

LSCB Annual Report 2017-18 & Business Plan Priorities 2016-18



Foreword from the Independent Chair	3	Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people.....	15
Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board	5	Child Death Overview Panel	30
Background	5	2017-18 Annual Reports	33
The Board.....	5	Summary of reports	33
Our Collective Vision for the Children and Young People of Cheshire East	5	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	33
Governance.....	6	Key Priorities for 2018-19	40
Key Roles.....	7	Budget for 2018-19	41
Partnership Key Lead Areas	8	Risks and Issues	42
Board Membership and Attendance	8	Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Board Structure	44
Financial Arrangements 2017-18.....	8	Appendix 2: Board Membership and Attendance.....	45
Children and Young People in Cheshire East	9	Appendix 2: Financial Arrangements – 2017-18.....	46
Our Child Population.....	9	Appendix 3: Partner Contributions.	47
The Child's Journey in Cheshire East	10		
Cheshire East Consultation Service	10		
Early Help	10		
Children in Need and Child Protection	11		
Assessment timescales	11		
Children in Need	11		
Child Protection	11		
Cared for Children.....	13		
Care Leavers.....	13		
Families Achieving Change Together	13		
Emotionally Healthy Schools Programme	14		
Review of Priorities for 2017-18	14		
Improvements against the Priorities	15		
Improving CESCIB's engagement with frontline staff.....	15		

Foreword from the Independent Chair

I am pleased to present the 2017-18 Annual Report on behalf of all the agencies represented on the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board (CESCB). The reports shows that in Cheshire East we have continued to build on the strong partnership foundation to meet the many challenges facing agencies in ensuring that we are not only keeping children and young people safe but also improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

We hope that you will find that the report helps you to better understand how organisations and people work together and the contribution the Safeguarding Board has made to this. It sets out how these arrangements can continue to improve on the basis of the Safeguarding Board and partners being able to objectively and critically learn from what works well and act to improve what may not work as well as was intended.

In January 2018 we had our annual development/planning day where we reviewed the progress against the 2017-19 Business Plan; considered the effectiveness of the board and developed our vision and values to underpin the new Future Arrangements. In order to improve our effectiveness we have redesigned the way that reports are received at the board; introduced themed sessions – so that we can consider what is working well, what we need to improve and the actions that we are going to take as a partnership. The themed sessions have been scheduled in 2018-19 and include Early Help, Health Assessments for Cared for Children, Neglect and the Integrated 'Front Door'. We also reflect on our effectiveness at the end of each meeting.

As Independent Chair I am committed to ensuring our children, young people and their families have a voice and are heard. Capturing and responding to 'Voice of the Child' is a strength in Cheshire East working alongside the excellent work that is done by

the Safeguarding Children in Education Team. You can read more about the work that we have done on page 15 of this report.



We start each board meeting with partners giving a 10 minute spotlight as to how they engage with Children and Young People and the impact that is having.

Our vision for the Children in Cheshire East is:

'It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential'

You can read more about our strategic commitment and the values

that will underpin all that we do on page 5.

The continuing challenge will be maintaining the progress of the last few years, through a time of policy change and new national priorities that include changes to Safeguarding Boards; without losing sight of what matters – the safeguarding of children in Cheshire East.

This report covers 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and highlights the activity, progress and challenges faced by CESCIB with a particular focus on the journey of the child; the refresh of both the Neglect and Early Help Strategies; Fact 22 (Project Crewe) and the impact this initiative has had on engagement with families, improvements in relation to number of families being supported through early help and the reduction in size of caseloads for social workers in one of the more challenging localities in Cheshire East. We have set out the achievements made in 2017 -18 and the areas where we need to continue to make improvements.

As you read through the pages of this report you will gain an insight into the work of the Board, how we audit, review, learn and invest in partnerships with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of our children. There is no doubt that there is much to celebrate in our work, but much more that we can do. We are committed to continuous improvement and strive to improve the lives of children who are neglected or in need of early help, those who live with the toxic trio of parental domestic abuse, substance misuse or poor mental health and those who are at risk of child sexual exploitation. We are determined to tackle these issues from every possible angle, to improve practice, to better engage with children and communities and to build stronger partnerships.

To conclude, I would like to thank members of the Board, across the partnership of our voluntary, community and statutory services and all the frontline practitioners and managers for their commitment, hard work and effort in keeping children and young people safe in

Cheshire East. We will continue to seek out what we can do better, to support the community we serve and ensure that children and young people are safer as a result.

