

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

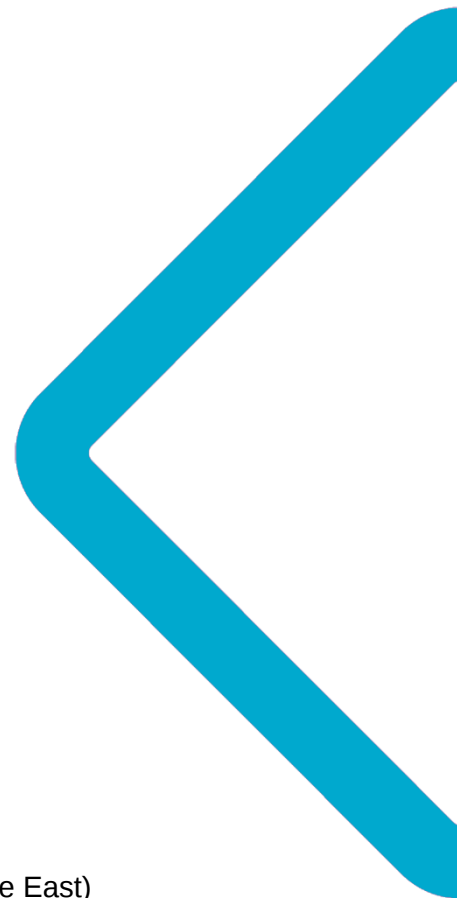
Children in Care Annual Report

2024-25

**Supplementary Report – Health Outcomes
for Cheshire East Cared for Children &
Care Experienced Young People**

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Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

Children in Care Annual Report (2024-25)

Supplementary Report – Health of Cheshire East Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People

1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1** This is a supplementary report to the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) Children in Care (CiC) annual report 2024-25 and seeks to provide further information regarding Cheshire East Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People.
- 1.2** The purpose of the report is to provide assurance in relation to the statutory duties of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB and Cheshire East Council for Cared for Children and an overview of the progress and challenges in supporting and improving their health outcomes.
- 1.3** The report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and sets out the Cheshire East performance against the mandatory health outcomes for Cared for Children comparative to the national performance and that of the closest statistical neighbours as per the Department of Education annual statistical release 'Children looked after in England' (Nov 25).
- 1.4** The report is produced in line with duties and responsibilities outlined in the 'Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and well-being of Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England' (2015).

2. Health Outcomes for Cared for Children

- 2.1** All data is summarised in Table 1.
- 2.2 Annual Health Assessments.**
92% of children underwent an annual health assessment in the previous 12 months. This is an improvement on the previous year's performance of 1% and in line with the national performance that of the closest statistical neighbour, both at 84%.
- 2.3 Immunisations**
93% of children were up-to-date with their immunisations as per the national childhood immunisation schedule. This is a reduction of 5% on the 23/24 performance, however better than the national performance of 90% and the performance of the closest statistical neighbour at 89%.
- 2.4 Dental Checks**
91% of children had their teeth checked by a dentist in the previous 12 months. This is an improvement of 4% on the previous 12 months. The national performance was 83% and the performance of the closest statistical neighbour was 79%.
- 2.5 Developmental Assessments (0-4)**

100% of children aged 0-4 were up to date with their developmental assessments as per the Healthy Child Programme. This is a sustained position on the previous year's performance and better than the national performance of 88%.

2.6 Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (5-16)

89% of children aged 5-16 had an SDQ completed in the previous 12 months. This is an improvement in performance of 16% on the previous 12 months and is above both the national performance and that of our closest statistical neighbour at 83% and 73% respectively.

2.7 Care Leaver Health Summaries

100% of care leavers turning 18 in this year, opted to receive a copy of their health summary around the time of their birthday. This is an improvement on the previous year's uptake of 97%.

Table 1: Health Outcomes for Cheshire East Cared for Children 2024-25

	Cheshire East 2024/25	England 2024/25	Statistical Neighbour 2024/25	Cheshire East 2023/24
Children who had their annual health assessment %	92% ↑	94%	94%	91%
Children who are up-to-date with their immunisations %	93% ↓	90%	89%	98%
Children who had their teeth checked by a dentist in the past 12 months %	91% ↑	83%	79%	87%
Children (0-5) who are up-to-date with the development checks	100% ↔	88%	100%	100%
% of 4-16 in care for 3 months or more with a completed SDQ score in the past 12 months.	89% ↑	83%	83%	73%
Care leavers who received a summary of their health by their 18 th birthday %	100% ↑	Not Available	Not Available	97%

3. 2023 - 24 Priorities

3.1 The Care Leaver Health Summary has been redesigned in consultation with Care Leavers. It has been renamed as 'My Health Summary' and the new version is now available in electronic and paper forms and is shared with their GP. Much more information is included in relation to where to seek help, incorporating QR codes to ensure the most-up-to-date information. Personal Advisors have received training on health summaries and are confident to have discussions with young people.

3.2 Personal Advisors and 16+ accommodation workers have undertaken sexual health training and can now provide advice and access to contraception/screening directly to young people. A number of male workers have completed the training following feedback from young people from different cultural backgrounds who felt uncomfortable having discussions about sexual health with a worker of the opposite sex/gender.

- 3.3** Work has been undertaken with Independent Reviewing Officers and Social Workers to ensure that data regarding dental reviews is recorded on the child's record as part of the cared for review process. This has led to more accurate data recording in this area.

4. Summary

- 4.1** The Cheshire and Merseyside dental access scheme will be expanded to Care Leaver for a 12-month pilot period.
- 4.2** The Health and Wellbeing Workstream will be established as a multiagency group to consider the health of cared for children. This group will report to the Corporate Parenting Executive Board. Focus areas for year one will be
- Communication
 - Meeting Health Needs
 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing
 - Separated Migrant Children
 - Substance and Alcohol Misuse

5. Summary

- 5.1** In 2024-25 there was an improved performance against statutory health outcomes for cared for children and care experienced young people in Cheshire East. With the exception of the childhood immunisations there was an improvement in performance against all indicators compared to the previous reporting year.
- 5.2** Similarly, Cheshire East performed better against most these indicators than both the England performance and that of our statistical neighbours. Most significantly was an improvement in the completion of SDQs (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire), in which performance is now better than pre-pandemic figures.
- 5.3** Improvement work has taken place around care leaver health summaries and sexual health. Dental data recording has also improved.
- 5.4** The dental access scheme will be improved to care leavers in 25/26, and a new multiagency group will be established to drive improvements in the health of Cared for Children and Care Leavers.