

Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Children in Care Annual Report 2024-2025

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Approved by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Quality and Performance Committee 11 August 2025



Executive Summary

- This is the Children in Care (CiC) annual report for NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). The report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- This report sets out the range of activities, developments, achievements and challenges that our CiC team have been involved in across Cheshire and Merseyside and identifies key service priorities for 2025-26.
- The purpose of the report is to :
 - ✓ provide assurance in relation to the ICB's statutory duties for CiC.
 - ✓ give an overview of the progress and challenges in supporting and improving health outcomes
 - ✓ provide assurance to the ICB Board that we are meeting the statutory requirements in commissioning services to identify and meet the health needs of CiC.
 - ✓ offer assurance to our partners that NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB is meeting the statutory duty for CiC.

Key statutory guidance areas within the report include:

- Promoting the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children (DfE 2015, updated 2022)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

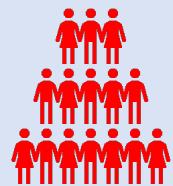
National Profile of Children in Care

Latest data published by DfE November 2024



Cheshire and Merseyside

83,630



Children in Care

70 per 10,000



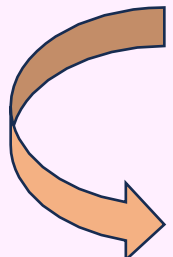
Children are in Care

7,380



Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

33,050



Children Entered Care

33,620



Children Left Care

2,980



Children were Adopted

NHS C&M Children in Care



Per Place Area as of 31 March 2025

Cheshire and Merseyside

Cheshire East



Cheshire East CiC – 550 (including 28 UASC)
CiCOLAs – 220

Cheshire West and Chester



Chester West/Chester LA CiC – 683 (including
38 UASC)
CiCOLAs 238

Halton



Halton LA CiC – 341 (including 17 UASC)
CiCOLAs – 140

Knowsley



Knowsley LA CiC – 315 (including 6 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 143

Liverpool



Liverpool LA CiC – 1422 (including 130 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 383

St Helens



St Helens LA CiC - 447 (including 16 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 135

Sefton



Sefton LA CiC - 510 (including 16 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 237

Warrington



Warrington LA CiC – 309 (including 24 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 184

