

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

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**Date of Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Report of: Tony Crane**

**Subject/Title: Cheshire East Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18**

**Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bailey**

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

This report seeks the endorsement of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2014 – 18 as the borough's "Starting Well" Plan.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

2.1 Ratify the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 18.

### **3.0 Background**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 18 has been informed by a review of the Cheshire East CYPP 11-14, an analysis of available data, and through consultation and engagement of children and young people, stakeholders and professionals.

### **4.0 Key Themes/Issues**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 sets out the key areas of focus which supports the "Starting Well" section of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, providing a focus for the collective efforts of partner agencies on a small number of key priorities which limit the life chances of children and young people in Cheshire East.

The themes of the CYPP are:

- Children and young people at risk and providing help to families early
- Healthy and resilient young people
- Young People equipped and excited to enter adulthood
- Children, young people and young adults with special education needs and disabilities
- A borough that respects children's rights

Work is underway to review our infrastructure and the performance management arrangements to ensure that we can deliver on our ambition, which gives us an opportunity to work more closely as commissioning partners.

In Cheshire East we recognise the value in understanding from young people themselves what life is like in Cheshire East and children and young people were invited, through schools, to take part in a Good Childhood Conversation which aims to gauge their quality of life perceptions against subjective wellbeing measures. This survey was conducted by the Children's Society with the aim of establishing self-reported measures to understand the variations in experience and how they impact on wider outcomes. A series of geographical based and targeted focus groups of children and young people were held across the borough to gain a deeper understanding of themes that emerged. Approximately 2,800 children took part in this survey and 800 were involved in face to face consultations on the key findings of the survey.

In line with the national findings, it is the nature and strength of children's relationships with their family, friends, school staff and local adults that has the greatest impact on well being but there are some interesting insights from young people on their experiences locally which the Health and Wellbeing Board will be particularly interested in.

The survey results indicate that:

Around 10% suggest they have low well being. This is in line with the national average.

The key differences are in age and gender. Primary age children are generally happier with life than the national average. This level of happiness drops in line with the national average as children grow older, except for girls the drop is more pronounced and takes their well being below the national average.

As with well being, life satisfaction drops as children move into adolescence, this is the case for Cheshire East as well as the national average.

In most domains boys are happier than girls, particularly at secondary level. The key difference is in how girls feel about their appearance and how much they worry about their looks. The concerns girls have about their appearance is mostly influenced by the comments and judgements they make on each other and particularly by the observations boys make about girls. Consultation suggested that boys are generally unaware or unaccepting of the way their comments affect girls and their self esteem. This is higher than the national average.

On their local area, the desire for more shops and an overall sense of safety was consistent across the authority. At primary age some children were bothered about traffic and cars, they had little sense of what a youth club was or what they offered and they wanted friendlier adults. At secondary age there was a consensus that more shops meant more places to go, there was little

interest in youth clubs and designated youth space and young people generally felt safe and unaffected by crime.

## **5. Conclusion**

The Children and Young People's Plan is the borough's collective commitment to focus on those issues that limit the life chances of children and young people in Cheshire East. Its development at this time represents an opportunity for agencies to examine how we seek new insights and innovative approaches to address some of that face particular groups of children and young people, how can we move into a new spirit of partnership collaboration in the current climate, and how we promote the inclusion of all children and young people.

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## **Appendices**

One: Outturn report of the current Cheshire East CYPP 11-14

Two: Cheshire East Good Childhood Enquiry 2014