

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

### **REPORT TO: Children and Families Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 15 November 2011  
**Report of:** Diane Taylor, Partnerships and Planning Manager  
**Subject/Title:** **Children's Trust and Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014**

**Portfolio Holder :** Cllr Hilda Gaddum

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#### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is ensure that the Children & Family Scrutiny Board are aware of the role, plans and achievements of the Children's Trust to date, and future challenges that the Trust faces.
- 1.2 The Children's Trust would also like to share with the Children & Family Scrutiny Board the new Children and Young People's Plan which has been produced for and in consultation with Children and Young People.

#### **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 The report to be received and noted.

#### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Government removed the requirement on local authorities to set up children's trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan. However Cheshire East Children's Trust recognised the importance of strong partnership working in meeting the needs of all children. The Trust made the decision to continue to work together as an effective partnership and saw this as an opportunity to address the issues that are most important to the Children and Young People in Cheshire East with solutions that are based on local need

#### **4. Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All wards will be affected.

#### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable

#### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health**

- 6.1 The Children's Trust have recognised the links to the development of the Health and Well Being Boards. The Health and Wellbeing Board are intended to act as the 'glue' between NHS bodies, local authorities and other agencies to provide a vision and co-ordinated approach to improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Director of Finance and Business Services)**

- 7.1 There are no further financial implications.

## **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 8.1 None

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 The key risk is around partnership working and that we fail to effectively engage with partners to ensure effective service delivery which will affect users, poor reputation and damage to future engagement opportunities in relation to services provided to children, young people and their families.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 The report as presented at Appendix A provides the relevant information relating to the developments, priorities and outcomes associated with The Children's Trust and its plans.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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## **Cheshire East Children's Trust**

### **1. Purpose**

Cheshire East Children's Trust brings all partners with a role in improving outcomes for children together to agree plans and prioritise their services to improve children's well-being and to ensure services work closely together - particularly on issues where partnership working is essential to make progress.

### **2. Who are the key players?**

The Children's Trust Board is made up of senior officers from across children's services including the Local Authority, Police, Health Services, Schools, Colleges and The Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. Everyone that has a stake or interest in outcomes for children has a voice and can participate in the planning and review process, this includes parents, children and other agencies that do not sit on the main Board. The Board is Chaired currently by the Strategic Director Children, Families and Adults.

### **3. Planning ahead**

The Trust produces a joint 3 year plan known as the Children and Young People's Plan -CYPP, which is updated every year. Our plan for 2011 to 2014 has been written for children and young people. It sets out our plans to improve in three key priority areas and includes essential contact details for relevant services.

#### **3.1 How did we know what we needed to do?**

We held an event in November 2010 and used the views of children and young people and other information to present a needs analysis. Children and Young People presented this information to professionals from all agencies to help them decide our priorities.

We have produced a compact and easy to read leaflet, for children, young people and their families outlining the Trust's priorities for The Cheshire East Children and Young People's Trust's priorities are:

1. **Early Help and Intervention** (Supporting the child and families early)
2. **Emotional Health & Wellbeing** (Helping children and young people feel good about themselves and others)
3. **Safeguarding** (Ensuring children and young people feel and are kept safe)

