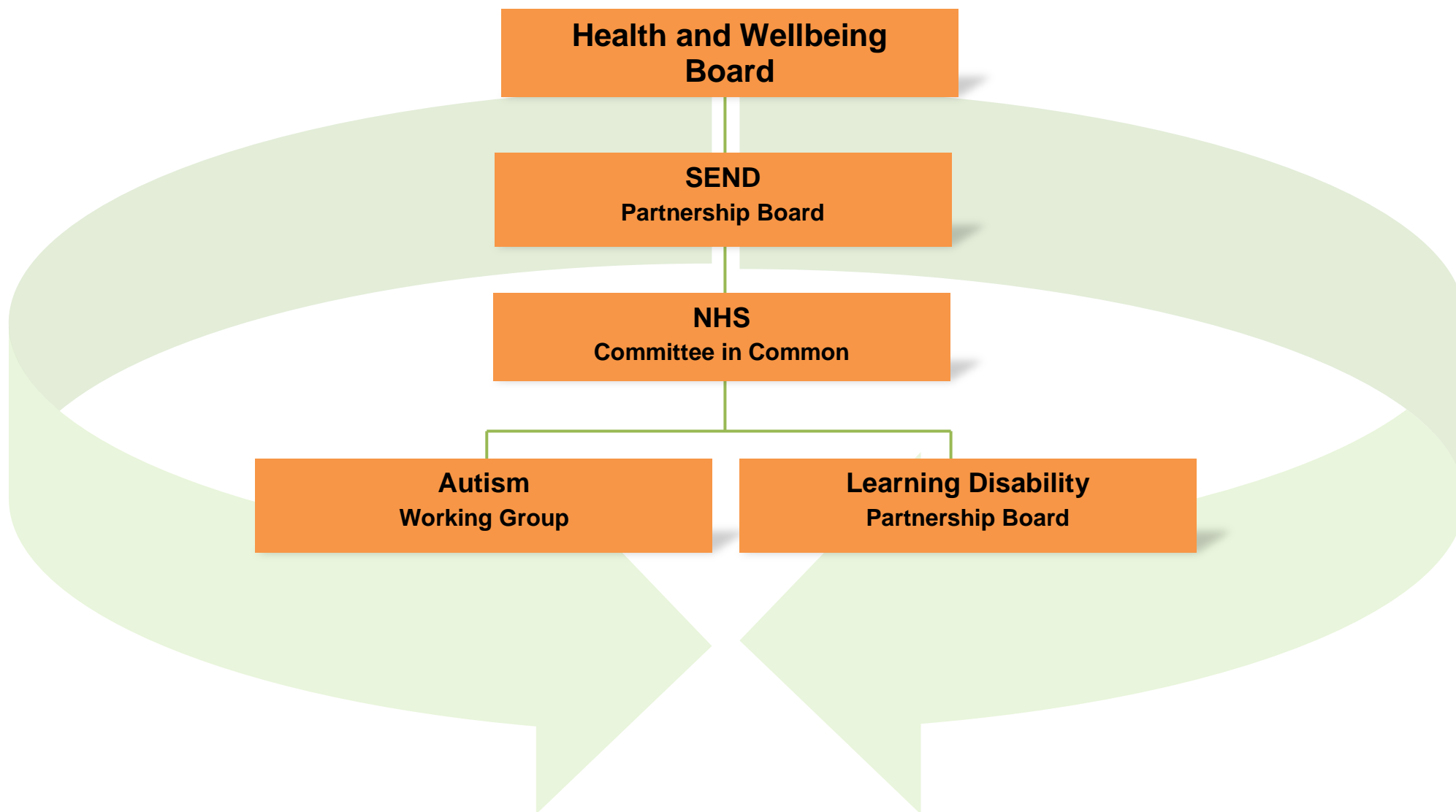
Employment and training	
Our ambition....	We will develop pathways to suitable employment and training is not just important economically; it also offers the opportunity for individuals to feel valued, respected and included in society and can help prevent isolation. We will increase the number of Autistic people into work
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the uptake of autism awareness training among local employers</li> <li>Promote the Government's Disability Confident scheme among local businesses / organisations</li> <li>Increase the number of Supported Internship Places in Cheshire East</li> <li>Increase the take up of Individual Placement and Support</li> <li>Increase the number of people with more complex conditions (including complex autism) into paid or voluntary work</li> <li>Increase the take up of disabled people into Council posts</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of autism and improved employment and training opportunities</li> <li>Increase opportunities for young disabled people in transition with an EHCP, including young Autistic people</li> <li>Greater awareness and confidence within the local business sector</li> </ul>

Housing and independent living	
Our ambition....	We will ensure that everybody has the opportunity to live in their own home, within a community setting, with their own front door and access to local amenities. We will improve the housing offer and seek to provide choice, opportunities, support and ensure people feel safe. We will reduce the number of people living in Nursing Homes
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with developers and providers in the provision of appropriate housing and to ensure that housing needs are identified</li> <li>Reduce the number of people with assessed needs living in inappropriate housing</li> <li>Continually support the option for independent living</li> <li>Continue to work with Spatial Planning and Strategic Housing to further develop needs, by improved intelligence</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better housing offer for Autistic people within Cheshire East</li> <li>Greater involvement of the autistic community in the planning and execution of decisions that directly affect them to live independently</li> <li>Further enhancing our data for need and contribution to specialised supplementary planning documents</li> </ul>

Service provision	
Our ambition....	More specialist health and social care services will be provided and will be easily accessed by those who need them. Individuals and families encounter a range of high-quality services that are joined-up, easy to navigate and appropriate for their needs
We plan to....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage with and stimulate with the provider market to increase and enhance the range of available provision to support young people and adults with autism who have eligible support needs</li> <li>▪ Develop first concerns and crisis / risk pathways</li> <li>▪ Further develop the local Dynamic Support Database - a Risk Register to ensure there appropriate support is available and put in place</li> <li>▪ Continue to improve workforce capability and capacity</li> <li>▪ Further develop our knowledge base of need and cohort intelligence</li> </ul>
Outcome....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A more joined up, person centred approach to commissioning provision across Children's and Adults will ensure a smooth transition and improved outcomes for individuals with autism who require care and support services</li> <li>▪ Improved co-ordination, communication and information sharing between core services such as health and education</li> <li>▪ Improved intelligence in relation to people with autism</li> </ul>

## Appendix 1:

### Governance Arrangements



## Appendix 2:

### Glossary of Terms

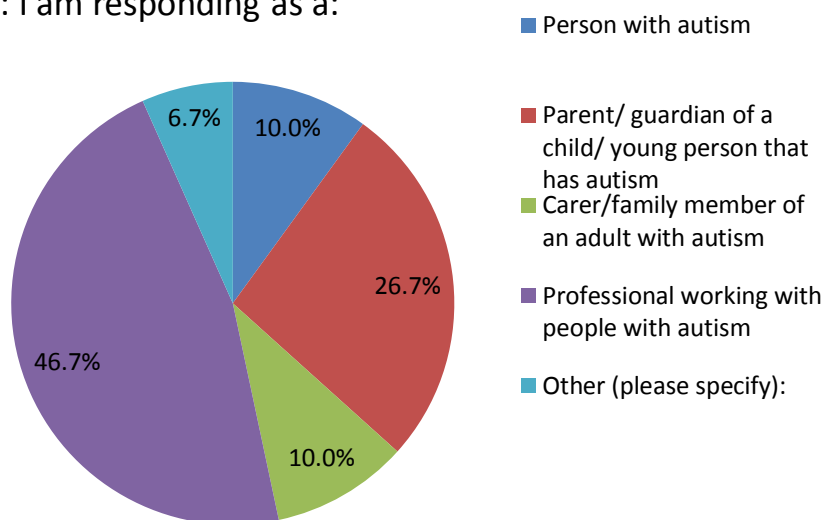
AS	Asperger Syndrome
ASC	Autistic Spectrum Condition
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
CeTR	Care Education and Treatment Review
CEAT	Community Early Autism Team
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CQC	Care Quality Commission
Diagnosis	When someone is told what his or her medical condition is
DEA	Disability Employment Advisors
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plans
HFA	High Functioning Autism
NICE	National Institute for Clinical Excellence
NHS	National Health Service
OT	OT Occupational Therapy
Outcome	Outcome The difference something makes
Pathway	Pathway A map that sets out the routes to access services
SEND	Special educational needs and / disabilities
Strategy	Strategy A plan that sets out what should be done to make things better
Transition	Transition A process or period of change

## Appendix 3:

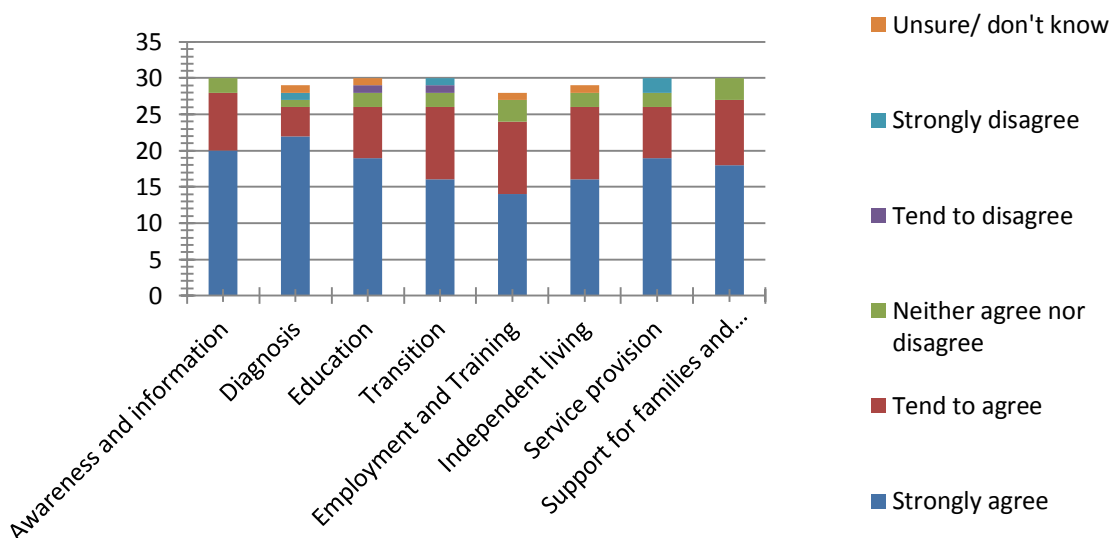
### Consultation Summary

The Strategy experienced formal public consultation between 04 February 2019 and 11 March 2019, in which 90 responses were received and detailed in the Cheshire East All Age Autism Strategy Consultation. A summary of

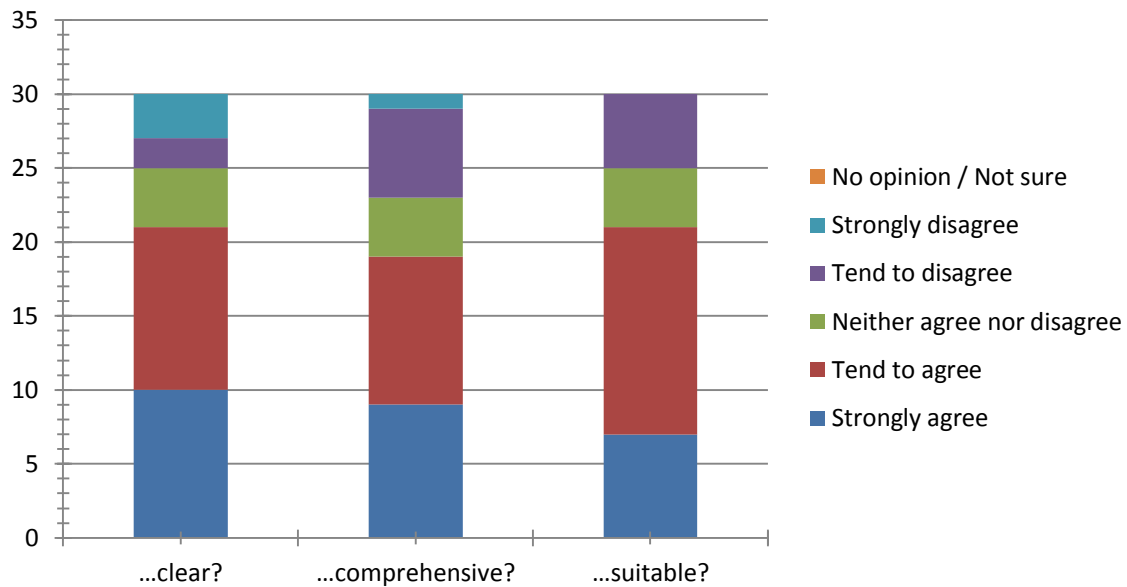
Q1: I am responding as a:



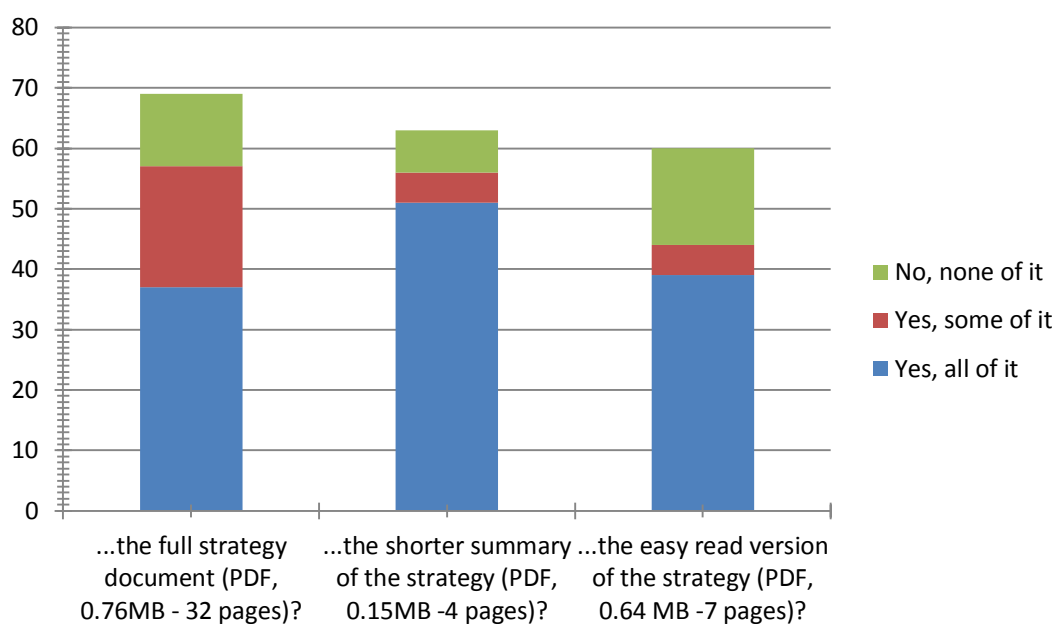
Q2: How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the 8 key themes as identified within the draft Autism Strategy?



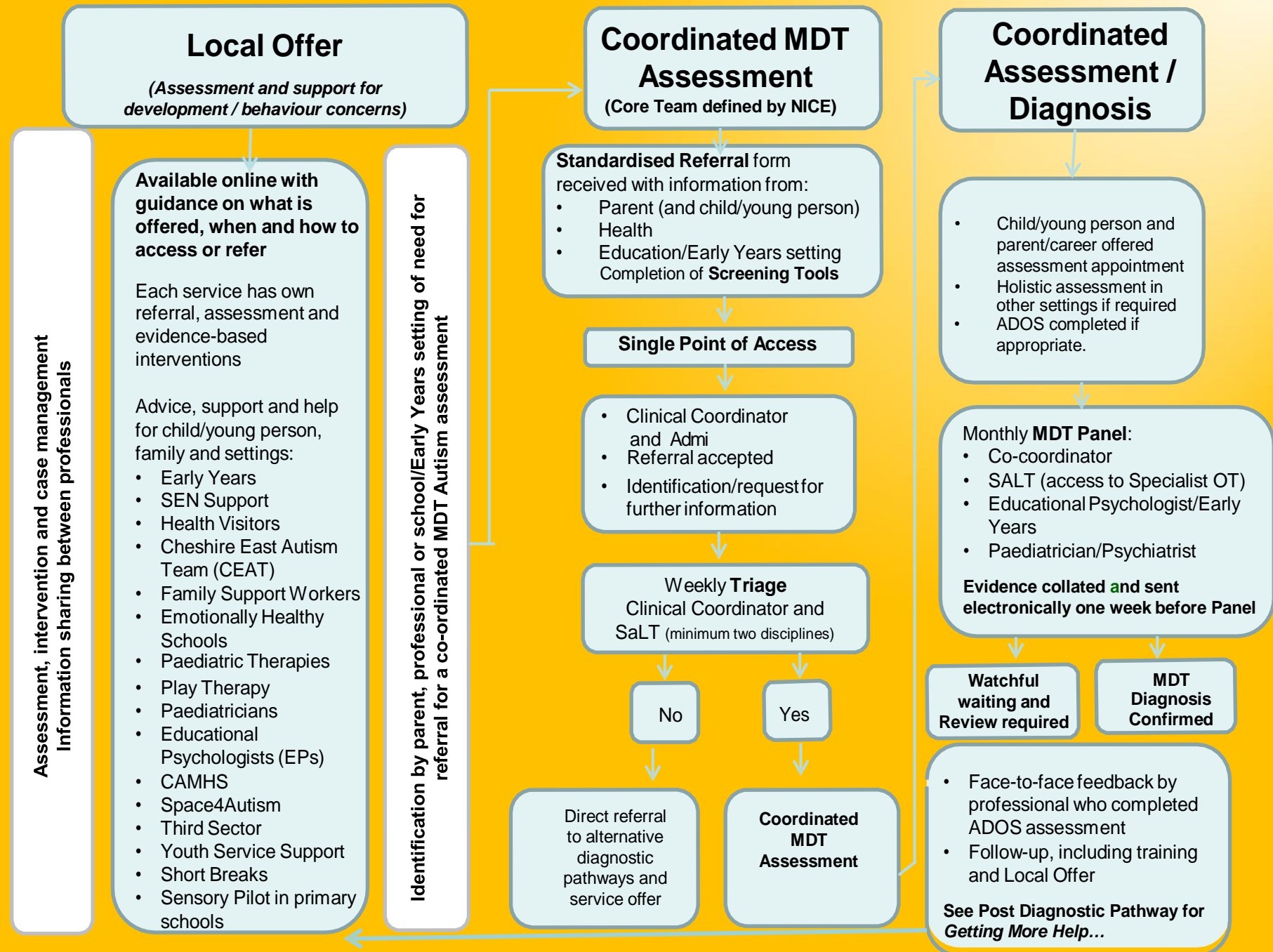
### Q3: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Autism Strategy is...



### Q4: Have you read...



# Autism Assessment Pathway (0-19 years)



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*Working for a brighter future together*

Key Decision N
Date First Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** 25 November 2019

**Report Title:** Children and Families Scorecard - Quarter 2 (2019-20)

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Dorothy Flude, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report and the attached performance scorecard provide an overview of performance across the Children and Families Service for quarter 2 of 2019-20.

### **2. Recommendation/s**

- 2.1. Scrutiny is recommended to:
- 2.1.1 Endorse the new scorecard developed for quarter 2;
  - 2.1.2 Note the contents of the report and scorecard; and
  - 2.1.3 Scrutinise areas where expected levels of performance are not being met.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. One of the key areas of focus for the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to highlight areas of poor performance and to scrutinise the effectiveness of plans in place to improve services. Overview and Scrutiny has an important role to play in the performance management systems of the local authority. The Children and Families performance scorecard provides essential data, along with qualitative information, to measure the effectiveness of services within children's services. This report and scorecard will be provided to Scrutiny on a quarterly basis to

enable the Committee to maintain an overview of performance across the Service.

#### 4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. Scrutiny may want to consider the performance of the Service more or less frequently.