Wirral

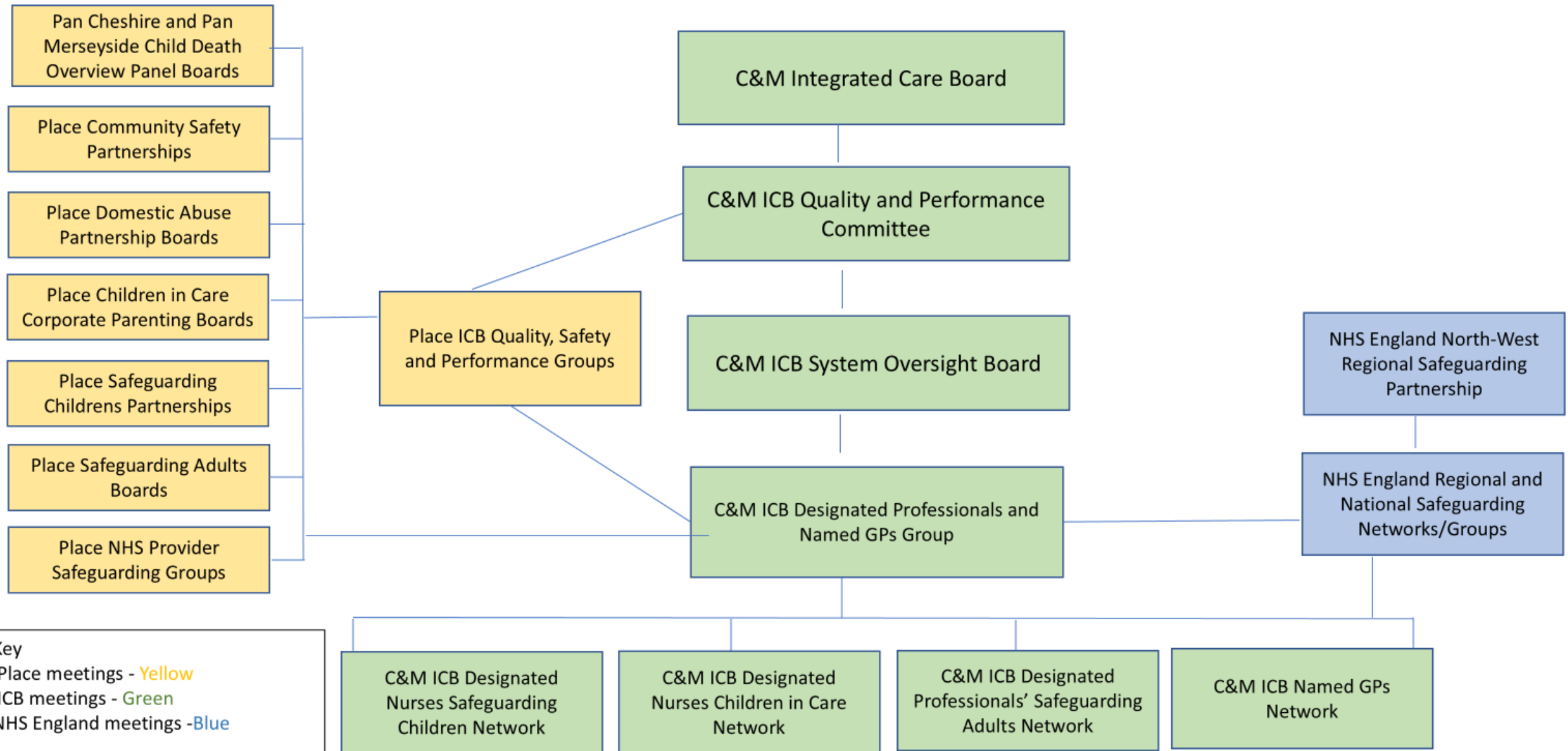


Wirral LA CiC 660 (including 11 UASC)
CiCOLAs - 333

Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Safeguarding Reporting Governance Structure