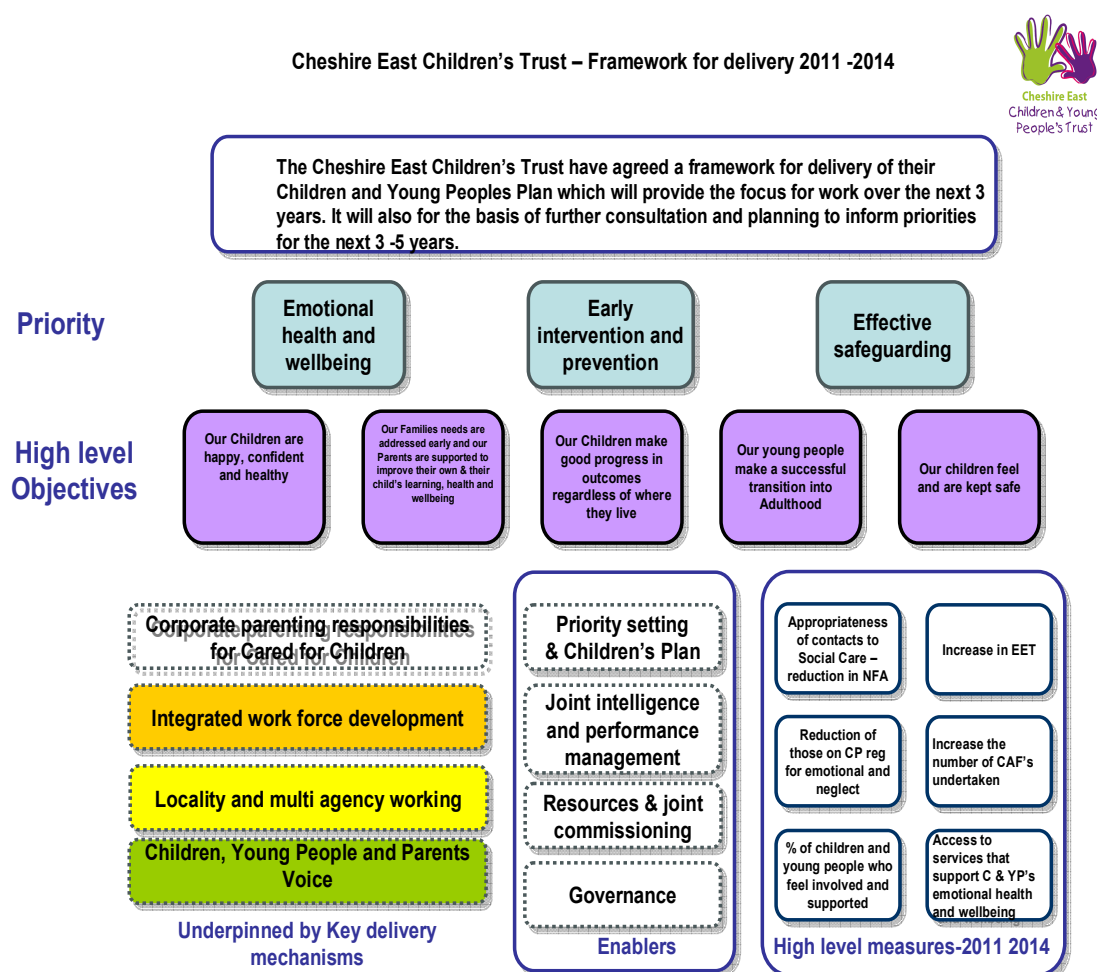
#### **3.2 Outcomes expected**

- Improved awareness, access and availability of services
- Support offered at the right time, place and to the right children, young people and families

- Feeling involved and supported
- Have confidence that they are being supported by well trained and knowledgeable professionals

“Whether children and young people have concerns are about childcare, education, health or even domestic violence – the Cheshire East Children and Young People’s Trust is there to work together to make sure Children and Young People are healthy, feel safe, can achieve their potential and are able to feel part of where they live”.

#### 4. How will we deliver our priorities?



##### 4.1 Managing our performance

Performance planning is important for the Trust to ensure we can achieve what we set out to against our 3 priorities. We have developed a framework shown above which includes high level objectives and measures which we will need to monitor as a partnership, to ensure that our day-to-day actions, milestones and workforce requirements are relevant to achieve our targets.

To ensure delivery of our priorities, we have produced a more in depth action plan which will be delivered through a sub group of the Children's Trust – The Children and Young People's Plan Delivery Group (CYPP). To make the process of developing objectives and measures easier we have used the council's template for service planning.

## **4.2 Workforce Development**

A key driver and enabler for the Children's Trust is to ensure we have the right people in the right place skilled to deliver the right services. The Integrated Workforce Strategy Group acts through the Children's Trust to implement the 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy.

Workforce development is an integral part of our plans. Its aim is to bring together the data on our workforce and combine this with the information we have about the current and future demands on your service. This will identify whether the workforce we have at present can meet the future demands being made on our services. If as is likely to be the case, there are some gaps that need addressing, the final part of the plan is an action plan which sets out over the next three years what we need to do to ensure that we have a workforce which is fit for the future.

Amongst other things the workforce plans should identify the key learning and development priorities for partners from which a learning and development plan can then be developed. This part of the performance plan will be undertaken by the Integrated Workforce Development Team.

## **4.3 Monitoring our effectiveness**

Working in partnership, it is important that we understand how each agency contributes to achieving our priorities. We will:

- Agree responsibility for actions and milestones under each Service Objective
- Report back on performance/progress plan on a quarterly basis
- Challenge others contribution and celebrate achievements
- Identify gaps in service delivery
- Identify new and get rid of old and unnecessary measures and targets for effective delivery of your service
- Identify reasons for poor or inadequate performance
- Understand contribution of own agency in achieving each objective

## **5. Achievements to date**

Over the last twelve months, the Children's Trust have worked together to:

- Develop a website which is accessible and includes links to all partners – [ChildrensTrust@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensTrust@cheshireeast.gov.uk)
- See a fall in teenage pregnancy, brought about by increased partnership approach and improved data sharing

- Integrate our approach to risk taking behaviour resulting in a 58% reduction in first time entrants to criminal justice system
- Developed a Joint commissioning strategy, enabling more effective understanding of need, joining up resources and improved efficiency.
- Established a data sharing protocol between the Council and the Primary Care Trust, which has already seen the sharing of live birth data, enabling our Children's Centres to target their services more effectively.
- Developed our Family Information Service resource directory where we have can search for the right information to suit families needs
- Provided multi agency levels of need training to around 300 professionals increasing knowledge and awareness of safeguarding and appropriate access to services for our most vulnerable children, young people and their families.
- Increased the number of agencies using a Common Assessment framework - CAF.
- Developed an integrated programme of participation and engagement for children and young people
- Produced a Children and Young Peoples Plan in consultation with and for our Children and Young People.

## **6. Future Challenges**

- Changes to NHS and Local Authority structures and accountabilities
- Financial constraints – to health, social care and the local authority
- Growing demand on services and systems – more children coming into care, unhealthy lifestyles, new technology, a move to local delivery and enhanced choice and expectations.
- Changes to the inspection of children's services
- Maintaining relationships and gaining efficiencies whilst retaining quality of provision

Diane Taylor  
October 2011