#### 5. Background

- 5.1. This quarterly report provides the Committee with an overview of performance across Children's Services. This report and scorecard relates to quarter 2 of 2019-20 (1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019).
- 5.2. The key measures within the scorecard align with each Department Plan for 2019-20, linked to priorities.
- 5.3. The performance scorecard details the following:
  - Reference – this aims to give each measure a specific reference depending on which part of the service is responsible – CSC is Children's Social Care, Ed&S is Education and Skills and P&E is Prevention and Early Help.
  - Lead Department – Identified which of the three departments within Children and Families the measure relates to.
  - Measure – details of each performance measure.
  - Corporate Outcome – links the measure to the relevant priority within the Council's Corporate Plan
  - Portfolio – sets out which Portfolio Holder is responsible for each measure.
  - Responsible Officer – identifies the lead officer for the measure.
  - Benchmark - provides detail of performance in context where measure can be benchmarked either within a local or national context.
  - Year end 2018-19 – enables Members to compare existing performance to that of the previous year.
  - Quarterly performance – enables Members to compare performance from quarter to quarter.
  - Proposed Quarterly/Annual Target 2019-20 – this is the target that the service has set and will be RAG rated against.
  - RAG and direction of travel – RAG colour is a rating of red, amber, green based on current performance against the expected level of performance/target. Direction of travel is indicated by a 'smiley face' as follows:



Improving direction of travel from previous quarter (or previous reporting period) regardless of measure polarity.



Static direction or within 10% tolerance of travel from previous quarter (or previous reporting period) regardless of measure polarity.

Where data fluctuations are negligible (e.g. when data is rounded up/down), this direction of travel will also be applied.



Worsening direction of travel from previous quarter (or previous reporting period) regardless of measure polarity.

## 6. Performance Overview

- 6.1. The performance scorecard at Appendix 1 includes 42 separate measures covering all areas of the service. Some of these measures are non-performance related, e.g. those that relate to population cohorts. In total, 38 of these measures relate to performance and have been RAG rated. A breakdown summary is set out follows (it is not possible to compare to the previous quarter due to the change in measures:

Performance Measures	Red	Amber	Green	n/a	Total
This quarter	9	13	16	4	42

## 7. Red RAG rated performance

- 7.1. There continues to be some areas of performance that are RAG rated as red. Activity is underway in all these areas to address under-performance.

## 8. Performance Direction of Travel

- 8.1. Whilst it is important to look at the current performance around particular measures, it is equally important to look at the direction of travel and to RAG rate this in relation to performance, ie, whether this is improving (green), staying broadly the same (amber) or getting worse (red). A summary of the direction of travel of performance across the service is detailed below:

Direction of Travel				n/a	Total
This quarter	11	12	18	1	42

## **9. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **9.1. Legal Implications**

9.1.1. There are a no direct legal implications.

### **9.2. Finance Implications**

9.2.1. Although there are no financial implications directly related to this report, performance measures may be used as an indicator of where more or less funding is needed at a service level.

### **9.3. Policy Implications**

9.3.1. There are no direct policy implications.

### **9.4. Equality Implications**

9.4.1. Members may want to use the performance scorecard to ensure that services are targeted at more vulnerable children and young people.

### **9.5. Human Resources Implications**

9.5.1. There are no direct human resource implications.

### **9.6. Risk Management Implications**

9.6.1. There are risks associated with some performance measures, e.g. increases in demand and timeliness of services.

### **9.7. Rural Communities Implications**

9.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

### **9.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

9.8.1. The Children and Families Scorecard enables elected members to identify areas of good performance and areas for improvement in relation to children and young people, including cared for children.

### **9.9. Public Health Implications**

9.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

### **9.10. Climate Change Implications**

9.10.1. This paper does not impact on climate change.

## **10. Ward Members Affected**

10.1. The performance measures relate to all ward areas.

## **11. Consultation & Engagement**

11.1. Not applicable.

## **12. Access to Information**

12.1. The scorecard is attached is attached at Appendix 1.

## **13. Contact Information**

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

Name: Gill Betton











Job Title: Head of Children's Developments and Partnerships

Email: [gill.betton@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:gill.betton@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

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People Directorate Scorecard 2019-20

Ref	Lead Department	Measure	Corporate Outcome	Benchmark	Year end 2018/19	Quarter 4 2018/19	Quarter 1 2019/20	Quarter 2 2019/20	Proposed Quarterly/ Annual Target 2019/20	RAG and Direction of Travel	Commentary
CSC001	Children's Social Care	Number of referrals	5	CEC Data	2558	614	633	732	N/A	☹️	There has been an increase in referrals to Children's Social Care over the last two quarters.
CSC002	Children's Social Care	Percentage of repeat referrals	5	CEC Data	20%	19%	17%	14%	<18%	😊	The percentage of repeat referrals continues to decrease which is a positive reflection on the partnership in supporting children and families at the right level of need.
CSC003	Children's Social Care	Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days	5	CEC Data	81%	78%	83%	87%	85%	😊	This continued improvement demonstrates that children and families are having timely assessments of risk and need, leading to improved timeliness of intervention where required.
CSC004	Children's Social Care	Percentage of children with a second or subsequent child protection (CP) plan (rolling yr)	5	CEC Data	26%	23%	23%	23%	<17%	☹️	This relates to a rolling 12 months from 1/10/18 - 30/9/19. Every child who becomes subject of a subsequent plan is considered in detail at the monthly performance meetings. An themed audit has been completed within children's social care and learning disseminated to develop practice. This has also been shared with Partner agencies.
CSC005	Children's Social Care	Number of children in need	5	CEC Data			1774	1837	1700-2000	😊	This figure reflects the extract that would be provided to Ofsted as part of Annex A in the event of an inspection - it is not directly comparable with the CIN census return or statistical neighbours as it undercounts open referrals and care leavers
CSC006	Children's Social Care	Number of children with a child protection plan	5	CEC Data	268	268	275	230	260-300	☹️	We have fewer children on child protection plans than previously, this is below national and regional averages which we would expect for our demographics, but still in line with our statistical neighbours, albeit at the lower end. It is difficult to state if this is a trend until we have data across the year, but it coincides with increasing numbers of children in our care. We are monitoring the activity across the localities, there is no evidence of children coming into care inappropriately, and partners are aware of the fall in numbers so they can test that children have plans at the right level of intervention.
CSC007	Children's Social Care	% of children on CP plans reviewed within timescales	5	CEC Data	98%	96%	93%	93%	99%	☹️	Of 172 individual children 160 were reviewed in timescales, for those that fell out of timescales most were child centred decisions and monthly review confirms that there was no drift or delay in the decision making.
CSC008	Children's Social Care	Number of cared for children	5	CEC Data	485	485	481	517	440-475	☹️	The 2nd quarter has seen a higher than average need for children to be safeguarded via care, with 57 in quarter 2 compared to only 37 in quarter 1, an increase of 54%. Overall this is 94 new admissions in the first half of the year compared to 90 last year. The operational team and senior leadership have undertaken an audit of all new cases into care in the last 6 months in order to continue to ensure that children who require care as a safeguard receive this, only when appropriate.
CSC009	Children's Social Care	% of cared for children reviewed within timescales	5	CEC Data	91%	96%	93%	93%	97%	☹️	Of the 306 children and young people with reviews in Q2, 286 were in timescales. Those out of timescales are sometimes unavoidable (eg sickness and children on holiday) and the priority remains to make the reviews meaningful for the child.
CSC010	Children's Social Care	% of cared for children in internal foster care (including friends and family placements)	5	CEC Data	36%	38%	38%	37%	>50%	☹️	37% of cared for children reside within internal fostering provision or with friends and family (excluding children living with parents). CE continue to be part of the fostering collaboration (Foster4) with a renewed focus on the recruitment and retention of foster carers, which is a national challenge.
CSC011	Children's Social Care	% of children living in external foster homes	5	CEC Data	28%	28%	29%	28%	<20%	☹️	Ongoing pressures on internal provision and foster carer recruitment has meant that our use of external carers is higher than we would like. It is important to recognise however that 39% of these placements are long term matched placements offering security and stability for individuals
CSC012	Children's Social Care	% of children living in residential homes	5	CEC Data	9%	9%	8%	8%	<8%	☹️	The national average is 11.6% and as such within Cheshire East we have consistently been substantially better than this. We are currently at 7.9% including those in residential schools

Ref	Lead Department	Measure	Corporate Outcome	Benchmark	Year end 2018/19	Quarter 4 2018/19	Quarter 1 2019/20	Quarter 2 2019/20	Proposed Quarterly/ Annual Target 2019/20	RAG and Direction of Travel	Commentary
CSC013	Children's Social Care	% of cared for children placed over 20 miles from home address (Cheshire East and out of borough)	5	CEC Data	26%	26%	27%	27%	<25%		A proportion of our cared for children reside outside of the borough, this can be part of their care plan or due to the availability and suitability of carers. The continued development of the commissioned residential provisions with CE and renewed focus on Foster4 recruitment and retention of foster carers will assist in ensuring that children who can live in CE have the ability to do so.
CSC014	Children's Social Care	% of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	3	CEC Data	39%	54%	47%	44%	<38%		Based on the 130 making up the former relevant cohort of care leavers aged 19-21 , currently 57 are recorded as NEET. However when you consider those engaged in positive activities or training/ re-engagement provision this reduces to 45 (35%)
CSC015	Children's Social Care	% of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation	5	CEC Data	96%	97%	96%	97%	96%		There are 4 individuals where their latest accommodation is deemed unsuitable - 2 in custody and 2 no fixed abode. The circumstances of the 2 individuals with no fixed abode are fully understood and the appropriate interventions and support are being offered by PA's and the service to support the individuals into more permanent accommodation arrangements.
CSC016	Children's Social Care	Total number of children with a court endorsed plan of adoption (snapshot figure)	5	CEC Data	32	32	32	32	N/A		This figure relates to all children with a Shodpa (should be placed for adoption decision) which has been endorsed by the court. The corporate parenting committee closely monitors the time from decision to placement to ensure that children are safe and secure in their permanent home as soon as possible
CSC017	Children's Social Care	Number of children adopted (YTD)	5	CEC Data	18	18	5	10	20		The number of children adopted in the first half of the year means we are on track to achieve our aim of 20 completed adoptions by year end. All children who are subject to an adoption plan are individually reviewed on a monthly basis. Adoption timeliness over the last 12 months has met national expectations.
CSC018	Children's Social Care	Average caseload of social workers	5	CEC Data	23.5	24	23	22	<20		The establishment of the additional team in Crewe has enabled a slight reduction in the average case load together with an opportunity to better balance case loads across workers with differing levels of experience. Reduction in case loads will continue to be a priority for the service whilst ensuring that children and young people are supported in the most effective way to meet their needs
Ed&S001	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage good or outstanding primary schools	3	CEC Data	90%	90%	92%	92%	92%		No change
Ed&S002	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage good or outstanding secondary schools	3	CEC Data	76%	76%	80%	80%	76%		No change
Ed&S003	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage good or outstanding special schools	3	CEC Data	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%		no change
Ed&S004	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage attendance for primary pupils year to date	3	CEC Data	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%		NB July Figures
Ed&S005	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage attendance for secondary pupils year to date	3	CEC Data	95%	95%	94%	93%	95%		NB July Figures
Ed&S006	Education and 14-19 Skills	Percentage attendance for special school pupils year to date	3	CEC Data	89%	89%	90%	90%	92%		NB July Figures
Ed&S007	Education and 14-19 Skills	Number of permanent exclusions from Cheshire East Schools (latest half term available)	3	CEC Data		5	2	10			NB - Summer term 2019 - The permanent exclusions were from different schools across the Borough and were for persistent disruptive behaviour and one off offences. One pupil was an out of borough resident excluded from a Cheshire East school. In these circumstances, Cheshire East liaises with the Home LA to ensure that they can meet their obligation to provide future education for the pupil. The LA continues to work with schools to try and avoid permanent exclusions. The team offers telephone and face-to-face advice. Schools have provided positive feedback on the advice and support that they receive.



Ref	Lead Department	Measure	Corporate Outcome	Benchmark	Year end 2018/19	Quarter 4 2018/19	Quarter 1 2019/20	Quarter 2 2019/20	Proposed Quarterly/ Annual Target 2019/20	RAG and Direction of Travel	Commentary
Ed&S008	Education and 14-19 Skills	Current Number of pupils educated at home	3	CEC Data	385	385	380	372	N/A	☹️	Relates to all pupils registered as EHE, the increase reflects the national trend. The EHE worker is communicating with all families he is made aware of that are considering EHE to ensure they are making an informed choice. The EHE worker and team manager are meeting weekly to discuss new cases, involvement and prioritising work. A RAG rating exercise has been completed to identify children in home education that may have additional vulnerability, and plans made to ensure they have been visited, work reviewed and support / challenge offered when required. A business support officer is now in place to help manage EHE referrals received and triage queries.
Ed&S009	Education and 14-19 Skills	Current number of children missing from education.	3	CEC Data	45	45	28	59	N/A	☹️	The team receive an increase in referrals in September due to children not returning to school after the summer break as planned. These could be children whose families have moved for work purposes, all these children are followed up and reasonable checks completed to locate them and ensure they are being educated. In addition the team have kept a number of CME cases open over the summer into Sept to see if they return to school in Sept. The majority of this cohort are GRT children whose families were travelling in the summer and intend to return to a Cheshire East school in Sept.
Ed&S010	Education and 14-19 Skills	Total number with an education, health and care plan (EHCP)	3	CEC Data	2181	2181	2335	2424	N/A	☹️	This is increasing, as is the picture nationally, with an increase of 10% since year end . This is largely because since September 2014 EHCPs follow the young person into post 16 whereas prior to September 2014 statements of SEN ceased at 16 when entering further education.
Ed&S011	Education and 14-19 Skills	% of requests for Educational Psychologists (EP) advice completed within 6 weeks	3			8%	53%	56%		😊	We continue to commission additional Educational Psychologist services and streamline the consolation process with educational settings
Ed&S012	Education and 14-19 Skills	Special Educational Needs – Education, Health and Care Plans completion within 20 weeks including exceptions (cumulative yr)	3	CEC Data	22%	22%	27%	46%	80%	😊	Please note this is accumulative from Jan 2019 in line with the SEN return. There is continued pleasing improvement in timescales. If we consider the year to date performance from April this improves further from 33% in Q1 to 57% by end of Q2.
Ed&S013	Education and 14-19 Skills	Average number of weeks for EHC Plans to be issued (snap shot at quarter end to which it relates)	3		34.8	34.8	28.8	15.8	20.0	😊	This figure reflects the position for all plans. The overall position since Jan 19 has reduced from 28.8 weeks at end of June to 26.9 weeks at end of Sept for new plans. The DfE as part of monitoring visits have agreed to focus on the improvement and reporting for this number which excludes the backlog.
Ed&S014	Education and 14-19 Skills	% EHCP annual review completed in timescales	3		67%	69%	72%	70%	80%	☹️	A project team has been put in place to look at review. The figure reported should be guarded with caution as there are a number of systems issues and a data cleansing exercise required. The aim is to have accurate and reliable data together with addressing the back log issues by the end of the Autumn term 2019.
Ed&S015	Education and 14-19 Skills	Reduction in the number of outstanding EHCP reviews	3		629	629	514	420	<100	☹️	
P&EH001	Prevention and Early Help	Current number of open Early Help Assessments/ plans	5	CEC Data	933	933	1016	1106	N/A	☹️	We have seen an increase in the proportion of EHA's led by the Council which should shift given the deployment of locality workers who have been operating since July 2019 assisting partners to complete quality Assessments and plans
P&EH002	Prevention and Early Help	% of all open Early Help Assessments led by Cheshire East Prevention service staff	5	CEC Data	59%	59%	73%	75%	50%	☹️	We have seen an increase in the proportion of EHA's led by the Council which should shift given the deployment of locality workers as per above comments
P&EH003	Prevention and Early Help	% 0-2 yrs engaged at children centres (most vulnerable i.e. CIN/CP/LAC that have attended 3 or more times in the last 12 months)	5	CEC Data	34%	34%	28%	25%	35%	☹️	This rises to 26% if you exclude those born in the quarter. Engagement will always be limited due to the high take up of the 2 year old offer in Cheshire East. A new menu of offer is beingrolled out to all new parents including home visist and joint working with SW teams in quarter 3 to address performance
P&EH004	Prevention and Early Help	% eligible children taking up 2 year old offer (termly figure only)	3	CEC Data	71%	71%	68%	68%	80%	😊	68% relates to the summer term - The autumn term data will not be available until early Jan in q3
P&EH005	Prevention and Early Help	% children taking up 3 and 4 year old offer (termly figure only)	3	CEC Data	97%-99%	97%-99%	97%-99%	97%-99%	97%-99%	😊	Still highest performing in the North West

Ref	Lead Department	Measure	Corporate Outcome	Benchmark	Year end 2018/19	Quarter 4 2018/19	Quarter 1 2019/20	Quarter 2 2019/20	Proposed Quarterly/ Annual Target 2019/20	RAG and Direction of Travel	Commentary
P&EH006	Prevention and Early Help	Number of Families meeting the family focus criteria where outcomes have been successfully concluded (quarterly fig)	3	CEC Data	1200	345 (1200 cumulative)	182 (1382 cumulative)	158 (1540 cumulative)	1900 (accumulative target)	😊	Our Spot Check from Troubled Families Unit gave our Claims and Performance a clean Bill of Heath stating that we are targeting the most challenging families in Cheshire East. We are on track to achieve accumulative target by March 2020. We have recently been advised that the programme is to be extended until March 2021 and targets may be revised once further details have been provided
P&EH007	Prevention and Early Help	Number of young people accessing the youth support service	3	CEC Data	1,462	1,462	1,576	1,464	1400	😊	Performance remained strong during the 2nd quarter due to our extensive Summer Programme and take up continued to remain buoyant into September.
P&EH008	Prevention and Early Help	Number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) individuals [yr. 12-13]	3	CEC Data	148	148	165	105	N/A	😊	Of this number 97% of those who are available to the labour market are either actively seeking education, employment or training or have an agreed start date.
P&EH009	Prevention and Early Help	% of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) individuals [yr. 12-13]	3	CEC Data	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.5%	2%	😊	See above - this is an outstanding achievement and demonstrates the ongoing support and help to our young people.



*Working for a brighter future together*

Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Report Title:** Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Dorothy Flude, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director for People

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides the Committee with a copy of the 2018-19 Annual Report from Cheshire East's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Annual Report provides the Committee with a detailed account of the work undertaken by the LSCB throughout the year, progress made against the priorities contained within the LSCB Business Plan and the outcomes achieved.

### **2. Recommendations**

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

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

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

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

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

## **5. Background**

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

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

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

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

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

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1. There are no current policy implications.

#### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no current equality implications.

#### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no current HR implications.

#### **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. It is essential to identify, analyse and priorities risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Board/Partnership's plans. The Board/Partnership maintains a risk register. This is reviewed and updated bi-monthly with action updates at the Executive Group. The Annual Report sets out a number of 'open' risks and the actions in place to mitigate against these.

#### **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

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

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

#### **6.10. Public Health Implications**

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

#### **6.11. Climate Change Implications**

6.11.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

### **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1.1. The LSCB works across all wards in Cheshire East.

### **8. Consultation & Engagement**

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

### **9. Access to Information**

9.1. The following information supports this report:

9.1.1. Appendix 1 – LSCB Annual Report 2018-19

## 10. Contact Information

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

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Job Title: Project Manager, Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Email: [Alistair.Jordan@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Alistair.Jordan@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

# **LSCB Annual Report 2018-19 & Business Plan Priorities 2018-19**



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## Foreword from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2018 - 19 Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board (CELSCB). The reports shows that in Cheshire East we have continued to build on the strong partnership foundation to meet the many challenges facing agencies in ensuring that we are not only keeping children and young people safe but also improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

Our vision for the Children in Cheshire East is:

'It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential'

I hope that you will find that the report helps you to better understand how organisations and people work together and the contribution the Safeguarding Board has made to this. It sets out how these arrangements can continue to improve on the basis of the Safeguarding Board and partners being able to objectively and critically learn from what works well and act to improve what may not work as well as was intended.

This report covers 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and highlights the activity, progress and challenges faced by CELSCB with a particular

focus on the journey of the child; implementation of both the Neglect and Early Help Strategies. We have set out the achievements made in 2018-19 and the areas where we need to continue to make improvements.