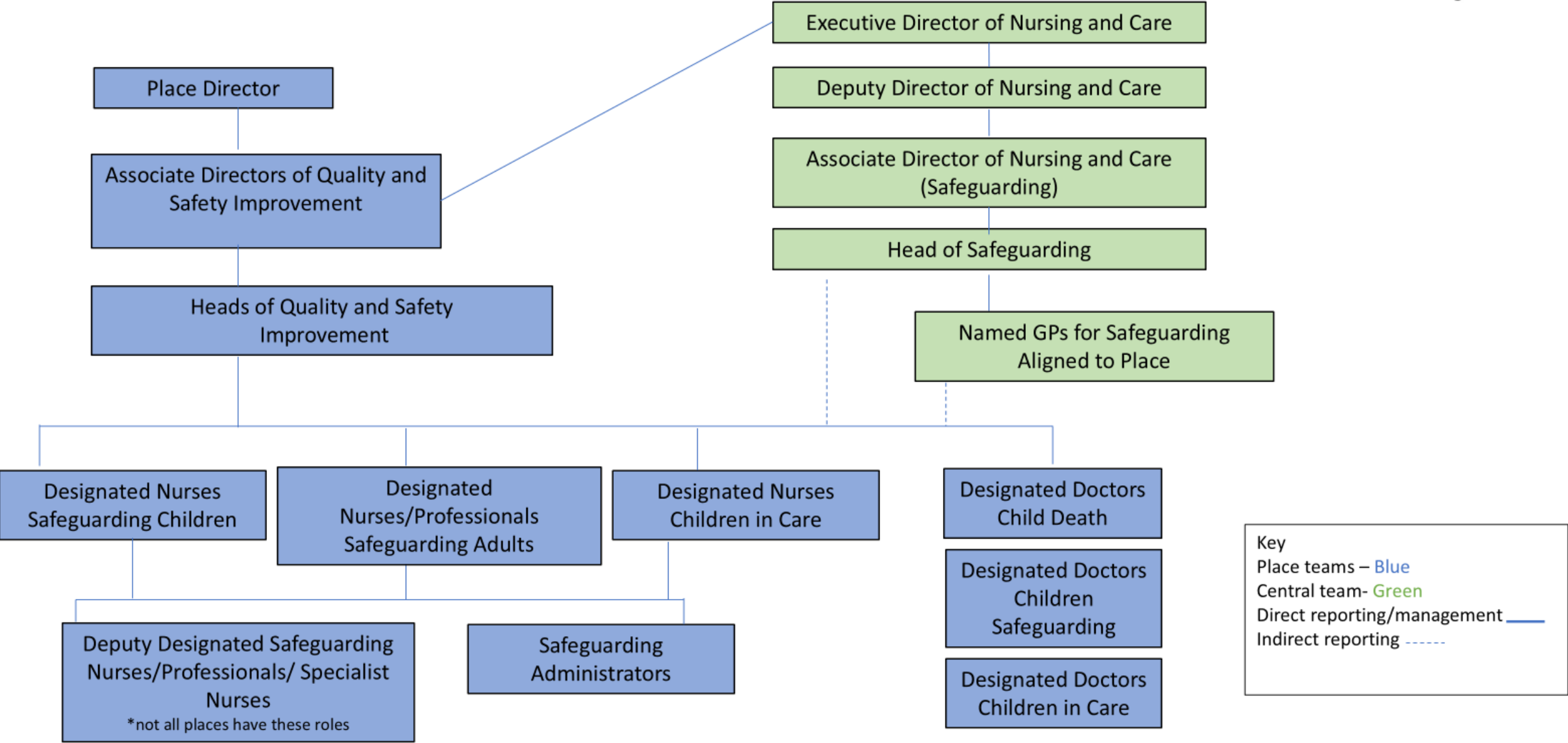
Cheshire and Merseyside



Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Safeguarding Accountability Structure



Cheshire and Merseyside



Governance and Accountability Arrangements

Overview

NHS C&M has a statutory responsibility for ensuring safe systems of care are delivered and to ensure that all health providers with whom they commission, discharge their functions regarding safeguarding and the promotion of welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. The statutory safeguarding assurance processes set out in the SAAF (2024) guides practice.

NHS C&M ICB Safeguarding Children, Children in Care and Adults at Risk Commissioning Standards provide the safeguarding audit framework used to monitor all NHS commissioned providers of health care and ensure annual safeguarding arrangements are in place to provide oversight of provider safeguarding assurance.

As clinical experts and strategic leaders, the Associate Directors for Quality and Safety Improvement, Heads of Quality and Safety Improvement, Associate Director of Safeguarding, Head of Safeguarding and the Designated Nurses and Doctors for Children in Care provide a vital source of advice for our organisation, NHS England, Local Authorities, Cheshire and Merseyside Constabularies and our Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in each of the 9 Places. They also provide advice and support for health professionals in provider organisations and are available to independent providers within the area.

The ICB team provide advice to the organisations in the health economy in relation to planning, strategy and commissioning, including advising on performance indicators and quality measures specific to children in care and are part of the Designated Professionals and Named GP Network to provide leadership, accountability, and assurance.

Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Corporate Parenting Boards

NHS C&M has maintained our statutory duties across the all 9 and Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners along with the Local Authority and the Police (Cheshire Constabulary and Merseyside Police). We continue to work together with our statutory partners and other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk across Cheshire and Merseyside

There are 9 Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships and Corporate Parenting Boards across C&M. The Director of Nursing and Care has ensured the NHS C&M statutory function for the boards during 2023/2025 has been delivered via the following arrangements:

- ❖ Our Associate Directors Quality and Safety Improvement (ADQs) in each Place has attended the Place Safeguarding Board/Partnership meetings with delegated executive responsibility from the Director of Nursing and Care.
- ❖ Our Designated Safeguarding teams in each Place attend the Corporate Parenting Boards as expert advisors. They also provide representation to facilitate and influence the subgroups of the partnerships/boards and associated workstreams to fulfill our statutory responsibilities and contribute to our integrated system safeguarding and CiC partnership work.
- ❖ As a statutory partner we contribute to each of our safeguarding partnership/boards annual reports which outline our key achievements and priorities for each of the 9 places across C&M.
- ❖ Our ICB safeguarding and quality governance routes within each Place and within our wider ICB governance ensure our continued oversight and contribution to the work of Corporate Parenting Boards is maintained.

