

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 26th January 2016

Report of: Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services/Deputy Chief Executive

Subject/Title: Update on the Children and Young People's Improvement Plan

1 Report Summary

- 1.1. This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board on developments in relation to the children and young people's improvement plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report, including the revised governance model at Appendix 1, the summary improvement plan for professionals at Appendix 2 and the letter from the Minister lifting the improvement notice at Appendix 3; and
 - b) Agree the development plan for the Board set out at Appendix 4.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is the accountable body for the children and young people's improvement plan and will be kept updated on progress against the plan.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 The children and young people's improvement plan has been developed to address the areas of improvement identified by Ofsted and will need to align closely with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The Board received reports in October and November 2015 on the outcome of Ofsted's inspection of children's services and the proposed improvement plan to address Ofsted's recommendations. Members endorsed the proposal for the Health and Wellbeing Board to become the accountable body to monitor, scrutinise and challenge progress against the improvement plan.

- 5.2 To ensure that arrangements are in place to address the recommendations from Ofsted, the local authority was required to submit an action plan to the Department for Education and Ofsted by 22 December 2015. The Board endorsed the draft plan in November. However, Members felt that there needed to be clarity around the governance arrangements, particularly below the Health and Wellbeing Board, as to accountability and who the various bodies were accountable to. The amended governance information is attached at Appendix 1. This was included in the final improvement plan, which was submitted to Ofsted and DfE ahead of the deadline; a summary of the plan, developed for professionals, is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.4 On 16th December 2015 Cheshire East received a letter from Sam Gyimah, MP, confirming that the improvement notice, issued to Cheshire East on 12th September 2013, is now lifted. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 3. This means that the Improvement Board, that was the accountable body for the previous improvement plan, has been disbanded and this responsibility passes to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board will receive updates on progress against the improvement plan, with the first update planned for March 2016.
- 5.5 Very positive feedback has been received from the DfE in relation to our improvement plan. Indeed the DfE have sought the councils agreement to sharing the Cheshire East improvement plan with other LA's as a model of good practice.
- 5.6 Cheshire East is one of the first local authorities to come out of improvement since the new DfE ongoing monitoring arrangements were introduced in November this year. This means that Cheshire East will continue to receive support and supervision up until September 2016 to ensure that improvements are being sustained.
- 5.7 In affirming its commitment to become the accountable body for the improvement plan, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified the need to improve the knowledge and understanding of Board Members in relation to the areas of the improvement plan. An outline development plan is attached at Appendix 4 for endorsement by members.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 Cheshire East's Ofsted Inspection Report is available on the website <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/cheshire-east>

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

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