As you read through the pages of this report you will gain an insight into the work of CELSCB, how we audit, review, learn and invest in partnerships with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of our children. There is no doubt that there is much to celebrate in our work, but much more that we can do. We are committed to continuous improvement and strive to improve the lives of children who are neglected or in need of early help, those who live with the toxic trio of parental domestic abuse, substance misuse or poor mental health and those who are at risk of child sexual exploitation. We are determined to tackle these issues from every possible angle, to improve practice, to better engage with children and communities and to build stronger partnerships.



In January 2019 we had our annual development/planning day where we reviewed the progress against the 2017-19 Business Plan; and agreed the priority areas for 2019-22:

- ✓ Our approach to Contextual Safeguarding
- ✓ Continuing the work on
- ✓ Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our most vulnerable children,
- ✓ Embedding and testing the effectiveness of our new arrangements.

We also took the opportunity at this session to consider all the feedback we had received as a partnership regarding our proposal for the future arrangement

As Independent Chair I am committed to ensuring our children, young people and their families have a voice and are heard. Capturing and responding to 'Voice of the Child' is a strength in Cheshire East working alongside the excellent work that is done by the Safeguarding Children in Education Team. In 2018-19 following the Act Now Conference presented by the children and young people a number of board members linked with the schools to champion their work and provide a direct link to the Board. We had a presentation from young people and the work they had done within their school environment in relation to on line safety.

The continuing challenge will be maintaining the progress of the last few years, through a time of policy change and new national priorities that include changes to Safeguarding Boards; without losing sight of what matters – the safeguarding of children in Cheshire East.

Looking forward, legislation came into effect in July 2018 and Local Safeguarding Boards are to be replaced with new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which have to be established by September 2019 at the latest. Until these new arrangements are in place the statutory requirements for the Cheshire East LSCB will remain and it will be vital to ensure that the transition arrangements are robust to ensure that the safeguarding of children and young people remain at the heart of what is developed in the future.

Following an inclusive approach across the partnership Cheshire East have published the new arrangements – with a stronger emphasis on partnerships and working together. You can read more about the new arrangement at [here](#). An area for focus in 2019-20 will be embedding the new arrangements and testing their effectiveness.

To conclude, I would like to thank members of the Board, across the

partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in Cheshire East. We will continue to seek out what we can do better, to support the community we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.

If you have any questions about the report or the information contained in it, please contact me at [CESCP@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:CESCP@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Gill Frame, Independent Chair, Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board.

# Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board

## Background

The statutory guidance [Working Together 2018](#) (WT18) requires each area to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. This report sets out what we have done over the past year and also what we plan to do next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

In the year 2018-2019, the partnership has been working towards meeting and publishing the new arrangements as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The new [multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements](#) were published in June 2019 and will be implemented by September 2019.

This report is aimed at everyone involved in safeguarding children, including members of the local community, professionals and volunteers who work with children, young people and families.

A copy of this report will be sent to senior leaders and stakeholders in our area, including the Chief Executive of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director of Children's Services. The report will also be sent to the Health and Well-being Board, Children and Young People's Trust Board, Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board and the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny and Overview Committee. Individual agencies will also be encouraged to present this report

through their internal Boards and scrutiny arrangements.

## The Board

[Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children's Board](#) (CELSCB) consisted of senior representatives from agencies working with children and young people from the local authority, schools, health, the police and others. The Board members work together to keep children and young people safe from harm.

CELSCB was responsible for scrutinising the work of its partners to ensure that services provided to children and young people actually make a positive difference.

In order to provide effective scrutiny, CELSCB was independent from other local structures and had an independent chair that holds all agencies to account. The main role of the CELSCB is set out in its constitution. It is to co-ordinate and to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Cheshire East.

## Our Collective Vision for the Children and Young People of Cheshire East

It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential.

**We aim to do this through our collective commitment to:**

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- **Strategic Leadership across the partnership** – to make the safety of children and young people a priority
- **Challenge** – through focused inquiries or investigations into particular practice or issues on the basis of evidence, practitioner experience and the views of children and young people, in order for us to improve together
- **Learning** – to achieve the highest standards of development and to ensure all practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective

This will include listening to the voice of children and young people and using what we hear to inform best practice.

**The shared values that are at the heart of all we do and that we actively demonstrated through our behaviours and promote throughout our respective organisations:**

**We will:**

- ❖ Actively involve children and young people and their families, as what they say will shape the way that we work;
- ❖ Listen to front line practitioners and their managers and take their views into account;
- ❖ Act in an open and transparent way and foster a culture of challenge, scrutiny and support across the partnership;
- ❖ Ensure that our staff have the skills, support and supervision to keep children and young people safe;
- ❖ Share information and intelligence that will enable us to keep our children and young people safe;
- ❖ Celebrate strengths and positive achievement. We are committed to continuously improve;

- ❖ Embed the principles of 'Signs of Safety' across our partnership;
- ❖ Work with other strategic partnerships in Cheshire East to ensure that our plans are aligned in order to maximise the opportunities for children and young people.

## Governance

**CELSCB had three tiers of activity (see Appendix 1):**

**The Board** which consisted of representatives from the partner agencies as set out in Working Together 2015. Board members were sufficiently senior to ensure they are able to speak confidently and had the authority to sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency.

**Executive** that comprises of representatives from key statutory agencies and has strategic oversight of all Board activity. The Executive takes the lead on developing and driving the implementation of the CELSCB's Business Plan. It is also responsible for holding to account the work of the sub-groups and their chairs.

**Sub-groups and Task and Finish Groups (Cheshire East)** – these groups work on the board's priority areas on a targeted and thematic basis. They report to the Executive and are ultimately accountable to the Main Board.

Operating at March 2019 were:

### Sub-groups

- Quality and Outcomes
- Audit and Case Review
- Learning and Improvement

### Task and Finish Groups

- Child Exploitation
- Early Help

- Safeguarding Children Operational Group
- Policy & Procedures

**Sub groups (Pan-Cheshire)** – CELCSB worked closely with the other Cheshire LSCBs on certain areas to maximise the opportunity for streamlined processes across our boundaries. The following Pan-Cheshire sub-groups were in operation:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Child Exploitation
- Policies and Procedures
- Harmful Practices
- Youth Detention

## Key Roles

**Independent Chair** – The Independent Chair for Cheshire East was Gill Frame and was accountable to the Chief Executive of the local authority.

During 2018/19 the Acting Chief Executive of Cheshire East was **Kath O'Dwyer**. It is her role to appoint or remove the LSCB chair. The Chief Executive meets quarterly with the Independent Chair through the Safeguarding Review Meetings to maintain an overview of the effectiveness of the board, to hear any safeguarding concerns and to challenge the performance of the Board.

The Acting Executive Director of People was **Mark Palethorpe**, who holds the role of Director of Children's Services and is a member of the main Board. He had responsibility to ensure that the CELSCB functions effectively, liaised closely with the Independent Chair and also attended the Safeguarding Review Meetings.

**Lead Member** – the Lead member for Children's Services has

responsibility for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal duties to safeguard children and young people. **Councillor Jos Saunders** represented the Council. The Lead Member contributes to the CELSCB as a 'participating observer', i.e. they take part in the discussion, but are not part of the decision making process.

**Lay Member** – **Lukhvinder Kaur** who represented the local community operating as a full member of the LSCB.

**Participation** – A strength of the Board is its commitment to ensure that the voice of children and young people is a key focus of the Board. The Board commenced each meeting with a spotlight on participation activity by partners.

**Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)** – CELSCB links with the Health and Wellbeing Board and is held to account for key safeguarding issues for children in Cheshire East. This annual report and business plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Adults Board (CELSAB)** – CELSAB carries out the safeguarding functions in relation to adults 18 years and over. A number of members of the CELCSB also sit on CELSAB.

**Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP)** – SCEP is responsible for the commissioning of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), which are undertaken on its behalf by the CELSAB. It receives reports on domestic abuse and sexual violence. SCEP is the lead partnership for 'Prevent' (the approach to tackling extremism and radicalisation) in Cheshire East and works with the other partnership boards to ensure that the Prevent strategy is being implemented across all agencies and in the community.

## Partnership Key Lead Areas

Key partnerships agreed the following leads for shared priority areas:

Shared priority area	Strategic governance lead
Domestic Abuse	Cheshire East Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership Board
Prevent	Safe Cheshire East Partnership
Reducing Offending	SCEP & Youth Justice Board
Anti-social Behavior	SCEP
Organised crime	SCEP
Hate Crime	SCEP
Child Sexual exploitation	CELSCB
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	CELSAB
Hate crime	CELSAB
Substance misuse	HWBB
Mental Health	HWBB
Improving outcomes for children and young people	Children and Young People's Trust

**Member Agency Management Boards** – CELSCB members are senior officers within their own agencies providing a direct link between the CELSCB and their own single agency management boards to ensure that high quality multi-agency practice is embedded.

**The Participation Network** is a multi-agency group that brings together engagement and participation workers across the partnership to share and develop good practice and to join up services in engaging with children and young people. CELSCB is represented on this Network.

## Board Membership and Attendance

The Board is well attended by key partners. A summary of Board membership and attendance for 2018-19 is in Appendix 2.

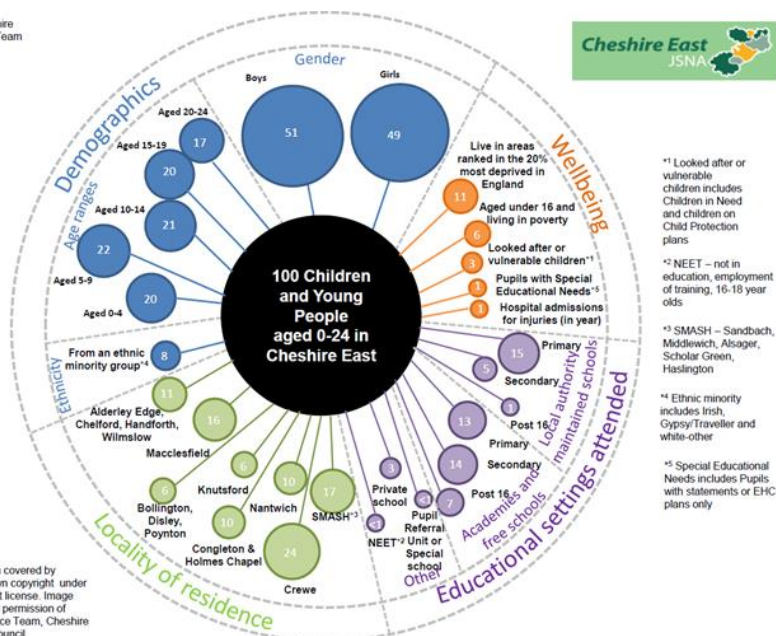
## Financial Arrangements 2018-19

The finances of the Board for 2018-19, including member contributions are at Appendices 3 and 4.



## Children and Young People in Cheshire East

Produced by: Cheshire East Public Health Team  
June 2019



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## Our Child Population

Cheshire East is a relatively affluent area and we know that most of our children and families experience good outcomes. However, there

are areas where child poverty and associated deprivation is endemic and intergenerational.

Cheshire East has 18 areas which are within the top 20% of the most deprived areas in England, affecting 31,600 people or 8.5% of Cheshire East's population. 13 of these areas are in Crewe, with two in Macclesfield, one in Wilmslow, one in Alsager, and one in Congleton. Overall, relative deprivation has increased since 2010, as only 16 areas were previously within the top 20% of most deprived areas.

There are approximately 75400 children and young people under the age of 18 in Cheshire East, 51% are male and 49% are female. Children and young people make up approximately 20% of the total population.

8.8% of primary pupils are entitled to free school meals (an indicator of deprivation), compared to 14.2% nationally and 8.4% of secondary pupils compared to 13.3% nationally.

Overall 92% of individuals are of British ethnicity. The biggest minority groups in Cheshire East are 'white other' (2.5%), Asian/Asian British (2%), and mixed/ multiple ethnicities (2.6%).

The vast majority of pupils' ethnic backgrounds are reported to be White British (87% of primary pupils and 89% of secondary pupils), albeit the ration has reduced slightly from last year

There are just under 100 different first languages recorded for primary and secondary pupils, although only 6.9% of primary pupils and 4.7% of secondary pupils have a first language other than English, compared to national figures of 21.2% and 16.6%, respectively, so although increased from last year it is at a lesser rate than the increase nationally.



The number on a child protection plan has reduced from 286 on 31st March 2018 to 268 on the 31st March 2019.

At any one time during 2018-19 there were between 11-14 disabled children on a child protection plan.

As at 31st March 2019, 485 children and young people were cared for by Cheshire East which is a 2% increase from last year; 22% of these live outside Cheshire East and more than 20 miles from home.

## The Child's Journey in Cheshire East

### Cheshire East Consultation Service

Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) is the 'front door' to access services, support and advice for children, young people and their families; from early help and support through to safeguarding and child protection. All referrers are required to have a telephone discussion with a qualified social worker and are advised on the level of need for the child and family and the appropriate next steps. Co-located within the front door arrangements at ChECS 'front door' team are the police, multi-agency missing from home service, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service and domestic abuse hub.

	Consultation activity	No. converted to referral
2015-16	9843	3687 (37%)
2016/17	10,432	3438 (33%)
2017/18	9536	2976 (31%)
2018/19	9418	2558 (27%)

*Number of consultations over the past four years that resulted in a referral to children's social care*

There has been a 1% reduction in consultation activity since last year. Conversion to referral has reduced by 4% to 27%

## Early Help

### Prevention and Early Help Service

Recent years has seen an increasing demand for family support services, often with the issues that families are facing becoming increasingly complex. The Early Help Brokerage Service is a service with a dedicated team whose aim is the swift allocation of early help cases. This will provide timely referrals to early help, and identification of the best service to meet the needs of the child or young person and their family.

During 2018-19 ChECS received 9418 contacts of which 3234 were passed to Early Help Brokerage Service. Overall this was 34% of ChECS contacts.

CELSCB will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of the front door and responses to early help in 2019-20.

The Local Authority aims to ensure that family support services are offered across a Continuum of Need with the right level of support meeting the right level of need.

The Local Authority remains committed to continuous improvement and an effective range of services are in place across the continuum to meet need. This includes:

- High quality advice and information through the Family Information Service support to our partners to engage with and deliver Signs of Wellbeing early help services, and supported access to more targeted services through CHECs and the Early Help brokerage.

- The Early Start service will deliver services in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and support families to achieve social mobility and early childhood health and ensuring localised intervention strategies between Children Centers and Maintained, Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare settings.
- Children Centers embed the Parent Journey consistently across all centers as the service universal offer.
- Family Support is offered across the continuum of need, and resources are aligned to need across level 2 Targeted and Level 3 Complex caseloads.
- Family Support services lead the council provision for parenting interventions.
- Supporting young people who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) to access provision post 16.

## Children in Need and Child Protection

Local authority	Completed in 45 days		
	2015-16	2016-17	2018-19
England	83%	83%	83%
North West	83%	81%	84%
Cheshire East	89%	88%	81%
Statistical neighbour average	83%	82%	86%

### Assessment timescales

2989 social care assessments were completed in 2018-19, compared to (3098) last year (4102 in 16/17). 81% of these were completed within 45 day.

### Children in Need

A Child in Need (CiN) is defined as; a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without provision of services from the local authority, or he/she has a disability.

As at the 31st March 2019 there were 2108 children with open episodes – this equates to 278.0 per 10,000 compared to 289.4 last year (the statistical neighbour average was 293.1 in 2017/18). This is in line with what we would expect to see given our demographic profile and reduction in referrals.

### Child Protection

When the local authority receives a referral and information has been gathered during an assessment in the course of which a concern arises that a child maybe suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, the local authority is required by Section 47 (S47) of the Children Act 1989 to make enquiries.

The number of S47's initiated within the year was 776 a decrease of 8% from the previous year (844) however similar to the 2016/17 figure of 786.

The number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) undertaken in the year was 400 a decrease of 19% from the previous year (492) but again in line with the 2016/17 figure of 397. The % of S47's with an outcome of ICPC is 52% which although slightly lower than the previous again in line with that seen in the previous 2 years.

The number of Child protection plans started in the year was 361 which is almost identical to 16/17 (362) but 20% lower than last year at 452.

This would possibly suggest that last year was an anomaly.

**Child protection numbers 2015-19**

Key Indicators	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
CPPs lasting 2 years or more	0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.3%
CPP for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent time	23%	17%	18%	26%
CP cases reviewed within required timescales	100%	99%	95%	98%
ICPC within 15 days	70%	80%	84%	81%

We have identified that there has been a rise in the number of children who return on a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, an audit to identify the themes that relate to this has been completed and the following actions taken:

- Findings have been reported to the Child in Need task and finish

group as more robust activity at child in need is required after a child steps down from child protection

- Work will be done to consider how we better evidence change where there is domestic abuse in the family (other than a cessation of reported incidents)
- Greater focus on evidence sustainability of change will be included in child protection conferences
- The circumstances for each child will continue to be considered at Joint performance meetings by social care

## Cared for Children

Cared for children are those that are looked after by the local authority either voluntarily or through a statutory order. As at 31 March 2019, 485 children and young people were being cared for by the local authority, an increase of 2% from the previous year.

- 22% live outside the local authority area and over 20 miles from home;
- 36 live in residential children's homes;
- 1 lived in residential specialist school;
- 319 children and young people in foster placements;
- A number of individuals were supported who presented as unaccompanied asylum seeker children with support and advice including accommodation, where appropriate.

The figures show a high number of young people live out of the area; in reality many of these live nearby but across Cheshire East's border. Extensive work is underway to ensure there are enough local foster carers in Cheshire East to ensure where possible local placements are made.

In the last 12 months a total of 147 children have ceased to be cared for by the Local Authority. Of these, 18 children have been adopted; 43 children became subject of special guardianship orders; 50 individuals have left care due to turning 18.

## Care Leavers

As at 31 March 2019 there were 234 care leavers in Cheshire East. This has increased over the last 12 months.

## Review of Priorities for 2018-19

The following three partnership objectives underpin the key plans for children and young people; the children and young people's plan, the children and young people's improvement plan and the CELCSB business plan:

- **Frontline Practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused**
- **Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people**
- **The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East**

**CELCSB agreed the following priorities to deliver these objectives in 2017/19:**

### **We will improve frontline multi-agency practice through:**

- Improving Board engagement direct with frontline staff
- Continuing to drive developments around key safeguarding areas including children at risk of Contextual Safeguarding.
- Embedding strengthening families
- Implementing our neglect strategy
- Implementing changes around the integrated front door
- Improving safeguarding arrangements for disabled children
- Improving identification and response around children and young people with mental health issues, including self-harming

### **We will continue to improve the participation of young people in CELCSB business through:**

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is central to CELCSB business
- Engaging children and young people in co-producing information and support relevant to them
- Ensuring that the CELCSB celebrates children's rights and participation and the contribution of children and young people to safeguarding
- Ensuring the voice of children and young people is central to the CELCSB's training programme

### **We will strengthen the partnerships through:**

- Engaging the community through links with voluntary and faith sector
- Improving the board's role and traction in relation to developing early help

## Improvements against the Priorities

### Improving CELSCB's engagement with frontline staff

#### CELSCB e-bulletins

CELSCB has continued to publish its e-bulletin, Newsflash and Frontline Bulletins. These have covered a variety of topics including

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern Slavery</li> <li>• Suicide &amp; Self Harm</li> <li>• LSCB Child Sexual Abuse Partnership Audit</li> <li>• ILACS Inspection</li> <li>• Safeguarding British minors returning from Syria</li> <li>• Signs of Safety</li> <li>• Neglect</li> <li>• Safeguarding Children in Sport</li> <li>• National Children's Day</li> <li>• SEND Inspection</li> <li>• Children &amp; Families Audit</li> <li>• Emotionally Healthy Schools</li> <li>• Bruising in children who aren't independently mobile</li> <li>• CSE Peer Champions</li> <li>• DfE Child protection campaign</li> <li>• Promoting road safety ahead of school holidays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who cannot communicate themselves due to learning difficulties</li> <li>• SEND/LD written statement of action</li> <li>• Audit into practice</li> <li>• CAHMS out of office advice line</li> <li>• Domestic abuse hub</li> <li>• Abuse of older children</li> <li>• Disrespect nobody</li> <li>• #knifefree campaign</li> <li>• My Voice – Cared for children's event</li> <li>• Child exploitation – new screening tool</li> <li>• Child Criminal Exploitation</li> <li>• Open the door – Pan Cheshire domestic abuse campaign</li> <li>• National adoption week</li> <li>• Children's rights month</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEDAS screening &amp; referral tool</li> <li>• Dangers for young people travelling abroad to Spain</li> <li>• CDOP</li> <li>• Pan Cheshire safer sleep</li> <li>• Safeguarding Awards</li> <li>• Cheshire anti-slavery network</li> <li>• Reach Project</li> <li>• SEND/LD training consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS ages &amp; stages assessment tool</li> <li>• Liberty protection safeguards</li> <li>• Parking around schools</li> <li>• Duty of care campaign</li> <li>• Children of prisoners</li> <li>• Child sexual abuse and exploitation social media library</li> <li>• Private fostering 7 minute guide</li> <li>• Neglect 7 minute guide</li> <li>• FGM table top review</li> </ul>
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Feedback from Board members has been that this method of communication is effective in supporting them in promoting CELCSB and in disseminating safeguarding information within their services.

### Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people

#### • Spotlight – The Voice of the Child

Board meetings continued to have a partner agency sharing an example of their practice in developing participation by children and young people in their safeguarding work.

- Engagement Work at the CCGs and across Cheshire East
- Youth Justice Services
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Early Help

- **November Children's Rights Month**

November Children's Right's Month is an annual celebration of children's rights across the borough. CELSCB members took part in a range of activities including the 'Reverse Take Over Menu' developed by young people for adults to experience life in their shoes based on the 6 outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan. Within Cheshire East we worked with Cheshire East Youth Council to make it a celebration of the positive participation of Children and Young People for services within Cheshire East.

Key events included –

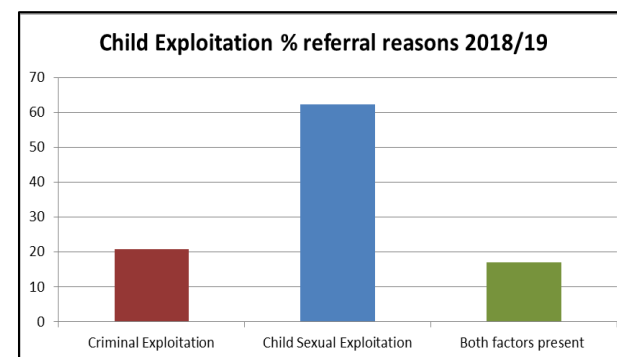
- Reverse Take Over Month - professionals choose from a menu of the challenges set by young people and then complete an evaluation form at the end. The aim is to experience life as a child or young person;
- 'Step up Day' - teams were asked to use pedometer to compete and find out who was willing to go the extra mile for children's rights. This challenge represented young people who often have to walk quite far to school or college and outcome 4 of the Children and Young People's Plan 'Being Healthy and Making Positive Choices'
- The Take Over Challenge is where children and young people have the opportunity to become a professional for the day and run a specific area of business. This year twelve young people took over being a manager and director for the day.

**The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East.**

- **Continuing to drive developments around Child Exploitation**

This is managed through the multi-agency Missing From home/Child Sexual Exploitation team. The practice model has developed from the previous year and now operates as one group meeting that covers both North and South cases. This was in response to the difference number of referrals being discussed in each group. This operational group now also covers Criminal Exploitation.

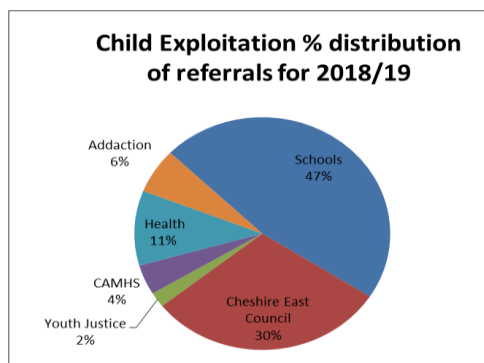
During 2018-2019 there were 53 young people referred as at risk of Child Exploitation that were considered at the operational group. This is an increase of 51% from 2017/2018. The majority of the increase can be attributed to referrals for Criminal Exploitation.



There has also been an increase in referrals for Child Sexual Exploitation, in 2017/18 the group review 26 referrals and in 2018/19 there was increase of 7. This suggests the specialist service is having an impact in supporting professionals to increase awareness and identify children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and more recently in Criminal Exploitation.

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Referrals were received from a range of agencies



The ratio of referrals from agencies has remained comparable to the previous year. There have been noted overall improvements in the quality of the screening tools with good evidence of multi-agency collaboration in completion.

Females made up 68% of those identified as being at risk. This higher percentage in comparison to males is an ongoing trend from previous years reporting and in line with the national picture. The percentage of Males has increased however from the previous year by 24%. The majority of this due to referrals for Criminal Exploitation predominantly regarding males.

Young people identified as being at risk were aged between 11-18 years. Last year saw the youngest referral being 13. This suggests that either children or young people are being groomed younger or that professionals are identifying it earlier.

Similar trends were reported recently in the Children Society's Counting Lives, July 2019 where the research identified that '14-17 year olds are most likely to be exploited criminally...., but with evidence that primary school aged children as young as seven and eight are being targeted'.

The study went on to identify that 'Where children are being criminally exploited, safeguarding responses are largely reactive. Professionals reported that many children come to attention of statutory agencies when exploitation is *already* present in their lives'.

The referrals we have received for Criminal Exploitation indicate that the areas multi agencies are pro-active with identifying children and young people at risk, rather than reactive. Of the 11 Criminal Exploitation screening tools received, only two were completed following an arrest for criminal activity. The remaining were completed by schools, Addaction and Youth services based on intelligence of risk such as known associates (others at risk of Criminal Exploitation and/or Gang members), substance misuse, and changes in behaviour at home and or school and information of risk (coercion) disclosed by children and young people themselves. In addition, 6 of the 11 had no social care involvement at the time the tool was completed.

- **Trafficking**

A number of victims and perpetrators of modern slavery have been identified across our boroughs, reinforcing the reality that modern slavery exists here, today, just as it does in others parts of the UK.



Modern slavery involves the abuse and coercion of vulnerable people and it constitutes a safeguarding issue and, learning from our work around Child Sexual Exploitation, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and Radicalisation, agencies across Cheshire are well placed to tackle it effectively. However, it presents a great number of overlapping issues and crimes which require a strong, coherent partnership response. It is essential that all of us across the public sector recognise that protecting people from slavery and exploitation is everybody's business, and part of our day job as professionals who work continuously to safeguard and support those at risk.

The Pan-Cheshire vision will be delivered through four priorities:

1. Embed the Modern Slavery Act into mainstream activity
2. Improve awareness, understanding and identification
3. Develop a positive protection and support system for victims
4. Hold perpetrators to account and promote appropriate prosecutions

- **Continuing to drive developments around children in a home with domestic abuse**

Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (CEDSAP) undertook the following directly addressing Children and Young People's work.

1. High Risk Cases - 17% reduction in high risk/ Multi Agency

Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases over the last three years and a parallel rise in early help seeking through the Domestic Abuse Hub sited alongside ChECS. 576 children have been heard at MARAC which is a decrease from the 663 last year and 782 in 2015-16.

2. Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) - Specialist Services (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), Barnardo's and Cheshire Without Abuse) are present at all initial conferences where domestic abuse is a factor, regardless of whether the case is open to services in order to broker support and advise on appropriate interventions. Domestic abuse was identified as a factor in 36% of 273 notifications sent. In addition to these a further 9% of referrals were open to domestic services but were at conference for other reasons, therefore 45% ICPCs had domestic abuse as a factor.
3. Joint Working with Child in Need/Child Protection Teams - Specialist services staff now sit alongside these teams three days a week facilitating information exchange and shared planning as well as undertaking joint visits where appropriate. This has improved working relationships significantly resulting in better input and outcomes for families.
4. Training - Specialist Services deliver a wide range of training supporting workforce development to safeguard children and families:



- 4 x Level 1, Level 2 Domestic Abuse
- 6 x Parenting Challenges (Toxic Trio)
- 4 x Sexual Violence awareness
- 3 x Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse
- Hospital based delivery through Hospital IDVAs
- Responding to those who harm

#### 5. Priorities for 2018-19

These include:

- Recommissioning outreach, accommodation and specialist children's services and ensuring that these work in an increasingly integrated way with partners and whole families
- Embedding Signs of Safety tools and approach across the specialist sector
- Introducing eMARAC to fast track information and action to protect families at the highest risk

#### • **Continuing to drive developments around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

The Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards across Cheshire agreed and implemented Pan-Cheshire practice guidance for FGM. This covers female children under the age of 18 and adult females including those who come under the Care Act 2014 definition of an Adult at risk.

To prevent FGM in the future, agencies need to work closer with practicing communities and foster stronger links so together we are able to break the taboo and silence surrounding the harmful practice of FGM.

#### • **Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism**

The primary legislation which governs PREVENT activity is the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, supported by Channel Panel Guidance 2015. During 2017 Pilot DOVETAIL ran in 9 Local Authorities, in March 2019 it went LIVE in Cheshire East and Cheshire West, with the HUB being located in Liverpool and a Local Channel Coordinator serving both Local Authorities. A North West Working Group continues to monitor feedback and progress.

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which provides support to children or adults who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. A multi-agency panel is held regularly, with the aim of providing safeguards to the harm which radicalisation can cause, before they come to harm or become involved in criminal behaviour. Between January and December 2018 the Cheshire East Channel PANEL was chaired by the Head of Communities. Six cases were heard at 3 Panel meetings during the year. Due to the low numbers the number of young people considered has been suppressed.

In January 2019 the Head of Adult Safeguarding took over as Chair of the Local Channel PANEL and is supported by the Locality Manager for Safer Communities as Vice Chair. During the next 12 months, the Local Panel will continue to develop in line with the new requirements of DOVETAIL, and new Channel Guidance due to be published in 2020. Changes will include improvements in referral pathways and systems to support swift information exchange and promoting Independent Intervention Providers,

who are specifically recruited to address ideologies in a positive way.

- **Child Protection Case Strategy meetings**

Strategy Meetings have continued to be a focus of partner agencies in particular Health and Police. There is a bi-monthly interface between Social Care, Health and Police which focuses on a number of different areas to improve partnership working and a standard item on this agenda is a Strategy Meeting Audit which considers a dip sample of meetings requested from the previous 8 weeks.

This dip sample considers attendance of Police and Health, the quality of the information recorded and who was the source of the information and an SOS approach from the partnership in preparing and agreeing Danger Statements and Safety goals. This is a significantly improved picture with Health being invited to almost all meetings and face to face meetings taking place more often than not with increasing representation from Education. Sustaining this progress will be our focus and ensuring that the rationale for decision making is clear and where investigations are to follow a Strategy Meeting, the actions are clear, timely and specific.

- **Implementing our neglect strategy**

**NEGLECT AFFECTS  
1 IN 10 YOUNG PEOPLE**



[www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/neglect](http://www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/neglect)

The LSCB set up a group to review and launch a new neglect strategy and action plan, it has achieved this and has had the following impact;

- ✓ The awareness of neglect has risen to a level similar to that of CSE/Domestic Abuse
- ✓ The neglect campaign and branding is strong
- ✓ Over 600 staff have been trained in the use of the Graded Care Profile2 (GCP2)
- ✓ The use of the GCP2 tool has significantly increased, for Q1 80% of reviews used it
- ✓ The use of the neglect screening tool to support contacts is increasing with 20% in Q1
- ✓ Improving the use of GCP2 and neglect screening tool in early help assessments
- ✓ The quality of Police Vulnerability Person Assessment has improved and use the Signs of Safety and voice of the child
- ✓ We have revised and maintained the neglect scorecard to measure performance
- ✓ We continue to have a focus on adolescent neglect and the

Children and Young People Trust stay safe priority lead is working with young people to develop more accessible information.

- ✓ 50% of CP plans are for neglect.

What are we worried about/what needs to happen?

- Length of time on Child Protection plan for neglect had reduced is now creeping back up.
- The use of the neglect screening tool has to consistently used
- The impact of early help planning on preventing neglect escalating is questionable
- Continue need to focus on adolescent neglect and relationship to wider child exploitation.
- The effectiveness of multi-agency planning

#### • **Developing our Early Help Strategy**

The majority of level 3 Early Help interventions in Cheshire East take place within three broad workforces: the Council's Early Help Services, Health providers and educational establishments. Alongside these workforces there are a range of voluntary, community and faith organisations that play an extensive role in providing early help to families in Cheshire East.

Central to our approach to early help is our Early Help Brokerage service. This is a team within the Cheshire East Consultation Service (CHECS) which acts as the front door to Children and Families' services. Referrals to CHECS are initially triaged to ensure any safeguarding issues are identified quickly and referred to support from Children's Social Care. Families that do not require safeguarding-level services are then referred to Early Help Brokerage, which is a dedicated service for matching the needs of families with

the right Early Help support.

Early Help Brokerage also offers support to agencies using the Early Help Assessment framework which is based on our Signs of Safety practice model, in order to ensure that assessments are robust and result in clear and focused multi-agency action plans that support children and families to achieve their best outcomes.

Early Help Brokerage also supports cases that are stepping down from support within Children's Social Care, identifying the right early help support for them to ensure that families remain supported to maintain the improvements they have achieved. Effective delivery of early help relies on robust multi-agency arrangements.

#### • **Learning and Development**

The Learning and Development sub-group have supported and improved Safeguarding practice across agencies –

- ✓ The 7 minute briefings and One Minute Guides have been located and placed in one place on the Learning & Development (L&D) page on the LSCB website.
- ✓ A page on the L & D "multi-agency assessment " has been created where all assessment tools can be located

A blended learning approach is being adopted to inform agencies regarding the learning from the two Serious Case Review's.

- ✓ A multi-agency "Professional Challenge & Critical thinking "course has been developed in response to the findings in both SCR's. It has been developed to support practitioners to challenge when necessary and respond to complex safeguarding cases.
- ✓ A 7 minute guide "Professional Challenge" has been produced.

The group are looking at the ICON Abusive Head Trauma resources

and training material to ensure all agencies support families in a consistent manner applying the same guidance. It is planned to roll out multi-agency training for practitioners alongside a refresher session on safe sleep.

## Strengthening Partnerships

**We will strengthen relationships with other key partnerships to improve the reporting, accountability and sharing of good practice**

Key updates from Children's services have been scheduled on the forward plan for the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure they have strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Partnership Chairs Group has continued to meet during the year. It has been exploring cross cutting issues within Business Plans and identifying shared risks.

## Performance, Scrutiny and Challenge

CELSCB has a comprehensive quality assurance framework, which can be found on our website. In 2018-19 this has provided CELSCB with a range of quantitative and qualitative information in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Cheshire East. CELSCB has strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

### Performance

A quarterly picture, showing a clear trajectory of progress. Allowing us to set targets and evaluate our performance against our statistical neighbours

### Qualitative Information

Detailed information on what is working well and areas for improvement for specific services, including what the causes of issues are.

### Feedback from Children and Young People, Parents and Carers

What children, young people and their families want and is important to them, what their experience is of our services.

### Feedback from Staff

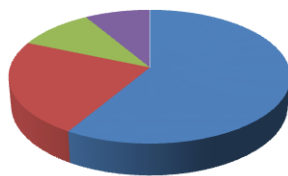
What staff know would help them to work with families, what is working well, and what could work better.

## Performance Monitoring

The CELSCB scorecard covers a range of measures from all partners and has been aligned with the areas of focus for the CELSCB. It provides a robust oversight of safeguarding practice across the partnership.

The CELSCB Quality and Outcomes Sub Group is effectively scrutinising and challenging partnership performance and are driving improvements to partnership working.

A range of quality assurance activity supports performance monitoring. Arrangements for this are robust and support and supplement partnership performance monitoring. This includes the CELCSB multi-agency audit programme.



The Audit and Case Review subgroup has:

- ✓ Overseen a Reflective review
- ✓ Undertaken audits on Neglect, Step Up/Step Down and the Child Protection Process
- ✓ Further developed the audit methodology

which is much more comprehensive and inclusive with better practice based findings and effective multi-agency debate and agreement on findings.

- ✓ Scrutinised and monitored the progress of agreed actions from audits and reflective reviews
- ✓ Merged with the Quality and Outcomes group to form a Quality Assurance Group as part of the new partnership arrangements.
- ✓ Scrutinised S11 submissions

## Multi- Agency Audits

These audits consider three different themes covering a range of ages and levels of need each time. The agencies audit their own involvement using a common tool. They all make judgements on the quality of partnership working. Agencies then came together to analysis the audits and make recommendations for improvements. The agreed improvements are then tracked to completion by the Audit and Case Review Sub-Group.

### Neglect

What are we worried about?	What's going well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no evidence of GCP2 being used routinely to assess change.</li> <li>• Referrals to Adults Learning Difficulties Team were not required in any of the sample so it was not possible to consider if this area of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglect audit 59% of case neglect was recognised at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Agencies considered that they were effectively working together.</li> <li>• The use of GCP2 and the Neglect Screening tool was more evident</li> </ul>

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<p>work has improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were examples of not all relevant agencies being invited to relevant meetings, informed of the concerns and of referrals being made that the receiving agency were not aware of i.e. Housing, early Help, North West Ambulance Service and a GP.</li> <li>• Voice of the child was not evident in all the cases, including a child with communication difficulties.</li> <li>• Parental engagement was not assessed.</li> <li>• There were opportunities to consider neglect but agencies "treated" the symptoms rather than using screening tools to look at the source of the concern.</li> <li>• An example of an agency considering that Step Down was too early but no evidence of this having been challenged.</li> <li>• When a mother declines the Family Nurse Partnership service there is not a notification process to alert other services.</li> </ul>	<p>than in the previous audit with 38% of cases having one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67% of audits found that the assessment identified what was working well in the family.</li> <li>• 84% of audits the child's lived experience being reflected in the assessment.</li> <li>• 87% of the cases the work undertaken resulted in improved outcomes for the child i.e. school attendance, health and future secured.</li> <li>• Evidence of wide multiagency attendance at Strategy meetings.</li> <li>• Example of a referral of Neglect concerns from a member of the public.</li> <li>• Examples of agencies reflecting on their practice and acting to improve it i.e. Barnardo's and accessing relevant information.</li> <li>• SCIES have developed a pack to support communication with children with communication difficulties.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What do we need to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that parental capacity and ability to sustain change are assessed at the outset.</li> <li>• Review the process of promoting the Family Nurse Partnership and actions to take where it is declined.</li> <li>• Seek assurance that the work that Cheshire Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups have initiated with North West Ambulance Service to improve the referral process is completed.</li> <li>• Information sharing between child and adult services needs to be improved.</li> <li>• Continue to increase the use of the GCP2 as both an assessment and reviewing tool.</li> <li>• Seek assurance that the work to improve the referral of Adults to the Learning difficulties Team has had a positive impact.</li> <li>• Publicise the SCIES pack for communication with children with communication difficulties.</li> </ul>	

### Step Up Step Down

<p><b>What are we worried about?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step down is not consistently informed by re-assessment.</li> <li>• Sustained change is not routinely examined and evidenced at the point where step</li> </ul>	<p><b>What's going well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of agencies are using screening tools.</li> <li>• The Voice of the child is well represented in</li> </ul>
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<p>down is applied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a delay in escalating a housing issue has meant that Housing was unable to intervene to prevent an eviction.</li> <li>• The Guidance for managing Child Protection/Child in Need multi-agency meetings is not consistently applied resulting in delays in receipt of plans and meeting notes. The Audit panel did question if it is cost effective to have practitioners process this paperwork. The equivalent Child Protection Conferences process works, should a similar business support resource be available for CiN meetings?</li> <li>• The current step down guidance section 2 starts from a Children's Social Care process and should focus on a multi-agency approach to decision making that is informed by re-assessment and evidence of sustained change.</li> <li>• 2 cases evidence step back up happening more than once.</li> </ul>	<p>several agencies' practice via the Childs words, presentation and the evidencing of the lived experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Step Up there is consistent use of screening and assessment tools and strategy meetings.</li> <li>• In a couple of cases there was evidence of sustained change.</li> <li>• Evidence of improved outcomes in half of the cases.</li> <li>• Working together strengths.</li> <li>• The Ages and Stages Questionnaires are being routinely used by Wirral Community Trust.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What do we need to do?</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CiN Safety plans must evidence the criteria for Step Up or Step Down.</li> <li>• Wider partnership to be informed about the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and how it can inform their work.</li> <li>• Inform practitioners about the Housing referral requirements.</li> <li>• Partners to assure the board that they are monitoring the application of the Guidance for managing Child Protection/Child in Need multi-agency meetings by their practitioners.</li> <li>• Update the step up step down guidance to include a multiagency approach to decision making that is informed by re-assessment and evidence of sustained change.</li> <li>• Repeat plans assure the board that wider work on this includes Common Assessment Framework/Child in Need.</li> </ul>	