Contribution from Designated Doctors CiC

The Designated Doctors for CiC contribute to local and regional safeguarding and CiC meetings including the Cheshire and Merseyside designated professionals CiC network.

The Designated Doctors are members of the Northwest Looked After Children medical advisors and designated doctors' group which meets to provide essential teaching, sharing of information, standardisation of processes and case discussion. The ICB is represented at the national CoramBAAF health specialist interest group by a C&M Designated Doctor, who also attends from a regional standpoint. This enables inclusion and contribution to the understanding of current health matters, the development of training, national guidelines, and government policies.

The ICB Designated Doctor team provide advice and training within the regional adoption agencies. There is also offer training for paediatric colleagues as well as social care, GPs, and other health professionals on topics pertinent to children in care. The team contribute to quality assurance for IHAs and provide a link within the individual departments to ensure that the needs of children in care are met and where appropriate prioritised.

IHA Performance – Cheshire						
Place		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
Cheshire East	CiC living in area	84% Num = 31 Den = 37	49% Num = 24 Den = 49	32% Num = 13 Den = 41	72% Num = 18 Den = 25	57% Num = 86 Den = 152
	CiC living out of area	72% Num = 8 Den = 11	0% Num = 0 Den = 9	22% Num = 4 Den = 18	30% Num = 6 Den = 20	38% Num = 18 Den = 48
	CiCOLAs	30% Num = 3 Den = 10	43% Num = 3 Den =7	20% Num = 2 Den = 10	33% Num = 1 Den = 3	30% Num = 9 Den = 30
Cheshire West	CiC living in area	54% Num = 12 Den = 22	70% Num = 22 Den = 33	76% Num = 16 Den = 21	92% Num = 15 Den =17	70% Num = 65 Den = 93
	CiC living out of area	16% Num = 4 Den = 25	56% Num = 5 Den =9	20% Num = 3 Den =15	50% Num = 2 Den = 4	26% Num = 14 Den = 53
	CiCOLAs	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	100% Num = 1 Den =1	0% Num = 0 Den = 1	100% Num = 2 Den = 2	75% Num = 3 Den =4
Halton	CiC living in area	92.9% Num = 13 Den = 14	66.7% Num = 20 Den = 30	58.3% Num = 7 Den = 12	75% Num = 6 Den = 8	72% Num = 46 Den = 64
	CiC living out of area	66.7% Num = 20 Den = 30	37.5% Num = 3 Den = 8	29.4% Num = 5 Den = 17	40% Num = 2 Den = 5	50% Num = 30 Den = 60
	CiCOLAs	100% Num = 2 Den = 2	60% Num = 3 Den = 5	40% Num = 2 Den = 5	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	58.3% Num = 7 Den = 12
Warrington	CiC living in area	90.0% Num = 9 Den = 10	82.1% Num = 23 Den = 28	58.3% Num = 7 Den = 12	92.9% Num = 13 Den = 14	81.2% Num = 52 Den = 64
	CiC living out of area	33.3% Num = 2 Den = 6	50% Num = 3 Den = 6	22% Num = 2 Den = 9	0% Num = 0 Den = 4	28% Num = 7 Den = 25
	CiCOLAs	0% Num = 0 Den = 1	50% Num = 1 Den = 2	0% Num = 0 Den = 2	0% Num = 0 Den = 2	14% Num = 1 Den = 7