### Child Protection Process

What are we worried about?	What's going well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified need for agencies to be closer with mental health, alcohol and drug services and adult services.</li> <li>• Lack of engagement of fathers, particularly in cases of Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Children &amp; Families assessment not being routinely updated to reflect changes in circumstances or every 12 months.</li> <li>• Crewe CiN/CP has had some significant changes of staff which has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is evidence that the use of tools has improved greatly, this means that agencies ensure evidence is available.</li> <li>• Lived experience of child evidence is improving through use of tools. For example health use the 'Ages and Stages' Questionnaire (ASQ).</li> </ul>



<p>contributed to drift and delay (this situation has now improved) – some cases had multiple changes of Social Worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some examples of challenge not being followed up as robustly as it could be.</li> <li>• There was not consistent challenge, still room for improvement.</li> <li>• Lack of consistency in using tools to evidence level of need/category – this has improved greatly but more work is needed by agencies</li> <li>• Absent parents it was not clear in all cases that this was addressed.</li> <li>• Parents not routinely investigated for neglect – CPS goals have changed and evidence needed – transfer case on this audit didn't meet the crime threshold.</li> <li>• Further work on making the lived experience apparent in the work is required.</li> <li>• Strategy meetings improvement in participation but further work required to ensure the correct attendance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued evidence that the Signs of Safety model promotes the voice of the child and their lived experience with the use of 'words and pictures' supporting.</li> <li>• The Signs of Safety model is being embraced by all agencies and agencies report that this model is working well to support Children and Families in Cheshire East.</li> <li>• Examples of absent parents being considered.</li> <li>• Contingency planning – improvement and evidence of some plans.</li> <li>• Positive impact for children.</li> <li>• Strong evidence that Multi-agency working is strength in Cheshire East and information sharing is common practice.</li> <li>• Timely working is evident.</li> <li>• In one of the cases, it was identified that the category of need was changed to reflect the child's lived experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What do we need to do?</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An LSCB eBulletin highlighted the need for agencies to use tools and where/how to use these tools.</li> <li>• Fully implement the strategy meetings developments.</li> <li>• Seek assurance that partners have a process for tracking escalations via the Single Agency Section 11 Audit.</li> <li>• Assess the impact of the training that's been delivered for engaging with perpetrators of domestic abuse.</li> <li>• Seek assurance from Childrens Social Care regarding staff turnover in CiN/CP.</li> <li>• A new training developed by the LSCB to address 'Challenge' has been developed and is due to be rolled out in the New Year. This training to be advertised across multi agencies, via the LSCB and agencies to be encouraged to attend.</li> </ul>	

### Serious Case Reviews (SCR):

This year there were 2 Serious Case Reviews underway. These reviews were completed within this year. A [learning summary](#) was published in February 2019 on one. The other awaits the conclusion of other processes.

### Reflective Reviews:

This year the CELCSB accepted the recommendations of a Reflective Review reported to it. These are being progressed. A learning summary was also published on the [website](#).

### Section 11 Audits



Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 requires each person or body to which the duties apply to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Board partners completed audits and the findings were reported to the Quality and Outcomes Subgroup. This indicated that services areas are broadly compliant in relation to safeguarding arrangements.

Overall very positive responses to the S11 Audit with most submissions rating themselves as, at least, effective in most areas of the self-assessment.

#### **Working well**

- Most partners senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
- Induction process for staff which clearly addresses safeguarding and use safeguarding recruitment, vetting procedures and allegations against staff processes
- A number of health teams are co-located with Preventative Services teams
- Evidence in recent safeguarding audit and JTAI that National Probation Service staff are aware of escalation policies and are comfortable to challenge decisions.

#### **Worried about**

- A partner self assessed as having less effective senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and their safer recruitment process.
- The County Lines strategy encompasses other forms of organised abuse but there needs to be a more defined process for Trafficking and Slavery.

A further report was presented providing an update on progress which provided assurance that partners were addressing the recommended actions.

#### **Section 175/157 Audits**

The Education Department, Schools, LSCB support team and CEC IT developed an online S175 submission tool. This was successfully piloted in the spring term with a volunteer cohort of schools. This proved successful and will be rolled out to all schools in the summer term of 18/19.

#### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

The LADO oversees individual cases, provides advice and guidance to employers, voluntary organisations and liaises with the Police and other agencies as required. The LADO has a responsibility to monitor the progress of individual cases to ensure they are dealt with quickly, fairly and consistently, as well as identifying significant patterns and trends across the workforce.

In Cheshire East there are currently two part time LADOs and one dedicated Business Support Officer; they sit within the Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit.

During 2018/19 there were 209 referrals to the Cheshire East LADO, which is a reduction of 22 from 2017/18.

- Of the 209 referrals: 77 (37%) were categorised as Consultations; 78 (37%) as No Further Action after Initial Consideration; and 54 (26%) met the threshold for a LADO

strategy meeting. Most referrals were from professionals working in the Education Sector (36%) which is a consistent trend and linked to the majority of referrals relating to education staff

- There have been fewer referrals (9.5%) to the LADO this year and it is noted that there have been less referrals from fostering agencies, early year's settings and the voluntary sector.
- As a proportion, 26% of referrals met the threshold for a strategy meeting, which is largely consistent with previous years with a 4% variance. The LADO role involves providing advice to employers and it is therefore expected that the threshold for a strategy meeting will not be met following every consultation/referral.
- Referrals not meeting the threshold for a strategy meeting came from all organisations: there are no discernible themes in relation to particular sectors or organisations.
- The details of referrals that don't meet threshold are recorded for future reference. This ensures repeated referrals regarding an employee's/volunteer's concerning behavior can be considered as potentially more serious and an indicator that they pose a risk of harm to children. This also helps to identify if a specific agency needs more support in understanding thresholds and the role of the LADO.

The LADO continues to ensure allegations are managed consistently and in a timely manner; 87% of strategy meetings were held within 5 working days and 82% were concluded within 6 months. Of the cases taking longer than 12 months 80% involved police

investigations and the remaining 20% involved complicated employer disciplinary practices. These elements are beyond the control of the LADO and where it has been considered that unreasonable delay has occurred, this has been escalated with the appropriate agency.

## Child Death Overview Panel

The death of any child is a tragedy. It is important that all child deaths are carefully reviewed. These reviews are conducted by a Child Death Overview Panel on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This is a Pan-Cheshire Panel and is made up of a group of professionals who met on four occasions between April 2018 and March 2019. The total number of child deaths notified across this footprint was 56, of those reported 19 were Cheshire East children.

The total number of child deaths the panel reviewed during this period was 49 of which 21 were from Cheshire East.

The Panel has a role to identify any trends or themes and to make recommendations to the CELSCB on learning from the reviews and how to prevent and reduce child deaths. The panel has an independent chair who provides regular updates to the CELSCB and produces an annual report that summarises the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year.

## CELSCB Training and Development

[CELSCB Learning and Development](#) continues to develop, deliver and evaluate a robust needs led multi-agency training package.

Working Well	Next Steps
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<p>Signs of Safety 2 day training delivered to over 440 participants across the workforce. Evaluations were outstanding and excellent examples of partners using the tool across a range of services are already evident.</p> <p>The local approach to implementing the GCP2 Neglect assessment tool won a NSPCC award for the successful implementation. Completed tools are being frequently seen in case conferences and planning meetings.</p> <p>In response to the serious case reviews recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New critical thinking course developed learning.</li> <li>• Workshops and briefings also delivered to partners to share the learning from both Serious Case Review's</li> <li>• All existing courses have been redeveloped to include Serious Case Review learning.</li> <li>• Working Together lunchtime seminars relaunched with sessions on learning from Serious Case Reviews.</li> </ul> <p>Training bulletin and 7 minute briefings have supported learning opportunities.</p> <p>New course developed on Harmful Practices and delivered on a Pan-Cheshire basis.</p> <p>Partners offered venues free of charge to reduce venue costs particular thanks to Oakencrough Children's centre, Kings School Macclesfield, South Cheshire College and Cheshire Without Abuse.</p> <p>Free E-Learning modules now available on the LSCB website, use has doubled in the past year.</p> <p>Several requests made to LSCB training manager to support the development of single agency training; this includes Crewe Alexander Football Club, Tatton Park and a private fostering organisation.</p>	<p>Continue work with the LSAB to support a partnership approach to learning and improvement across adult and children's services.</p> <p>Development of learning and improvement opportunities for managers: mental capacity and Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) and Risk management.</p> <p>Further development of pan-Cheshire learning opportunities.</p> <p>Review of charging policy.</p> <p>Review of Sexual Assault Referral Centre referrals to inform future course numbers.</p> <p>Work with schools safeguarding forum to obtain the views of a range of children and young people across Cheshire East.</p> <p>Single agency training standards to be further developed for C.S.E and Neglect.</p> <p>Continue to deliver 2 day signs of safety training to partners and consider refresher training for 2020.</p> <p>Review of impact on practice data collection methods.</p> <p>Establish means to follow up e-learning course users.</p> <p>GCP2 refresher training.</p>
<b>Worries</b>	
<p>Signs of Safety, Implementation and associated training delivery to partners are underway which as predicted has meant lower attendance on existing courses.</p> <p>More courses need to be considered for managers across the partnership.</p> <p>The voice of the child within the training environment could be stronger.</p> <p>Evaluation returns are low post course; therefore evidencing impact on practice is challenging.</p> <p>GCP2 and Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre numbers have significantly dropped over year.</p>	

The post course survey responses demonstrate that overall

- More than 92% participants value the courses and engage with change when delivering services to children.

- 93% of respondents self-report that the training has positively changed or influenced practice.
- 71% of respondents identify discussion with managers following attendance on LSCB courses
- 87% have said they have shared information with colleagues, both of these figures show an increase of 25% and more in comparison to previous years.

GCP2 evaluation shows 94% of attendants would use the tool even if they haven't had the opportunity to date. All participants have stated that the tool will be helpful in their work with families where Neglect is a feature. Of those who have used the tool 100% said families liked and understood the assessment. Data from the safeguarding unit shows a considerable increase in the numbers of completed tools at case conference and reviews.

# 2018-19 Annual Reports

## Summary of reports

Each partner agency is expected to meet their safeguarding responsibilities as described in the member compact and under Section 11. All agencies are expected to ensure their staff and volunteers undertake appropriate single and multi-agency training.

Partner agencies are expected to provide an annual update for scrutiny to the board, setting out any key achievements in the previous year.

Impact of Partners safeguarding activity against the Board's Key Business Plan Objectives	
1. Strategic Partnership Objective Improving frontline practice	
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Competent practitioners and consistent practice. Children and Families provided with the right level of support and intervention.
Cheshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continual professional development training continues within the Public Protection Directorate (PPD) ensuring that officers skills and knowledge are at a high standard. All officers receive training on a structured rotation to ensure operational competence is maintained.</li> <li>The police services nationally are professionalising the approach to public protection policing and investigations, specifically for senior leaders. The aim ultimately is to ensure that all senior officers in command of public protection assets in England and Wales are appropriately trained, experienced and skilled to carry out their roles.</li> <li>Two of the PPD senior leadership team have already undergone the first element of this training to have their operational competence formally recognised.</li> </ul>
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	<p>The Clinical Commissioning Groups have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully worked to develop their safeguarding team, policies and safeguarding assurance processes across 4 CCGs and 2 LA areas.</li> <li>Worked with their providers to develop dashboards which reflect safeguarding standards.</li> <li>Developed quality visits to providers with focus on safeguarding children</li> <li>Focussed on GP practice including development of contribution by GPs to e-Marac process</li> <li>Worked in partnership with public health to further develop the role of specialist nurse working within Cheshire East Contact and Referral Service.</li> <li>Worked in partnership with public health and health providers to develop the health contribution to strategy meetings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported and developed Child Exploitation nurse role.</li> <li>• Worked with NHS England to fully implement the Child Protection - Information Sharing system across the Local Authority and all NHS acute providers in our footprint.</li> <li>• Worked with NHS England to implement Female Genital Mutilation programme (e-FGM) system.</li> <li>• Contributed to multi-agency work between health and the Local Authority to establish timely and good quality health assessments for Cared for Children. There has been further improvement and the work will continue.</li> <li>• Through their Child Death Overview Panel professionals, been closely involved in developing a Pan-Cheshire approach to coping with and understanding infant crying through the use of ICON Programme ( a national tool for prevention of Abusive Head Trauma ).</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education settings engage in regular safeguarding staff training, involving staff such as midday assistants, office staff, caretakers, governors etc. They are involved in 3 yearly Basic Safeguarding Awareness and annual Safeguarding Refresher training which is reinforced in staff meetings. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) undertake enhanced training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Every year staff sign to say that they have read and understood "Keeping Children Safe in Education" which informs their practice.</li> <li>• The Safeguarding Children in Education Settings Team (SCiES) hold termly meetings DSLs and Headteachers where key information sharing takes place; these are always well attended and learning/information is cascaded by those DSLs/ Headteachers within schools. Discussions take place within these meetings where questions can be asked, inconsistencies can be challenged and a clearer understanding gained of processes</li> <li>• Education settings which have engaged with SCiES Safeguarding Scenarios have found these have generated valuable discussions between staff, have reinforced key messages from training, have helped to embed knowledge and have reinforced expectations around practice and procedures.</li> <li>• Engagement with Signs of Safety has supported education practitioners to identify risks, plan together to minimise risk and make a positive difference to the lives of children enhancing the quality of conversations, reducing problem admiration and supporting the effectiveness of outcomes.</li> <li>• Regular newsletters are provided to DSLs / Headteachers by SCiES and CЕСP to ensure they are kept up-to-date with new guidance, emerging themes, and other relevant information regarding Safeguarding in schools. DSLs ensure that these are shared with staff to enhance their knowledge; they are often seen displayed in staff rooms.</li> <li>• Many education settings engage with the SCiES team, the Attendance and Children out of school team, the Virtual school, the Medical Needs team and Early Help for support with cases where they are unsure of the appropriate level of support for the child and / or family. These teams provide information and may liaise with other partner agencies on behalf of the school to ensure the</li> </ul>

	<p>right actions are taken and things move forward positively for the child and family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and social care liaison meetings have helped to develop positive relationships and mutual understanding which is impacting on practice.</li> <li>• Supervision provided to DSLs has supported them in identifying and reinforcing the positives, share their frustrations and concerns and identify next steps.</li> <li>• Education settings engage with Safeguarding Policy in Practice Reviews; where these have been undertaken they have celebrated and reinforced achievements and identified areas for development leading to actions resulting in improved practice.</li> </ul>
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>CELSCB has continued to support the embedding of our single operating model, Signs of Safety. There have been over 500 front line practitioners trained across the partnership since the model was implemented. The impact of Signs of Safety can be seen through improved safety planning with families and their wider network of support. Recruitment of permanent social workers has been a positive story over the last 12 months with a strategic approach that has focussed on "grow your own" social workers and opportunities for internal development within the service from students to the new Director of Children's Social Care.</p> <p>The Independent Reviewing Officers now all carry out peer observations to both share ideas and promote consistency of best practice. They have group supervision every month and team development days every quarter to review practice and improvements. A number of Local Authorities have asked to observe how we do Child Protection Conferences. The Quality Assurance information in the form of weekly reports goes out to all partners to support their improvement in the front line practice. A focus this year has been on use of the Graded Care profile, representation of children's views at conference and developing danger statements and safety goals that parents understand and are clear about what needs to happen. The new Conference model is improving parental participation and understanding of the plan and we have visual representation of children's views at conference.</p>
National Probation Service (NPS)	<p>NPS provides, essentially, three levels of service to individuals convicted in adult courts of a sentence that is managed by one of the Probation Service Providers. This includes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court based services supporting Sentencers in making their sentencing decisions in relation only to adults;</li> <li>• Management of individuals sentenced to offences of a serious violent and/or sexual nature largely covered by MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) processes and other high risk of harm offenders. The Management of individuals can be within the community, serving prison sentences or subject to hospital orders.</li> <li>• A victim liaison Service offered to victims of serious violent and/or sexual offences for which the perpetrator has been sentenced to more than 12 months custody.</li> </ul> <p>As such it is unlikely that NPS staff either working in courts or offender management will come in to direct contact with a child or children as part of their work but within these limitations the NPS has a responsibility to ensure that the voice of the child is heard. NPS's Victim Liaison Service have contact with victims through their Victim Liaison Officer (VLOs) network. Within this context VLOs</p>



	<p>will have a broader level of contact with victims, their families, children, and carers etc., including the families of offenders.</p> <p>Training, both internal to NPS and externally sourced through local safeguarding arrangements, is made available to staff. Staff are enabled to attend relevant training. A record of training is kept locally and this is repeated periodically. Staff induction includes mandatory familiarisation of child safeguarding responsibilities, processes and procedures. Job Descriptions and staff appraisals include objective/s supporting the effective discharge of their child safeguarding duties.</p> <p>There is national mandatory NPS Safeguarding training for all staff (e-learning followed by classroom based – for face to face staff and their managers who work with offenders. All staff, including trainees, are expected to undertake it. Safeguarding training remains under regular review. NPS within Cheshire have identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each local team to promote and drive improvements.</p>
<b>2. Strategic Partnership Objective - Listening to children and young people</b>	
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Outcome to be achieved - Children's views are strongly represented.</b>
Cheshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'voice of the child' is a priority for Cheshire Constabulary. The Vulnerability Person Assessment has been revised and digitalised requiring investment. The final product to go live in Autumn 2019 has a "Voice of the Child" mandatory field for completion. Officers will not be able to progress and complete the form without completing this vital element of the form. This will improve the quality of vulnerability assessments and the identification of the lived experience of the child.</li> <li>Officers across the area have received additional training for the Voice of the Child. Investment has been made in corporate communications and training materials to ensure that the importance of this is recognised by all.</li> </ul>
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	<p>The CCGs have strengthened their approach to listening to children and representing their views on services and redesign of services. They have approached children participation groups and worked with other agencies to establish a network of young people who can provide a voice.</p> <p>The CCGs have through their Self Care Awards in local schools, enabled children to become Self Care Champions – sharing information and messages throughout their schools as well as starring in Self Care videos which are shared throughout our Social Media Channels. Feedback from the children has shown that this work has supported local children and young people to feel empowered to take more responsibility for their own and their families' self-care.</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many primary schools have engaged with locality based children's safeguarding conferences throughout the year which are designed to empower children to talk about safeguarding issues which affect them. The children have then taken responsibility for taking the key learning points and themes back into their own schools to share.</li> <li>Children from secondary schools and alternative provisions have engaged in the Act Now Conference 2019 where their views were</li> </ul>

	<p>clearly stated to adults from CELSCB; resulting in clear expectations of the adults from those services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in secondary schools co-produced a Cheshire East Bullying Prevention Strategy for schools which made priorities and expectations clear from their point of view.</li> <li>• Education settings are able to evidence the involvement of children and young people in developing safeguarding provision and procedures. Many have safeguarding groups, others have safeguarding as an agenda item on every school council meeting. Their voice has been effective in identifying key themes to be taught, developing security around the internal and external environment, writing policy.</li> <li>• DSLs have ensured that staff are familiar with screening tools and other resources such as 3 Houses, 3 Islands and other voice of the child activities used as well as engaging children and families with Helping Hands' etc. so as to support them in identifying the individual child's lived experience. Some of these materials have been extremely impactful on helping agencies and parents understand things from the child's point of view, and have sometimes taken them in a different direction than they first thought.</li> <li>• Draft safeguarding exemplar policies, developed on behalf of education settings by the SCiES team, are Quality Assured by Pride Youth Network Poynton High School.</li> <li>• Education settings identify the use of questionnaires to capture children's views e.g. how safe they feel in school; who they would talk to with a worry or problem; how they would keep themselves safe etc. which then impact on practice.</li> <li>• SCiES facilitated a number of face to face meetings with secondary school aged children from a range of settings including to gather information about what the children understood about the key priorities for the CESC, e.g. Neglect, Online safety in order to inform CELSCB objectives.</li> </ul>
Children's Social Care	<p>CSC continues to have a strong focus on ensuring that children's lived experience is clearly understood. There continue to be outstanding examples of direct work with children, their view influencing planning and reviews. Front line practitioners have used direct work tools developed as part of the Signs of Safety model to build on their skills.</p> <p>The involvement of children and young people in developing and contributing to the design of services has strengthened over the last 12 months, evidenced through our Investing in Children Award. Children, young people and care leavers have worked with CSC on the development of our new Bespoke model, the recommissioning of the children's home contract and the Children and Young People's Plan.</p> <p>The work of the CP IROs in the multi-agency conference process have a strong focus on establishing what the child's view about the plan and how this impacts on their sense of safety. This has improved the next phase is for front-line staff to move from 'wishes and feelings' to how children understand the plan to keep them safe and if they think this is effective and what else they may want.</p>
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If applicable Pre Sentence Reports and risk assessment processes recognise and incorporate 'The Voice of the Child'.</li> </ul>

Probation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAPPA and MARAC meetings incorporate victims and child safeguarding considerations. Voice of the child is a standing item on the MAPPA Agenda; chairs are required to consider the voice of the child in individual case decision making.</li> <li>• NPS offender assessments capture details of children at risk; NPS are also required to identify children at the point of sentence. Work has been completed to raise the profile of recording children's information and the impact of their parent receiving a custodial sentence and this is audited frequently.</li> <li>• NPS have rolled out toolkits to support an adult facing service in recognising child related concerns and there is a home visiting protocol and guidance about how to record any direct contact with Children.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strategic Partnership Objective Strengthening partnerships</b>	
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Outcome to be achieved - Strong safeguarding culture across the system, effective scrutiny, and challenge and evidence of improved outcomes</b>
Cheshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear escalation policy is in place within Cheshire East. Bi-monthly meeting attended by PPD Detective Inspector and managers of core agencies where process and procedures are scrutinised/challenged.</li> <li>• Cheshire Constabulary has recently undergone the PEEL Vulnerability HMICFRS Inspection. The inspection includes all aspects of vulnerability and there is a strong focus on the protection of children and partnership working. The inspectors were very positive and whilst the result of the inspection has not formally been released, the Constabulary is currently graded as good and we aim to maintain this grading.</li> </ul>
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	<p>The CCGs have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributed to partnership working through the Health and Well-Being Board, the LSCB and its sub groups and the Pan Cheshire CDOP.</li> <li>• Worked with Local Authority commissioners to develop joint safeguarding standards and quality assurance processes for providers;</li> <li>• Strengthened links to the Corporate Parenting Board and worked jointly with the Local Authority to improve the timeliness and quality of initial and review health assessments for Cared for Children.</li> <li>• Worked with the Police and Local Authority to develop and fully implement the new local safeguarding arrangements in Cheshire East.</li> <li>• Developed understanding of the increased CCG Safeguarding responsibilities across CCG Governing bodies.</li> <li>• Worked with Partners to develop new CDOP arrangements across the Pan Cheshire footprint.</li> <li>• Worked with partners to agree a partnership score card for safeguarding assurance.</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools continue to demonstrate good safeguarding practice as evidenced in Ofsted reports (89.7% Good or Outstanding); practice includes: ensuring children know who they need to talk to if they have concerns; assemblies and tutor time spent on a full</li> </ul>

	<p>range of issues (often led by the students themselves and/ or significant partners, for example, police, health); information around the school; emphasis within the curriculum (all subjects and PHSCEE); all members of staff understanding that they have safeguarding responsibilities and knowing to whom they need to report concerns (DSL and/ or Headteacher); regular training and updates for staff and positive engagement with the SCiES team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CELSCB scrutinise the 175 audit and a report is written identifying common activities, positive activities and areas for members of CELSCB to support the education settings with.</li> <li>• Where concerns are raised around safeguarding practice non-judgmental support is offered. CELSCB have developed an escalation policy to resolve professional concerns; this has been shared with all education settings to ensure they understand it and feel confident to use it when necessary.</li> </ul>
Children's Social Care	<p>There have been many examples over the year for how CSC has work collaboratively to strengthen the partnerships. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported Police to improve the quality of their vulnerable people assessments, through contributing to the new template and training for police officers.</li> <li>• Development of multi-agency audits in the front door to test and further strengthen the quality of information provided threshold application and decision making.</li> <li>• Development of a strategic operational meeting attended by police, health and children's social care. This has led to improvements in the quality of information shared and representation of agencies at strategy meetings.</li> <li>• Collaboratively working with partner agencies to improve the quality of child in need planning and the use of escalation and challenge to ensure improved outcomes for children.</li> <li>• Establishing a culture of high support and high challenge with education, working together to support children to attend school full time. This has resulted in a reducing risk of exploitation for some vulnerable children.</li> <li>• Strengthened relationships between health providers in the Front Door: The impact has been a shared understanding of Signs of Safety and how it is used when making a referral. This ensures the right information is provided by professionals improving timeliness and decision making for children who may be in need of help or protection.</li> <li>• Safeguarding children who are at risk of exploitation through the introduction of weekly multi-agency meetings in the front door. There is a shared assessment of risk and early decision making to ensure children are safeguarded at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• Introduction of a joint working protocol with housing to ensure a timely assessment and support to 16/17 year old young people presenting as homeless.</li> <li>• A set of tools for assessing the impact of DA across all the family have been produced and disseminated all agency staff through the LSCB, and workshops have been provided on how to assess the typology of those who harm in their relationships</li> <li>• The Safeguarding and quality assurance Unit produce a weekly report of agency provision of reports and if these have been</li> </ul>

	shared with parents prior to the meeting. Agency leads are held to account in case conference if reports have not been produced or shared.
National Probation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a National Director who has a lead for Safeguarding and within each Division; there is a senior manager who has the divisional lead for safeguarding. Cheshire Cluster of the NPS has a designated lead and have taken the additional step of identifying champions in each team.</li> <li>• The Safeguarding lead for NPS Cheshire plays an active role in attending the LSCB and now participates in new safeguarding arrangements as well as identifying a Manager lead for a relevant subgroup. NPS identifies relevant staff to contribute to SCR, DHR and multi-agency audits where relevant.</li> <li>• Efforts to improve multi-agency working between the NPS and CSC have been championed by the NPS with recent work to visit and build relationships with the front door of children's services. The NPS along with the CRC are also exploring improved engagement with structures to assess and manage risks presented by Child Exploitation.</li> <li>• The NPS is subject to an annual inspection has achieved a 'Good' rating in its most recent inspection - the standards incorporate safeguarding children considerations.</li> <li>• NPS participated in the Neglect JTAI in Cheshire West and more recently in Halton and improvements in practice were seen between the two inspections.</li> </ul>

## Key Priorities for 2019-20

The local arrangements for Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership have been agreed by the partnership and published on its [website](#). CЕСSP has agreed shared priorities for our partnership and have adopted these as their initial plan for supporting the protection and wellbeing of children and young people in Cheshire East.

Improve frontline multi-agency practice through working on:

- Our approach to Contextual Safeguarding
- Improving the quality and effectiveness of child in need planning for children
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our vulnerable children
- Embedding the New Arrangements

Aim to do this through our collective commitment to

- Strategic Leadership across the partnership – to make the safety of children and young people a priority.

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- Challenge – through focused inquiries or investigations into particular practice or issues on the basis of evidence, practitioner experience and the views of children and young people, in order for us to improve together
- Learning – to achieve the highest standards of development and to ensure all practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective. This will include listening to the voice of children and young people and using what we hear to inform best practice.

## Budget for 2018-19

An outline budget for CELSCB's work in 2018-19 is set out at Appendix 4.

## Risks and Issues

It is essential to identify, analyse and priorities risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Board's plans. The Board maintains a risk register which is reviewed and updated bi-monthly with action updates at the Executive Group. During the year the following risks were on the LSCB Risk register.

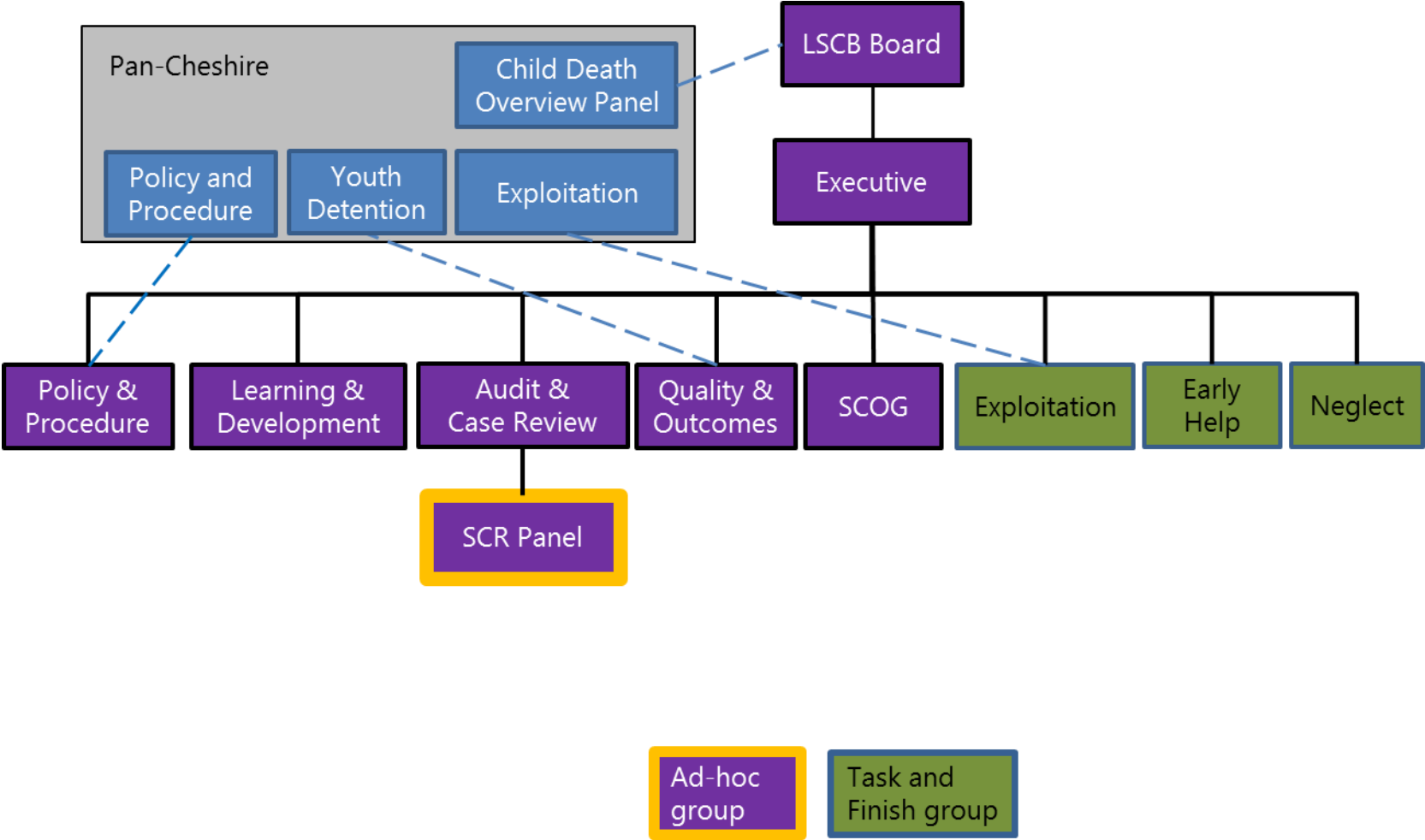
Registered	Risk	Actions	Status year end
May 17	Changes in membership of the Board through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restructures within partner organisations impact on the continuity of the business and pace of change needed to improve,</li> <li>• uncertainty in relation to the future model of safeguarding partnership arrangements (Wood Review);</li> <li>• emerging Pan Cheshire Structures that could impact on partner's capacity.</li> </ul> will impact upon the Boards ability to fulfil its functions	Continue to strengthen the Pan Cheshire approach. Agreement in principle from Cheshire Senior Leadership group to look at opportunities for alignment of LSCB's.	Open
Feb 18	The need to improve the Effectiveness of Multi-agency Child Protection Plans/Children in Need has been identified in LSCB audits.	The effective use of a suite of evidence based practice tools for assessments, direct work and planning to be agreed.	Open

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		Signs of Safety model implementation.	
May 18	The effective implementation of the two SCR multi-agency/single agency actions plans, for E & A	Multi-agency audits of the themes from the SCRs will be conducted in 2019 Frontline staff briefings are being held to ensure the learning and actions from the SCRs are understood. Changes to practice as required by the action plans are being addressed.	Open
Sept 18	Strengthen the engagement of the LSCB and support provided to Schools with key safeguarding activity	Actively engage with schools forums on the development of the Future Arrangements as these are a key relevant agency. Review the schools contribution in line with the work on the development of the Future Arrangements LSCB Chair to meet with Independent Schools Heads teachers/Designated leads.	Open
Sept 18	The effective provision of services for children who are held in police detention overnight.	Pan-Cheshire protocol to be update to include the escalation procedure.	Open
Sept 18	The LSCB reduced School contributions and has not increased other partner's contributions for the last two years. During this time it has been using its reserves. A number of schools are indicating that they will not contribute financially to the current level in 19/20.	CE Safeguarding Partnership Task and Finish group to review budgets for 18/19 and 19/20	Open

Appendix 1: Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Board Structure





## Appendix 2: Board Membership and Attendance

Attendance Log	Meetings 2018 - 2019						
	27/04/18 Extraordinary	29/05/18	07/06/18 Extraordinary	30/07/18	26/09/18	30/11/18	21/01/19 Dev Day
Independent Chair LSCB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Executive Director of People	✓	A	A	A	R	R	✓
Director of Children's Social Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Head of Service – Children in Need and Child Protection	✓	✓	✓	D	✓	✓	✓
Head of Service - Children's Safeguarding	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Director of Children's Prevention & Support	✓	✓	A	A	D	R	D
Principal Manager for Early Help	✓	✓	D	A	✓	R	
Senior Lawyer	A	D	D	A	D	D	A
Head of Adult Safeguarding	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Portfolio Holder for Children and Families Services	A	A	✓	A	✓	A	A
Public Health	A	R	A	A			
Cheshire East Housing Strategy Manager	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	A
Southern and Eastern CCG	✓	✓	✓	R	✓	✓	A
South Cheshire CCG	R	✓	D	R	A	A	✓
Designated Doctor	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A
East Cheshire Trust NHS	✓	R	R	✓	A	✓	✓
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	✓	R	R	✓	✓	✓	✓
NHS England	A	A	A	D	D	D	D
Deputy Director of Nursing - Wirral Community NHS Trust	R	R	R	R	R	A	R
Head of Service – Youth Justice	✓	✓	✓	R	D	✓	D
Cheshire and Manchester - CRC	D	R	R	R	R	D	D
Senior Operational Support Manager - NPS	R	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Cheshire Police	✓	✓	✓	R	R	R	✓
Cheshire Fire Service			A	A	D	D	A
HMPYOI Styal	D	R	D	A	D	✓	D
Primary Heads Representative	A	D	D	D			
Acting Primary Heads Representative - eCAPH					✓	✓	✓
Secondary Heads Representative - CEASH	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Representing Independent Schools – The Kings	D	A	D	D	✓	A	✓
Vice Principal - Reaseheath College	D	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Representing children and young people in Cheshire East	D	✓	D	D	A	A	D
Programme Manager The Children's Society	✓	A	D	A	R	A	R
Cheshire CAFCASS	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	A
Representing the Voluntary, Faith and Community Sector	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Representing the Voluntary Sector	✓	D	D	A	D	✓	A
LSCB Lay Member	D	D	D	A	✓	A	D

□ = Attended, A = Apologies, R = Designated Rep, D = Did Not Send Apologies

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## Appendix 2: Financial Arrangements – 2018-19

The tables below sets out the CELSCB's outline budget and outturn expenditure for 2017-18, along with the financial contributions from partners.

Area of Expenditure	2018-19 (£)
<b>Direct Employee Exps</b>	
Safeguarding Project Manager (0.70 fte)	£205,689
Performance Officer (0.50 fte)	
Training Manager (0.81 fte)	
Training Officer (0.91 fte)	
CELSCB Admin (2 fte)	
<b>Transport</b>	
Mileage and car parking	£2,060
<b>Premises</b>	
Hire of rooms for training, CELSCB meetings	£1,520
<b>Supplies and Services</b>	
Independent Chair	£25,466
Training costs – printing and course costs	
CDOP Pan-Cheshire Chair (CE contribution)	
Phone and mobile phone charges	
Refreshments for meetings	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	£234,735
Carry forward reserves from 2017-18	-£39,918
Income in 2018-19	-£220,463
<b>Total available spend 2018-19</b>	-£260,381
Expenditure 2018-19	£234,735
<b>Reserve carry forward to 2018-19</b>	-£25,646

## Appendix 3: Partner Contributions.

	CELSCB Partners	2018-19 contributions (proposed)
Health	Eastern Cheshire NHS	£5,000
	Mid Cheshire Hospitals	£6,772
	South Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Eastern Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	£4,093
	Wirral Community NHS Trust	£5,500
Criminal Justice	Probation Service (NRC)	£1,700
	Probation Service (NPS)	£992
	Police	£25,000
	HMP STYAL	£2,000
	CAFCASS	£550
L A	Local Authority	£44,300
Education	Schools	To be agreed
	Independent Schools	
	Cheshire FE Consortium	To be agreed

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## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 3 December 2019

**Report Title:** SEND Reforms Task and Finish Group – SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds (Final Report)

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor D Flude – Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe – Acting Executive Director of People

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report introduces the SEND Reforms Task and Finish Group's second report on the 'SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds', which includes the findings, conclusions and recommendations produced by the Group following the review.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Cabinet receives the Task and Finish Group's report.
- 2.2. That Cabinet responds to the following recommendations:
- 2.2.1. It is recommended that further work is undertaken to continue to develop and embed the following actions relating to current improvement work in the service and recommendations from the previous OSC report, as follows:
- 2.2.1.1. Continue to ensure that the co-production of Education and Health Care Plans (paragraph 7.2 refers) is embedded.
- 2.2.1.2. Implement the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision. (Paragraph 7.2 refers).

**2.2.1.3.** Continue to ensure the transition across 16 -25 provision is seamless and continue to ensure the annual reviews are coproduced with all relevant partners, parents and carers to better prepare young people for adulthood and furthermore to ensure the right services are in place in a timely manner. (Paragraph 7.24 refers).

**2.2.2.** In relation to health services which support SEND it is recommended that services align with the development of one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure consistent offer for the following:

**2.2.2.1.** Ensure that there are no gaps in services, particularly in relation mental health and speech and language and that these services are fit for purpose. (Paragraph 7.6 refers).

**2.2.2.2.** Ensure continued partnership oversight of the newly developed single pathway for autism, promoting the consistent offer across the borough and monitoring performance to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people. (Paragraph 7.8 refers).

**2.2.2.3.** That the Council continues to support and assist the development of a programme of clubs activities and bespoke provision for supported young people, which encourages them to develop their skills and interests.

**2.2.3.** The following specific action in relation to the 16-25 offer to be addressed by all partners.

**2.2.3.1.** That Cheshire East Council continues to coordinate, drive, develop and promote supported internships and support local businesses in the employment of those with disabilities. (Paragraph 7.37 refers).

**2.2.3.2.** To undertake a sufficiency review of supported accommodation to ensure sufficient quality accommodation, which is fit for purpose, where it is appropriate.

**2.2.3.3.** Review the financial procedures and processes for post 16 payments and ensure these are made efficient. (Paragraph 7.40 refers).