IHA Performance – Merseyside						
Place		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
Liverpool	CiC living in area	81.9% Num = 59 Den = 72	83.5% Num = 76 Den = 91	83.9% Num = 47 Den = 56	77.3% Num =51 Den = 66	81.8% Num = 233 Den = 285
	CiC living out of area	13.2% Num = 5 Den = 38	15.2% Num = 5 Den = 33	41.2% Num = 7 Den = 17	41.2% Num = 7 Den = 17	22.9% Num = 24 Den = 105
	CiCOLAs	26.1% Num = 6 Den = 23	38.9% Num = 7 Den =18	30% Num = 3 Den = 10	33.3% Num = 3 Den = 9	31.7% Num = 19 Den = 60
Sefton	CiC living in area	73.9% Num = 34 Den = 46	87.9% Num = 29 Den = 33	82.4% Num = 14 Den = 17	87.5% Num = 28 Den = 32	82% Num = 105 Den = 128
	CiC living out of area	50% Num = 2 Den = 4	57.1% Num = 4 Den = 7	28.6% Num = 2 Den = 7	0% Num = 0 Den = 1	42.1% Num = 8 Den =19
	CiCOLAs	0% Num = 0 Den = 9	33.3 % Num = 3 Den = 9	80% Num = 4 Den = 5	23.1% Num = 3 Den = 13	27.8% Num = 10 Den = 36
St Helens	CiC living in area	20.5% Num = 44 Den = 9	63.3% Num = 30 Den = 19	82.1% Num = 28 Den = 23	89.3% Num = 28 Den = 25	58.4% Num = 130 Den = 76
	CiC living out of area	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	NA Num = 0 Den = 0
	CiCOLAs	0% Num = 14 Den = 0	0% Num = 4 Den = 0	40% Num = 5 Den = 2	100% Num = 5 Den = 5	25% Num = 28 Den = 7
Knowsley	CiC living in area	36.4% Num = 8 Den = 22	89% Num = 8 Den = 9	61.5% Num = 11 Den = 18	46.4% Num =13 Den = 28	52% Num = 40 Den = 77
	CiC living out of area	0% Num = 0 Den = 1	0.0% Num = 0 Den = 1	50% Num = 1 Den = 2	0% Num = 0 Den = 3	14.2 % Num = 1 Den = 7
	CiCOLAs	50% Num = 1 Den = 2	NA Num = 0 Den = 0	0% Num = 0 Den = 2	50% Num = 1 Den = 2	33.3 % Num = 2 Den = 6
Wirral	CiC living in area	8.9% Num = 56 Den = 5	8.8% Num = 34 Den = 3	19.0% Num = 21 Den = 4	52.2% Num = 23 Den = 12	17.9% Num = 134 Den = 24
	CiC living out of area	75% Num = 4 Den = 3	0% Num = 4 Den = 0	40.0% Num = 5 Den = 2	0% Num = 6 Den = 0	26.3% Num = 19 Den = 5
	CiCOLAs	0.1% Num = 4 Den = 0	0% Num = 11 Den = 0	0% Num = 7 Den = 0	0% Num = 1 Den = 0	0% Num = 23 Den = 0

RHA Performance – Cheshire						
Place		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
Cheshire East	CiC living in area	87.9% Num = 80 Den = 91	94.7% Num = 72 Den = 76	89.4% Num = 59 Den = 66	100% Num = 63 Den = 63	93% Num = 274 Den = 296
	CiC living out of area	64.8% Num = 35 Den = 54	57.4% Num = 27 Den = 47	85% Num = 34 Den = 40	66% Num = 21 Den = 32	71% Num = 123 Den = 173
	CiCOLAs	85.7% Num = 42 Den = 49	70.2% Num = 33 Den = 47	75.5% Num = 40 Den = 53	98% Num = 41 Den = 42	82% Num = 156 Den = 191
Cheshire West	CiC living in area	89% Num = 67 Den = 76	99% Num = 79 Den = 80	99% Num = 75 Den = 76	98% Num = 118 Den = 121	96% Num = 339 Den = 353
	CiC living out of area	71% Num = 43 Den = 60	85% Num = 32 Den = 38	74% Num = 37 Den = 50	81% Num = 36 Den = 44	77% Num = 148 Den = 192
	CiCOLAs	94% Num = 46 Den = 49	95% Num = 36 Den = 38	100% Num = 25 Den = 25	92% Num = 34 Den = 37	95% Num = 141 Den = 149
Halton	CiC living in area	88.9% Num = 48 Den = 54	97.4% Num = 37 Den = 38	93.8% Num = 45 Den = 48	98.7% Num = 76 Den = 77	95% Num = 206 Den = 217
	CiC living out of area	73.7% Num = 28 Den = 38	85.4% Num = 35 Den = 41	84.1% Num = 37 Den = 44	99.2% Num = 37 Den = 41	83.5% Num = 137 Den = 164
	CiCOLAs	85.3% Num = 29 Den = 34	100% Num = 17 Den = 17	100% Num = 27 Den = 27	100% Num = 28 Den = 28	95% Num = 101Den = 106
Warrington	CiC living in area	68.9% Num = 31 Den = 45	87.2% Num = 34 Den = 39	90.5% Num = 38 Den = 42	93.5% Num = 43 Den = 46	84% Num = 146 Den = 172
	CiC living out of area	55.6% Num = 20 Den = 36	78.8% Num = 26 Den = 33	84.6% Num = 22 Den = 26	85.7% Num = 24 Den = 28	74% Num = 92 Den = 123
	CiCOLAs	85% Num = 17 Den = 20	94.4% Num = 17 Den = 18	97.6% Num = 40 Den = 41	82.4% Num = 28 Den = 34	90% Num = 102 Den = 113