**2.2.4.** Monitor the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision. (Paragraph 7.39 refers).

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a series of reforms relating to special educational needs and disability (SEND). The reforms aimed to improve the provision of services for children and young people with SEND, as well as provide both they and their parents/carers with greater control over how their needs are met, up to the age of 25.
- 3.2. Following the implementation of the 2014 Act and the statutory framework for the personalisation of services for children and young people from 0 to 25 years, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to establish a task and finish group to undertake an in-depth review of the new system.
- 3.3. After the Group's first report – on the provision of SEND for 0 to 16 year olds – was considered by Cabinet on 11 September, a recommendation was made that a further task and finish group be established to review the offer for 16 to 25 year olds. This age bracket was a new requirement of the Children and Families Act 2014, and is considered a very important time in any young persons life as they set out on their journey towards independence.

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

- 4.1. No alternative option was considered.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1. The SEND reforms Task and Finish Group met in December 2018 to scope the review and agreed the following objectives:

- To identify the barriers for young people accessing the job market;
- To identify the rationale for the perceived lack of social care services;
- To review the Cheshire East Local Offer, including the toolkit and benchmark against other local authorities;
- To recommend potential commissioning intentions to develop opportunities for young people aged 16 plus;
- To investigate what support is provided for the transition into adulthood; and
- To investigate the relationship between Cheshire East Council, private providers and further education providers, and what specialist advice is provided.

5.2. The attached report was considered and endorsed by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2019. Cabinet is now requested to give its consideration to the recommendations.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

6.1.1. There are no legal implications at this stage, however there may be legal implications associated with the implementation of any approved recommendations.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. The full list of recommendations, which are being made to Cabinet by the task and finish group have not yet been fully assessed. If the recommendations are approved, further work would be required to capture the financial implications.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. There are no policy implications at this stage; however approval of the recommendations may result in policy changes.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no equality implications.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no human resources implications.

### **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. There are no management implications.

### **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

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

6.8.1. The recommendations are intended to improve the offer to children and young people with SEND.

### **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

### **6.10. Climate Change Implications**



6.10.1. There are no direct climate change implications expected as a result of this report and its recommendations.

## 7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. No ward members are directly affected.

## 8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. The table below sets out the actions undertaken by the Task and Finish Group, and whom the Group consulted, engaged and met with, as part of its review.

Date	Action
7 December 2018	Task and finish group – Scoped Review
4 January 2019	Task and finish group – Background papers and agree programme
21 January 2019	Post 16 Providers – Network Meeting
1 February 2019	SEND Ignition Pilot
5 February 2019	DoE – Macclesfield - Visit
8 February 2019	Task and finish Group – Progress to date meeting
13 March 2019	Visit to Reaseheath College
15 March 2019	3 Focus Group Sessions
19 March 2019	Meeting with Head Of Service
20 March 2019	Visit to Total People - Macclesfield
25 March 2019	Meeting with Portfolio Holder

2 April 2019	Visit to Community Supported Business, Crewe
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## 9. Access to Information

9.1. The following documents were considered during the review and are available for inspection:

9.1.1. Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities Cheshire East Self-Evaluation – December 2017.

9.1.2. Children and Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Joint Strategy 2017/19.

9.1.3. Cheshire East SEN/EHCP Scorecard.

9.1.4. LGiU – briefing notes.

9.1.5. Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

9.1.6. Sufficient Statement and Provision Plan.

9.1.7. Ofsted Inspection Report.

9.1.8. Written Statement of Action for SEN and Disabilities (Cheshire East Council).

## 10. Contact Information

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

Name: Sarah Baxter

Job Title: Democratic Services Officer

Email: [sarah.baxter@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.baxter@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee



## SEND Local Offer for 16 to 25 Year Olds

### SEND Reforms Task and Finish Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Report

September 2019

## 1. Chairman's Foreword

- 1.1. In our first report dated March 2018 we stated that in coming to terms with the realisation that a child has a learning difficulty, parents and carers need to be reassured that they will receive support from the local authority and its partners that is timely and easily accessible with outcomes that enable their child's prospects to be life enhancing.
- 1.2. Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the statutory framework for the personalisation of services for children and young people from 0 to 25 years, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to establish a task and finish group to conduct an in-depth review at the new system.
- 1.3. In our first report we looked at the provision for the 0 to 16 year olds in this our second review, which began in January 2019, we have looked at the provision for young adults aged 16 to 25. This is a very important time in any young person's life as they leave school move to college and set out on their journey towards independence. We recognise that independence for some can be restricted by their personal needs and our report recognises this.
- 1.4. The local authority and its partners have been on a significant journey since the last Ofsted inspection. Members were pleased to see improvements now being made that are resulting in changes for SEND children and their parents/carers. However, there is still more to do and overview and scrutiny will continue to monitor progress.
- 1.5. The group thanks parents, carers and the many staff from education, health, social care services, as well as the private providers who gave evidence to the group. A special thank you goes to Katie Small, Scrutiny Officer at Cheshire East for all her assistance.



Councillor Dorothy Flude

Chairman of the Task and Finish Group

## 2. Background and Membership

- 2.1. The Children's and Families Act 2014 introduced a wide range of reforms to the organisation of Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision. These reforms were aimed at improving the quality and reliability of SEND provision by providing a joined up approach between the relevant agencies and by giving parents and young people more influence over the provision they received.
- 2.2. The Act extended the reach to people up to age 25 and also placed a requirement on Further Education settings to work to Education Health and Care Plans rather than learning disability assessments. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee had previously set up a task and finish group to review the progress made in implementing these reforms, concern was raised that young people aged 16 and over were unable to access the job market.
- 2.3. The task and finish group agreed that the next phase of their work would focus on the improvements required to be made in respect of the 16-25 SEND offer. Members were concerned that young people would end up in the adult social care system, for reasons that could have been prevented with early intervention and the right services being available.
- 2.4. As a consequence the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that an additional task and finish group should be established to review the offer to 16-25 year olds.
- 2.5. The membership of the task and finish group was as follows:



From left to right:

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, Flude, Grant, Hayes, Merry and Rhodes

### **3. Recommendations**

**3.1. It is recommended that further work is undertaken to continue to develop and embed the following actions relating to current improvement work in the service and recommendations from the previous OSC report, as follows:**

3.1.1. Continue to ensure that the co-production of Education and Health Care Plans (paragraph 7.2 refers) is embedded.

3.1.2. Implement the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision.(paragraph 7.2 refers).

3.1.3. Continue to ensure the transition across 16 -25 provision is seamless and continue to ensure the annual reviews are coproduced with all relevant partners, parents and carers to better prepare young people for adulthood and furthermore to ensure the right services are in place in a timely manner (paragraph 7.24 refers).

**3.2. In relation to health services which support SEND it is recommended that services align with the development of one CCG to ensure consistent offer for the following:**

3.2.1. Ensure that there are no gaps in services, particularly in relation mental health and speech and language and that these services are fit for purpose. (Paragraph 7.6 refers).

3.2.2. Ensure continued partnership oversight of the newly developed single pathway for autism, promoting the consistent offer across the borough and monitoring performance to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people. (Paragraph 7.8 refers).

3.2.3. That the Council encourages voluntary groups to provide activities which allow supported young people to develop their skills and interests.

**3.3. It is recommended that the following specific actions in relation to the 16-25 offer be addressed by all partners:**

3.3.1. That Cheshire East Council continues to coordinate, drive, develop and promote supported internships and support local businesses in the employment of those with disabilities. (Paragraph 7.37 refers).

3.3.2. To undertake a sufficiency review of supported accommodation to ensure sufficient quality accommodation which is fit for purpose where it is appropriate.

3.3.3. Review the financial procedures and processes for post 16 payments and ensure these are made efficient. (Paragraph 7.40 refers).

3.3.4. Monitor the new locality structure within the service ensuring capacity and expertise for 16-25 provision. (Paragraph 7.39 refers).

#### **4. Objectives**

4.1. The Group set out the following objectives for this review:

- To identify the barriers for young people accessing the job market.
- To identify the rationale for the perceived lack of social care services.
- To review the Cheshire East local offer, including the toolkit and benchmark against other local authorities.
- To recommend potential commissioning intentions to develop opportunities for young people aged 16 plus.
- To investigate what support is provided for transition into adulthood.
- To investigate the relationship between Cheshire East, private providers and further education providers, and what specialist advice is provided.

#### **5. Methodology**

5.1. The group identified and engaged with the following witnesses as part of this review:

- Focus group sessions with representatives from the following council services and partners; finance; youth support; transition; children's commissioning; SEND team; adult social care, housing, Space4Autism; Friends for Leisure, complex worklessness; supported internship; and support employment.
- Service Manager for Paediatric Therapies department in CCICP.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Designated Clinical Officer.
- Head of Service – Director of Education and 14-19 Skills.
- Councillor Jos Saunders - Portfolio Holder for Children and Families (in 2018/19).
- Parents and carers.

5.2. The group also undertook visits to; Reaseheath College; Total People; Department of Education – Macclesfield; Supported Community Business – Crewe; Acorn Centre – Crewe; Princes Trust; and Wishing Well Project – Crewe.

## 6. Timeline

6.1. The table below sets out the timeline of actions undertaken by the Group during this review:

Date	Action
7 December 2018	Task and Finish Group – Scoped Review
4 January 2019	Task and Finish Group – Background papers and agree programme
21 January 2019	Post 16 Providers – Network Meeting
1 February 2019	SEND Ignition Pilot
5 February 2019	Visit to Department of Education, Macclesfield
8 February 2019	Task and Finish Group – Meeting to review progress
13 March 2019	Visit to Reaseheath College
15 March 2019	Three focus group sessions
19 March 2019	Meeting with Head Of Service
20 March 2019	Visit to Total People - Macclesfield
25 March 2019	Meeting with Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
2 April 2019	Visit to Community Supported Business, Crewe
4 April 2019	Visit to Acorn Centre, Crewe

## 7. Findings

### The Local Offer

7.1. Every Council is required to publish details of the local support available for young people with SEND. The local offer provides clear and accurate information about local education, health and care services. The Local Offer for Cheshire East is detailed in Figure 1 below:



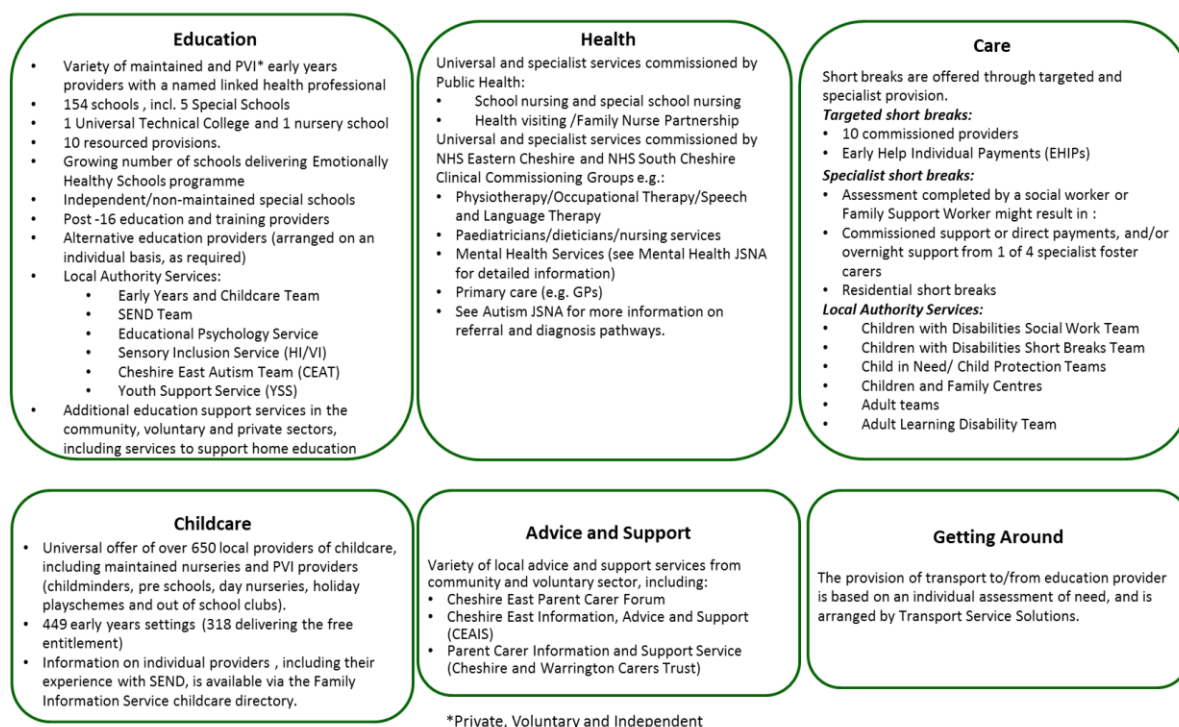


Figure 1. The Local Offer for Cheshire East

## Services Working Together

7.2. Children and young people need well co-ordinated, coherent support across education, health and social care to help them to achieve their agreed outcomes. Local authorities and key agencies are required to co-ordinate and jointly plan services. It was acknowledged that in the past, partnership working had required improvement. However, with the introduction of the SEND Partnership Board, the group agreed that improvements were being made, there was evidence of strong partnership working and partners and Cheshire East staff were both positive and eager to work together. Further to the previous task and finish group on the SEND Reforms.

## Health Care Services

7.3. Up to age 16, children receive the 'whole package' in terms of health services. However, post 16 it becomes fragmented and there are gaps in the health service for 16 to 19 year olds when transitioning into adult care, particularly in relation to mental health and speech and language services.

7.4. Provision in Macclesfield and Crewe health services are not consistent; the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is overstretched and referrals into the system can take a significant amount of time. To try

and alleviate this pressure, the threshold for CAMHS is now too high resulting in children either 'falling through the gap' or intervention taking place too late.

- 7.5. Further to the last task and finish group report, there were still inconsistencies between Eastern Cheshire and South CCG in terms of autism diagnosis thus creating inequalities. The task and finish group acknowledged that there was a substantial amount of work being undertaken, to embed a single pathway, however, some parents can feel unsupported and unclear on the services and options available for their children in the future. Overview and scrutiny should maintain their overview role to ensure the single pathway is effectively implemented and have assurance that families understand the services available.

#### Equipment Store

- 7.6. Again further to the last task and finish group final report, throughout the review, the issue of funding and cost of equipment consistently arose. The task and finish group agreed that as specialist equipment was so expensive and there were significant budgets pressures on schools, Cheshire East should coordinate an equipment store which could be used by all schools, enabling equipment to be recycled.

#### Preparing for Adulthood

- 7.7. The task and finish group were concerned that young adults would end up in adult social care which could have been prevented if early intervention had taken place and the right services were available.
- 7.8. Preparing for adulthood is when a young person begins to think about what they want to do in the future. The Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 provide the legislative framework for transition. They both highlight the need to take an outcome based approach and promote wellbeing.
- 7.9. Each young person is different; some will receive support from social care, some may leave education at 19, some may have complex health needs. As a result of this there will be changes to the care and support they receive from education, health and care services, or involvement with new agencies such as housing, employment or further education and training.
- 7.10. Young people need to be guided down the preparing for adulthood (PfA) pathways which best meet their needs and promotes their wellbeing, employment, housing - own place, planning for good health, developing friendships, relationship and community. The Council has developed a pathway to support young people with disabilities up to the age of 25.

Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP)

- 7.11. EHCPs replace SEN Statements. A plan is a legally binding summary of the provision that is to be made for an individual aged 0-25 in response to their needs and aspirations covering education, health and social care. They are based on a single assessment process, involving all the relevant agencies, and include input from the young person who is the subject of the proposed plan, and their parent/carer.
- 7.12. During the SEND Ofsted inspection conducted in March 2018, it was highlighted that 'the annual review process is often not completed within expected timescales. As a result, many children and young people's changing needs and outcomes are not being acknowledged in a timely enough manner and required changes to provision or placement are not reflected in children and young people's EHC plans. The overwhelming majority of parents who contributed to the inspection did not believe that their children's needs were being effectively assessed and met. Due to delays in identification of needs and the subsequent failure to meet needs effectively, some families have now entered the social care system. This situation could have been avoided had their children's needs been identified sooner and the appropriate provision put in place'.
- 7.13. 'Completion of annual health checks for 14 to 25-year-olds who have learning disabilities varies between CCGs.
- 7.14. The task and finish group based on evidence from witnesses considered that the EHCP are often still not being updated to reflect the move to further education, or being coproduced. The process and conversation between partners for preparing for adulthood and transition should start earlier, so that it can be managed and the required funding be in place prior to the child starting further education. The group also felt that at this stage the expectations of parents and carers needed to be managed to ensure they are realistic.
- 7.15. Members agreed that it was not possible for SEN officers to attend all reviews, however they were tracked and checked, which was adequate. The task and finish group was pleased that annual reviews could now be completed electronically and that a parents' portal was available to track cases.
- 7.16. Members noted that post 16 previously had a learning disability assessment (LDA) rather than a statement and that although all current LDAs were converted to EHC plans these may already have ceased for those aged 19 -25. Members noted that a request for a new needs assessment can be

submitted for consideration if there is still an educational need but not all parent/cares requested this.

### SEND Ignite

7.17. SEND Ignition is an innovative project which has been established to support young people with SEND who may not have a clear preparing for adulthood pathway. It is based on the success of the Ignition project for care leavers which has won national awards. It focuses on person centred planning taking a bottom up approach which will in turn influence and develop the SEND local offer for people aged 16 and over.

7.18. Members of the task and finish group attended the first session of the SEND ignition workshop which included young people, parents/carers, health and local authorities representatives. They acknowledged that no one person, family, community, team or service can improve outcomes for young people, it takes team work and co-production of plans.

7.19. The recent SEND inspection highlighted that professionals, young people and their parents/carers are not always aware of the range of post 16 provisions available. Parents had highlighted concerns about post 16 pathways and therefore the offer needed to be developed so that young people's needs are met locally, ensuring better life outcomes, increased independence and choice and control over their support.

7.20. Preparing for adulthood is required to take place from year 9 (age 14) but there are benefits from this happening much earlier and expectations of parents and children needs to be understood. The task and finish group considered that whilst a lot of work is being undertaken to prepare children for adulthood, it is still in the early stages and often fragmented. This development work needs to continue. More work needed to be undertaken to help parents understand the transition process and manage expectations.

### Pathway to Transition

7.21. Local Authorities must carry out a transition assessment of any young person when there is significant benefit to the young person or carer in doing so, and if they are likely to have needs for care or support after turning 18. The provisions in the Care Act relating to transition to adult care and support are not only for those who are already receiving children's services, but for anyone who is likely to have needs for adult care and support, after turning 18.

7.22. The timing of this assessment will depend on when it is of significant benefit to the young person or carer. This will generally be at the point when their

needs for care and support as an adult can be predicted reasonably confidently, but will also depend on a range of other factors discussed in the section below.

7.23. The consideration of 'significant benefit' is not related to the level of a young person or carer's needs, but rather to the timing of the transition assessment. When considering whether it is of significant benefit to assess, a local authority should consider factors which may contribute to establishing the right time to assess (including but not limited to the following):

- The stage they have reached at school and any upcoming exam.
- Whether the young person or carer wishes to enter further/higher education or training.
- Whether the young person or carer wishes to get a job when they become a young adult.
- Whether the young person is planning to move out of their parental home into their own accommodation.
- Whether the young person will have care leaver status when they become 18.
- Whether the carer of a young person wishes to remain in or return to employment when the young person leaves full time education.
- The time it may take to carry out an assessment.
- The time it may take to plan and put in place the adult care and support.
- Any relevant family circumstances.

#### Outcomes of an Assessment

7.24. That a young person may have needs. This means if they have any "appearance" of any need for care and support as an adult – not just those needs that will be deemed eligible under the adult statute. Adult services should therefore carry out a transition assessment for those who are receiving children's services as they approach adulthood, so that they have information about what to expect when they become an adult. The Care Act guidance reaffirms the long standing position within adult social care legislation that the threshold for assessment is set deliberately low.

7.25. There are three possible assessment outcomes:

1. The assessment concludes that the person does not have needs for adult care and support, or
2. The assessment concludes that the person does have such needs and begins to meet some or all of them (adult services will not always meet all of a person's needs – certain needs are sometimes met by carers or other organisations, or
3. The assessment concludes that the person does have such needs but decides they are not going to meet any of those needs (for instance, because their needs do not meet the eligibility criteria under the Care Act 2014).