RHA Performance – Merseyside						
Place		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Full Year
Liverpool	CiC living in area	95.3% Num = 202 Den = 212	90.7% Num = 166 Den = 183	94.3% Num = 215 Den = 224	96.0% Num = 215 Den = 224	94.2% Num = 765 Den = 811
	CiC living out of area	68.9% Num = 102 Den = 148	83.1% Num = 75 Den = 96	78.1% Num = 75 Den = 96	84.2% Num = 139 Den = 165	78.7% Num = 429 Den = 545
	CiCOLAs	84.1% Num = 53 Den = 63	82.5% Num = 47 Den = 57	75.9% Num = 60 Den = 79	94.7% Num = 36 Den = 38	82.7% Num = 196 Den = 237
Sefton	CiC living in area	98.9% Num = 93 Den = 94	99% Num = 95 Den = 96	95.2% Num = 80 Den = 84	99% Num = 104 Den = 105	98.2% Num = 372 Den = 379
	CiC living out of area	86.7% Num = 39 Den = 45	71.1% Num = 27 Den = 38	80.6% Num = 29 Den = 36	92.7% Num = 38 Den = 41	83.1% Num = 133 Den = 160
	CiCOLAs	91.1% Num = 51 Den = 56	92.5% Num = 49 Den = 53	90.6% Num = 58 Den = 64	89.6% Num = 69 Den = 77	90.8% Num = 227 Den = 250
St Helens	CiC living in area	100% Num = 79 Den = 79	96.2% Num = 101 Den = 105	97.7% Num = 84 Den = 86	96.9% Num = 93 Den = 96	97.5% Num = 357 Den = 366
	CiC living out of area	73.3% Num = 22 Den = 30	71.4% Num = 10 Den = 14	87.1% Num = 27 Den = 31	90.5% Num = 19 Den = 21	81.2% Num = 78 Den = 96
	CiCOLAs	98.2% Num = 55 Den = 56	100% Num = 39 Den = 39	88.6% Num = 31 Den = 35	81.6% Num = 31 Den = 38	92.8% Num = 156 Den = 168
Knowsley	CiC living in area	76.4% Num = 42 Den = 55	80 % Num = 40 Den = 50	85.7% Num = 42 Den = 49	94.1% Num = 48 Den = 51	85.4 % Num = 172 Den = 205
	CiC living out of area	71.9% Num = 23 Den = 32	56.5% Num = 13 Den = 23	64.9% Num = 24 Den = 37	89.3% Num = 25 Den = 28	70.8 % Num = 85 Den = 120
	CiCOLAs	61.3% Num = 19 Den = 31	85.7% Num = 24 Den = 28	97.4% Num = 38 Den = 39	92.5% Num = 37 Den = 40	66.3 % Num = 208 Den = 138
Wirral	CiC living in area	91.9% Num = 135 Den = 124	97.5% Num = 119 Den = 116	98.8% Num = 86 Den = 85	97.4% Num = 115 Den = 112	96% Num = 455 Den = 437
	CiC living out of area	83.3% Num = 42 Den = 35	74.1% Num = 55 Den = 40	84.3% Num = 32 Den = 27	79.3% Num = 29 Den = 23	79.1% Num = 158 Den = 125
	CiCOLAs	98.1% Num = 58 Den = 53	87.5% Num = 48 Den = 43	88.6% Num = 25 Den = 21	90.1% Num = 44 Den = 40	89.7% Num = 185 Den = 166

Quality of CiC Services in 2024-25

In addition to the commissioned CiC services submitting quarterly Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data for IHAs, RHAs and other key metrics and audits (dependent on commission), the services have also submitted quarterly quality reports. These focused on:

- Achievements and challenges experienced in the quarter.
- Improving health outcomes for CiC and Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) including provision of a case study.
- How the service has consulted and engaged with CiC and CEYP.
- Priorities identified for the following quarter.
- Updates against service improvement plans if applicable.

Each quarterly KPI and quality report submission has been reviewed by the Designated Nurses at Place and detailed feedback shared with the providers to support ongoing continuous improvement of services.

Place - Key Achievements 2024-25	
Cheshire	Cheshire East In consultation with Care Experienced Young People, we have reviewed and co-designed a new care leaver health summary 'My Health Summary'. It is more visually appealing and is available in paper or electronic formats. More resources have been added for support and QR codes have been included for accessibility. Easy read and non-English speaker versions are available. Personal Advisors and semi-independent accommodation keyworkers have completed sexual health training and are now able to support young people with basic sexual health advice and access to contraception and screening. This includes several male workers, following feedback by some young people who were more comfortable having these discussions with someone of the same gender. Regular drop-ins have been set up with the specialist sexual health service at the Cheshire East Care Leaver Hubs.
	Cheshire West Cheshire West have been working with unaccompanied asylum seeking children and are delivering immunisations in accommodation supported by the immunisation nurse. The children in care nurse visits all unaccompanied asylum seeking children to offer sleep support and a bespoke review health assessment and care leaver passport has been developed for this cohort of young people. There has been a focus on substance misuse this year ensuring that all cared for children who are using substances are identified and offered support. Professionals from the substance misuse service have been attending the health workstream, a section on substance misuse has been added to the review health assessment and local authority and police colleagues are committed to ensuring that every contact matters. A standard operating procedure has been introduced between the community cared for children team and the acute safeguarding team to ensure that children who have placement moves are not disadvantaged by this in respect of hospital waiting lists. This means that cared for children are identified and actions taken to ensure that health appointments are in a timely manner. The Designated Doctor for Cared for children has continued to deliver learning sessions to professionals and foster carers on topics relating to trauma and neurodiversity which have been well received and identified.
	Halton From Q1 2024-25 the commissioned team introduced a RAG rating system for their CiC caseload. This has provided additional visits to the children and young people who have been assessed as at greater risk. This has significantly improved the offer to our children and young people. Multi agency training has been provided to the Social Work teams and the Independent Reviewing Managers to increase the knowledge and skills related to the health role with CiC.
	Warrington The CiC Nursing team hold monthly 'drop-in' sessions for care experienced young people with an increase in contacts noted with care leavers accessing health advice and support. Warrington CiC "Talk to Us" form now has the team QR code embedded to strengthen means of receiving feedback and the voice of the child/young person. The CiC team are working with Warrington's LA Care Leaver's ambassador who is facilitating contact with UASC, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, and asexual (or allies, aromantic, or agender). (LBGTQIA). Initial health Assessments - Progress has been consistent throughout 2024/25 with no IHAs being completed out of timeframe due to lack of clinic capacity during Q3 & Q4. A high compliance rate has been achieved utilising pre-IHA visits and regular meetings to ensure compliance is met. A SOP has been developed between the CiC health team and the LA CiC team. All SDQ scores of 17 are now reviewed jointly to ensure appropriate interventions and support are in place for children whose score may identify needs. The Designated Nurse leads the multi-agency health and wellbeing workstream for the Corporate Parenting Board.

Place Key achievements 2024-2025

Merseyside

Liverpool

Development of an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) specific Initial Health Assessment (IHA) documentation which includes a CYPMHS (Children and Young People Mental Health Service) screening tool. The pilot will run from 1st April to 30th June 2025. All places are aware of the pilot and if successful will be extended across NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.

All young people leaving care (In/OOA/CICOLA) now receive a Care Leaver Health Summary before their 18th birthday. The summaries are now shared with the local authority and GP with the young person's consent.