7.26. In order to reach such a conclusion, the Local Authority must conduct a transition assessment. Furthermore the guidance underlines the need to take a holistic account of a person's needs, and not limit them to eligible needs for care and support.

#### Pathways in Transition

7.27. For children and young people who meet the criteria of the transition team at age 16, the transition assessment is assured. The criteria for the transition team is:

- A physical and/or learning disability which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- They are likely to meet the eligibility criteria for care and support under the Care Act.

7.28. This criterion allows the transition team to work with young people with disabilities who have the potential to progress into adulthood without the need to rely further on publicly funded adult social care.

7.29. In relation to adult social care day services, the task and finish group agreed that whilst there was provision available it was not always suitable for young people. Rather than day services, parents often wanted community based services, providing a holistic package of activities suitable for young people. Members visited Wishing Well at the Jubilee Centre in Crewe, which provides a programme for supported adults including a range of clubs, activities and bespoke provision. The offer includes improving self-esteem, building confidence, communication, reducing isolation, health & wellbeing, skills for working life, skills for independent living, 1-2-1 support

& mentoring whilst having fun in an inclusive setting. Each supported adult is provided with a timetable of activities specific to their needs, all led by a suitably qualified mentor and/or supervisor.

7.30. Activities include;

- Residential;
- Community outreach;
- Domestic skills such as cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene;
- Day clubs;
- Sports and arts;
- Volunteering and skill development; and
- Employability training.

#### Supported Employment

7.31. Cheshire East Council has a supported employment team who offer support to people with disabilities to find or retain employment. As employment is a key ingredient for real social inclusion, the team support people with disabilities to gain independence through work. Those that don't trigger adult social care need a route for a work place setting.

7.32. The task and finish group visited the Supported Community Business in Crewe, which was founded in 1998 out of a desire by the founder to provide his daughter, who had special needs to have access to the same working opportunities and to experience the world of work as other people her age. She wanted to learn what it was to work, to feel a sense of achievement, earn an income, meet friends and have a sense of purpose. Failing to locate such an opportunity, the founder and co-founder created SCB (Special Needs) Limited as a not for profit organisation and a registered charity, which is endorsed by Cheshire East Council and benefits from the support of a growing number of customers. The aims of the business are:

- To establish a strong community based business with a culture of equal opportunities for all, irrespective of any disability.
- To forward equal opportunities and life enhancement for people with special needs and/or learning difficulties.

- To provide a safe environment for trainees, enabling them to acquire a better quality of life through increased confidence, higher self-esteem and a sense of being valued.
- To help people with special needs and/or learning difficulties to develop both their personal and work skills ensuring progress to reach their full potential.
- To provide support to service users families and carers through regular reports on progress.
- To show individual progress within a working environment leading to employment through the Supported Employment Scheme.
- Operate as a business resource that aims to produce a quality service at competitive rates whilst enabling each employee to work to their own capability.

7.33. The task and finish group noted that this was the only business of its kind in the borough and felt that the Council need to liaise with the business to ensure this is promoted through the local offer and to consider supporting any new businesses or new ventures of a similar nature across the borough. Some council officers appeared to be unaware of the service and therefore not promoting it as a viable option. This was in line with the findings of the Ofsted SEND Inspection which highlighted that professionals are not always aware of the range of post-16 provision available within Cheshire East.

#### Supported Internships

7.34. Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with an EHCP to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Supported internships are unpaid, and last for a minimum of six months. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Alongside their time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant substantial qualifications, if appropriate, and english and maths.

7.35. The task and finish group visited Total People in Macclesfield to learn about its supported internship programme which lasted around 2 years, the first year included work experience and the second included a work placement of at least six months. The internships are funded from a combination of educations funding, agency core funding and top up funding for the



required amount from the Councils high needs budget. The Department for Work and Pensions Access to Work fund could include a job coach and extra fares to work if the young person was unable to use public transport.

- 7.36. During the Ofsted Inspection some parents told inspectors that they had been told that Cheshire East do not provide supported internships and to go elsewhere to access routes into employment. This lack of dissemination of information must be a factor in explaining why some social care workers can be seen by parents/carers as not supporting the use of supported internships. Members were pleased to see the progress being made and overview and scrutiny will maintain a monitoring role.
- 7.37. The task and finish group considered supported internships to be invaluable for those that don't trigger adult social care and are able to work in some capacity. Members agreed that more companies should be encouraged to provide work placements. Members agreed that the Council should consider ways in which it can encourage more companies to provide appropriate work placements. The Council should consider ways to promote and expand the provision of supported internships.

#### Supported Accommodation

- 7.38. Consideration needs to be given at an early stage as to what accommodation a young person will need as they transition into adulthood, there is a need for more specialist accommodation and young people need to have a voice in determining that accommodation. Supported accommodation should be given the same consideration as affordable housing.

#### Funding

- 7.39. The task and finish group discovered that there had been significant delays in further education providers receiving funding from Cheshire East Council. This had resulted in them having to fund placements for several months which put them under financial pressure.
- 7.40. The arrangements for funding high needs pupils in schools and colleges are more complex than standard schools funding and have changed in recent years. Funding for academies and colleges can depend on the number of commissioned places from September of each year, and the SEND service undertaking due process to confirm that all the relevant young people have been included and have the correct needs. The group acknowledged that processes are fairly new. Members were concerned that there have been delays in some payments and there is a need to review of the financial

procedures and processes for post 16 payments to ensure these are made in a timely manner.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1. The Group identified a number of barriers to young people accessing the job market, which need to be considered.

Assessments are not always appropriate or timely and young people and their parents/carers were concerned that there was not always enough information supplied to allow them to make informed choices.

The Group found that there are limited opportunities for supported internships and supported employment. If the Council is actively seeking to encourage young people into work then a way to develop these services needs to be explored.

- 8.2. Young people and their parents/carers commented that EHCPs were not always completed in a timely manner and by all the relevant professionals. They also indicated that there can be gaps in healthcare during the transitioning period.

The Group found that not all young people with autism have had access to the single pathway and so their needs had not always been fully assessed. This is linked to the perceived inconsistencies in the way the different CCG's respond to and deal with the diagnosis of Autism.

Parents commented that the CAMH's service is overstretched and there is a long waiting list for appointments for young people. Parents also mentioned that sometimes their expectations are not met by the Council and Health Service providers. Though whether this is because of high parental expectations or a lack of the provision of appropriate services for young people is unclear.

- 8.3. The Group saw many examples of good practice and heard positive stories. Young people and their parents/carers spoke positively about supported internships. Similarly, there was praise for supported community activities based in Connected Community Centres. Supported employment placements were also praised by the young people and their parents/carers.

The Group felt that the Council could co-ordinate information for young people and their parents/carers about the range of options available. It also hopes the Council will investigate ways in which it could share good practice and encourage the provision for these options for young people across the County.

- 8.4. The single Autism Pathway has been commissioned but not evaluated as yet. EHCP are being co-produced and regularly updated. However, some young people do not have the necessary plans in place. Not all young people receive the appropriate advice and information at the time it is needed. Similarly, appropriate funding is available but needs are not always assessed and funding put in place in a timely manner
- 8.5. Further education providers work with the Council to provide a useful service for young people giving them the skills they need to access work. There are a limited number of private providers and voluntary organisations which give training for young people and provide community facilities. Similarly, there is a limited amount of supported accommodation for young people. The Group felt that the Council should explore ways in which these services could be developed and organisations encouraged to provide more accommodation to meet the needs of young people.

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## **FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expects to take over the period indicated above. The Plan is rolled forward every month. A key decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

"an executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

*For the purpose of the above, savings or expenditure are "significant" if they are equal to or greater than £1M."*

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents, may be viewed at any of the Council's Offices/Information Centres 5 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from, these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:

Democratic Services Team  
Cheshire East Council  
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ  
Telephone: 01270 686472

However, it is not possible to make available for viewing or to supply copies of reports or documents the publication of which is restricted due to confidentiality of the information contained.

A record of each key decision is published within 6 days of it having been made. This is open for public inspection on the Council's Website, at Council Information Centres and at Council Offices.

This Forward Plan also provides notice that the Cabinet, or a Portfolio Holder, may decide to take a decision in private, that is, with the public and press excluded from the meeting. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, 28 clear days' notice must be given of any decision to be taken in private by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder, with provision for the public to make representations as to why the decision should be taken in public. In such cases, Members of the Council and the public may make representations in writing to the

Democratic Services Team Manager using the contact details below. A further notice of intention to hold the meeting in private must then be published 5 clear days before the meeting, setting out any representations received about why the meeting should be held in public, together with a response from the Leader and the Cabinet.

The list of decisions in this Forward Plan indicates whether a decision is to be taken in private, with the reason category for the decision being taken in private being drawn from the list overleaf:

1. Information relating to an individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including to authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal and professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If you would like to make representations about any decision to be conducted in private at a meeting, please email:

Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer  
[paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Such representations must be received at least 10 clear working days before the date of the Cabinet or Portfolio Holder meeting concerned.

Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 clear day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as soon as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made. Any decision made in this way will be published in the same way.

Forward Plan

Key Decision and Private Non-Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 18/19-65 SMDA Infrastructure Procurement Strategy	<p>In accordance with the authority delegated by Cabinet to the Executive Director of Place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018:</p> <p>To procure the infrastructure, utilities and ground stabilisation works at South Macclesfield Development Area; to enter into any contracts or agreements required under the SCAPE Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework; and to utilise an NEC ECC Type C construction contract with Early Contractor Involvement.</p>	Executive Director Place	Not before 12th Jun 2019			N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 18/19-66 SMDA Infrastructure and Funding Agreement	<p>In accordance with the authority delegated by Cabinet to the Executive Director of Place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018:</p> <p>To enter into a funding agreement (infrastructure agreement) with the principal landowner in respect of the Council's landholding at South Macclesfield Development Area.</p>	Executive Director Place	Not before 12th Jun 2019			Partly exempt by virtue of paras 3 and 5.



Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 18/19-69 Acquisition of the Willows, Macclesfield	<p>In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 6, Paragraph 52 of the constitution of Cheshire East Borough Council dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019:</p> <p>To approve the acquisition of the property known as The Willows, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LF and to instruct the Council's Legal Officers to proceed to legal completion of the purchase and any related legal documentation on terms and conditions to be determined by the Assets Manager and the Director of Governance and Compliance.</p>	Executive Director Place	Not before 19th Jun 2019			Fully exempt under para 3
CE 18/19-44 Local Transport Plan	Cheshire East Council as the Local Transport Authority has a duty to produce, and keep under review, a Local Transport Plan (LTP) in accordance with the Local Transport Act 2008. Council will be asked to approve the LTP for adoption following consideration by Cabinet.	Council	17 Oct 2019		Richard Hibbert	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 18/19-51 ASDV Programme Update	To authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the recommendations made in the ASDV Review report approved by Cabinet on 12th March 2019.	Cabinet	5 Nov 2019			Fully exempt - paras 3 & 4
CE 19/20-22 Crewe Southern Link Road Bridge - Preferred Route	To seek approval for the selection of a preferred route and to continue to progress the design and development of the scheme and carry out work necessary to support a planning application.	Cabinet	5 Nov 2019		Paul Griffiths	N/A
CE 19/20-19 Supplementary Planning Document - Brooks Lane (Middlewich) Development Framework (Masterplan)	To consider representations received to the draft Brooks Lane (Middlewich) Development Framework (Masterplan) public consultation held in January and February 2019; subject to that, to approve the publication of the document as a Supplementary Planning Document.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	Not before 20th Nov 2019		Jeremy Owens	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 18/19-60 The Minerals and Waste Development Plan	To seek approval to consult on the first draft of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	November 2019		David Malcolm	N/A
CE 19/20-6 Care4CE	In connection with a strategic review of Care4CE, to seek approval to establish a wholly-owned community interest company (CiC), and to introduce new terms and conditions for new staff in the Single Legal Entity (SLE).	Cabinet	3 Dec 2019			Fully exempt - para 3
CE 19/20-20 Highway and Infrastructure Schemes up to £5M in Value	To seek approval to deliver a number of highway and infrastructure schemes valued between £1M and £5M and to authorise the officers to take all necessary actions to implement the schemes.	Cabinet	3 Dec 2019		Paul Davies	N/A
CE 18/19-54 Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan - Publication Draft Plan	To seek approval for a further six week consultation period on the Crewe Station Hub Area Action Plan.	Cabinet	3 Dec 2019		David Malcolm	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 19/20-26 Best4Business Update	To approve the revised Best4Business programme plan and associated budget impact.	Cabinet	3 Dec 2019			Part exempt - para 3
CE 19/20-27 Selective Licensing	To authorise officers to progress a two-staged approach to the implementation of a Selective Licensing scheme.	Cabinet	3 Dec 2019		Karen Carsberg, Strategic Housing and Intelligence Manager	N/A
CE 19/20-18 Review of Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21	To approve the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21.	Council	12 Dec 2019		Liz Rimmer	N/A
CE 19/20-17 Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure	To seek authority for the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste, to approve amendments to the Council's Highway Inspection Code of Practice and Adverse Weather Plan to ensure that they accord with the document ' Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure'.	Cabinet	14 Jan 2020		Paul Traynor	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 19/20-23 Crewe Hub Station - Project Development Output, Strategic Outline Business Case and Evidence Base	To approve the outputs of the Crewe Hub Station solutions stage project development work, approve the strategic outline business case for the enhanced Crewe Hub Station and its supporting evidence base and funding and financing strategy, progress the Hub station design to detailed design, and seek necessary Government commitments on funding.	Cabinet	14 Jan 2020		Hayley Kirkham	N/A
CE 19/20-28 Congleton Household Waste Recycling Centre	To consider proposals for household waste recycling provision.	Cabinet	4 Feb 2020		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	Fully exempt - para 3
CE 18/19-68 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24	To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020-24, incorporating the Council's priorities, budget, policy proposals and capital programme. The report will also include the capital, treasury management, investment and reserves strategies.	Council	20 Feb 2020		Alex Thompson, Director of Financial and Customer Services	N/A

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>	<b>Private/ Confidential and paragraph number</b>
CE 19/20-21 Site Allocations and Development Policies Document	To seek approval to submit the Publication Draft Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document, along with its supporting evidence, for public examination.	Council	20 Feb 2020		Jeremy Owens	N/A
CE 19/20-24 Municipal Waste Management Strategy 5 Year Review	To consider the updated waste strategy and authorise officers to undertake consultation and, subject to the outcome of that consultation, any necessary actions to implement the strategy.	Cabinet	10 Mar 2020		Paul Bayley	N/A
CE 19/20-25 Cheshire East Carbon Reduction Strategy	To receive the draft Carbon Strategy for the Council to achieve its carbon neutral aims by 2025 and to encourage all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint; and to authorise officers to undertake consultation and revise the strategy prior to its adoption and implementation.	Cabinet	7 Apr 2020		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A



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Version  
Number: 1

Key Decision N

Date First  
Published: N/A

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 25 November 2019

**Report Title:** Work Programme

**Senior Officer:** Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. To review items in the work programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by committee members.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. To approve the work programme, subject to the agreement to add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity.

### **3. Reason for Recommendation**

- 3.1. It is good practice to regularly review the work programme and update it as required.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1. The committee has responsibility for updating and approving its own work programme. Scrutiny liaison meetings – held between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee, alongside the portfolio holders and key senior officers – ensure that there is continued awareness and discussion of upcoming policies, strategies and decisions within the committee's remit area.

### **5. Determining Which Items Should be Added to the Work Programme**

- 5.1. When selecting potential topics, members should have regard to the Council's three year plan and to the criteria listed below, which should be considered to determine whether scrutiny activity is appropriate.

5.2. The following questions should be considered by the committee when determining whether to add new work programme items, or delete existing items:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority?
- Is the issue of key interest to the public?
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation?
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends or underspends?
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service?

5.3. The committee should not add any items to its work programme (and should delete any existing items) that fall under any one of the following:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere by another body (i.e. this committee would be duplicating work)
- The matter is sub-judice
- Scrutiny would not add value to the matter
- The committee is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within a specified or required timescale

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

6.1. There are no implications to legal or financial matters, equality, human resources, risk management, or for rural communities, children and young people or public health.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. All.

## **8. Access to Information**

8.1. The background papers can be inspected by contacting the report author.

## **9. Contact Information**

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



Name: Joel Hammond-Gant

Job Title: Scrutiny Officer

Email: joel.hammond-gant@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Date: <b>25.11.19</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: <b>27.1.20</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: <b>23.3.20</b> Time: 1.30pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields
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The Committee considers a young persons story at the start of every meeting

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Spotlight Review – Children’s Mental Health Services	To undertake a spot light review involving all relevant partners	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Scrutiny	People live well and for longer	To be rearranged for Jan – March 2020
Pre-Budget 2020/21 Consultation	To consider the areas within the Pre-Budget 2020/21 Consultation related to the remit of this committee, and to provide feedback on this to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to its 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 meeting.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre-decision scrutiny  Budget development scrutiny	A responsible, effective and efficient organisation  People live well and for longer	25.11.19

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Performance Scorecard	To scrutinise the performance scorecard	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Performance monitoring	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	25.11.19
SEND Local Offer 16-25 Year Olds (Task and Finish Group) – Final Report	To give consideration to the final report of the task and finish group.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Scrutiny	People live well and for longer	25.11.19
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2018/19	To review the annual report for 2018/19.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Performance Monitoring	People live well and for longer	25.11.19
Cheshire East All-Age Autism Strategy	To consider the strategy.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Acting Executive Director of People	Policy development	A responsible, effective and efficient organisation  People live well and for longer	25.11.19
Innovative Approaches to Children in Need Practice	To receive an update, including the FACT 22 commission ending in March 2020.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Monitoring	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.  People live	27.01.20

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
						well and for longer	
Domestic Abuse Commission	To receive an update on the impact of the new provision	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre-decision scrutiny	People live well and for longer	27.01.19 (moved from 25.11.19)
Locality Working	To review 'Together in Communities', a new way of working in localities across services, including SEND, Children's Social Care and Early Help Services.  Members to attend workshops in October / November.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Performance monitoring	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.  People live well and for longer	27.01.19 (moved from 25.11.19)
Lifelong Learning	Overview of the impact of lifelong learning.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Performance monitoring	People live well and for longer	27.01.20
SEND Written Statement of Action	To scrutinise progress against the SEND Written Statement of Action.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.  People live well and for longer.	27.01.19 (moved from 23.03.20)

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report	To consider the annual report of the LADO.	LADO	Children and Families	Acting Executive Director of People	Performance monitoring	A responsible effective and efficient organisation  People live well and for longer	27.01.20  (moved back from 25.11.19)
Family Focus and Recovery Plan	To consider the progress and improvements made in delivering the Family Focus programme in Cheshire East (the national Troubled Families Programme).	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Liaison meeting	Scrutiny	People live well and for longer	27.01.20  (moved back from 25.11.19)
Children's Home Commission	To review the changes in commission Planning officer to attend	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre decision scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.  People live well and for longer	23.03.20
Children Missing From Home	To scrutinise the reasons and work being undertaken in relation to children missing from home	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation.	23.03.20

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Portfolios</u></b>	<b><u>Suggested by</u></b>	<b><u>Scrutiny role</u></b>	<b><u>Corporate priorities</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
						People live well and for longer	
Children Not Accessing Full Time Education	To scrutinise the reasons for children not accessing full time education	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	scrutiny	People live well and for longer	23.03.19 (moved from 27.01.20)
Annual Education Report	To give consideration to the annual education report	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre decision scrutiny	People live well and for longer	23.03.20
High Needs Funding	To update the committee on progress towards a new model for how high needs funding to schools is allocated.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Committee	Pre decision scrutiny	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	23.03.20
Early Help Strategy	To update the committee on the strategy post Cabinet decision.	Acting Executive Director of People	Children and Families	Portfolio Holder	Pre decision scrutiny	People live well and for longer	TBA

**Possible Future/ desirable items**

Possible future meeting to be held at UTC, Crewe (to include a tour) – November 2019

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