The communication pathway between the Community Provider and the Acute Trusts has been strengthened for those young people from other LAs who present at A&E or CYPMHS prior to the provider CiC team being notified of their placement in Liverpool. This improved communication has contributed to ensuring that the most appropriate team is identified to clinically support the most vulnerable of this cohort.

A fully embedded communication and escalation pathway with Out of Area Teams by the Provider CiC Team has led to a sustained improvement of RHA's completed within timeframe by the children and young people placed out of area.

Sefton

Feedback from our children via the annual surveys indicate the majority of children and young people (90+%) say they get help to stay healthy, go to the dentist regularly, know who to speak to if they have a question or worry about their health and get enough support with their emotional health and wellbeing.

There has been focused work to improve access to IHAs by extending the CAMHS transport pilot to IHAs.

A dedicated mental health pathway pilot for CEYP was introduced in November 2024.

Sefton place leadership participated in meeting with Mark Riddell (DfE advisor for CEYP) and outcome letter highlights positive improvements made by partnership since the previous visit. To note for health is feedback relating to ICB are an active member of the Corporate Parenting Board as well as positive improvements relating to establishment of a mental health pathway, free prescriptions and offer of dentistry.

St Helens

St Helens Corporate Parenting Board have positively acknowledged the sustained improvement in the completion of the IHA within statutory timescales.

The St Helens CiC team had a MCFT QRV (quality assessment visit) to assess whether the CCQ outcomes were evidenced and applied in the team. The team awarded was awarded GOOD PLUS in all domains.

Knowsley

The CiC service had their quality review (QRV) inspection during Q1. The team demonstrated their hard work and dedication to CiC and the team received an overall rating of 'Good.'

The team have strengthened partnership working, provided support, delivered training to carers and staff in the LA and created a contact and health fact sheet which is routinely shared with foster carers, external health providers, promoting and improving access to relevant local services

The Designated Nurse leads the multi-agency health and wellbeing workstream for the Corporate Parenting Board.

The CiC team have continued to fund raise participating in various charity events and securing successful bids for monies and gifts for CiC.

Wirral

Wirral CiC functions are now being provided with oversight from the Designated Nurse St Helens place with senior leadership and oversight provided by the ADQ's from both St Helens and Knowsley.

IHA compliance with statutory timescales remain low although it has fluctuated throughout the year. Overall, for 2024/2025 IHA compliance is 22.22%

Update – ICB CiC Priorities 2024-25

NHS C&M CiC Priorities 2024-25

Improve performance in relation to initial and review health assessments. Include a focused programme to drive forward improvements to initial and review health assessment performance.

- ✓ Improvements in initial health assessment performance have been made and sustained particularly in the North Mersey region during the year. Work is progressing to ensure continued improvements for children.

Evaluate the CiC Key Performance Indicators introduced in 2023-24 and revise if required for 2025-26.

- ✓ The CiC Key Performance Indicators have been evaluated, had minor revisions and have been included in provider contracts for 2025-26.

Finalise and publish NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Children in Care and Care Experience Young People Strategy.

- ✓ The draft strategy has been completed and shared with the Corporate Safeguarding Team for further progression across the partnerships.

Focus on care experienced young people across Cheshire and Merseyside including sharing learning from inspections and raising the profile of the care experienced population.

- ✓ Learning from inspections and reviews for care experienced young people has been introduced a standard agenda item on the CiC professionals networking meeting.

Work with dental commissioners to extend the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Children in Care dental referral pathway to care experienced young people.

- ✓ The dental referral pathway was extended to care experienced young people on 1 January 2025 and will remain in place until at least the end of March 2026.

ICB - CiC Priorities 2025-2026

NHS C&M Children in Care Priorities

CiC Key Performance Indicators introduced 2023-24 and reviewed for 2025-26, to be reviewed again for 2026-27.

Changes to guidance about management of health records for children who are adopted to be embedded by provider health services and assurance processes included in the next iteration of the Commissioning Standards.

Anticipated changes to the statutory guidance for promoting the health and wellbeing of CiC – changes to be reviewed and considered in relation to statutory functions, performance and requirements for the ICB and provider Trusts.