If you have any questions about the report or the information contained in it, please contact me at LSCBEast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Gill Frame, Independent Chair, Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board

Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board

Background

[Working Together, 2015](#) (WT15), the statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LCSBs) requires each area to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of the arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in their local area. In June 2018 [Working Together 2018](#) was published, this sets the same annual report expectation. This report sets out what we have done over the past year and also what we plan to do next year to make Cheshire East a safer place for children and young people.

This report is aimed at everyone involved in safeguarding children, including members of the local community as well as professionals and volunteers who work with children, young people and families.

A copy of this Annual Report will be sent to senior leaders and stakeholders in our area, including the Chief Executive of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director of Children's Services. The report will also be sent to the Health and Well-being Board, Children and Young People's Trust Board, Community Safety Partnership, Corporate Parenting Board and the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny and Overview Committee. Individual agencies will also be encouraged to present this report through their internal Boards and scrutiny arrangements.

The Board

[Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board](#) (CESCB) consists of senior representatives from agencies working with children and

young people from the local authority, schools, health, the police and others. The Board members work together to keep children and young people safe from harm.

CESCB is responsible for scrutinising the work of its partners to ensure that services provided to children and young people actually make a difference.

In order to provide effective scrutiny, CESCB is independent from other local structures and has an independent chair that holds all agencies to account. The main role of the CESCB are set out in its constitution and are to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Cheshire East.

Our Collective Vision for the Children and Young People of Cheshire East

It is the right of every child and young person in Cheshire East to enjoy a healthy and happy childhood, grow up feeling safe from abuse or neglect and thrive in an environment that enables them to fulfil their potential.

We aim to do this through our collective commitment to:

- **Strategic Leadership across the partnership** – to make the safety of children and young people a priority
- **Challenge** – through focused inquiries or investigations into particular practice or issues on the basis of evidence, practitioner experience and the views of children and young people, in order for us to improve together

- **Learning** – to achieve the highest standards of development and to ensure all practitioners have the skills and knowledge to be effective

This will include listening to the voice of children and young people and using what we hear to inform best practice.

The shared values that are at the heart of all we do and that we actively demonstrated through our behaviours and promote throughout our respective organisations:

We will:

- ❖ Actively involve children and young people and their families, as what they say will shape the way that we work;
- ❖ Listen to front line practitioners and their managers and take their views into account;
- ❖ Act in an open and transparent way and foster a culture of challenge, scrutiny and support across the partnership;
- ❖ Ensure that our staff have the skills, support and supervision to keep children and young people safe;
- ❖ Share information and intelligence that will enable us to keep our children and young people safe;
- ❖ Celebrate strengths and positive achievement. We are committed to continuously improve;
- ❖ Embed the principles of 'signs of safety' across our partnership;
- ❖ Work with other strategic partnerships in Cheshire East to ensure that our plans are aligned in order to maximise the opportunities for children and young people.

Governance

CESCB has three tiers of activity (see Appendix 1):

Main Board – this is made up of representatives of the partner agencies as set out in WT15. Board members must be sufficiently senior to ensure they are able to speak confidently and have the authority to sign up to agreements on behalf of their agency.

Executive – comprising representatives from key statutory agencies and has strategic oversight of all Board activity. The Executive takes the lead on developing and driving the implementation of the CESCB's Business Plan. It is also responsible for holding to account the work of the sub-groups and their chairs.

Sub-groups and Task and Finish Groups (Cheshire East) – these groups work on the board's priority areas on a targeted and thematic basis. They report to the Executive and are ultimately accountable to the Main Board.

Operating at March 2018 were:

Sub-groups

- Quality and Outcomes
- Audit and Case Review
- Learning and Improvement
- Safeguarding Children Operational Group
- Policy & Procedures

Task and Finish Groups

- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Early Help

Sub groups (Pan-Cheshire) – CECSB works closely with the other Cheshire LSCBs on certain areas to maximise the opportunity for streamlined processes across our boundaries. The following Pan-Cheshire sub-groups are currently in operation:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Policies and Procedures
- Youth Custody
- Child Exploitation
- Harmful Practices

Key Roles

Independent Chair – The Independent Chair for Cheshire East is Gill Frame.

The Independent Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the local authority. During 2017/18 the Acting Chief Executive of Cheshire East was **Kath O'Dwyer**. It is her role to appoint or remove the LSCB chair. The Chief Executive meets regularly with the Independent Chair through the Safeguarding Review Meeting to maintain an overview of the effectiveness of the board, to hear any safeguarding concerns and to challenge the performance of the Board.

The Director of People's Services was **Mark Palethorpe**, who holds the role of Director of Children's Services and is a member of the main Board. He had responsibility to ensure that the CESC B functions effectively and liaised closely with the Independent Chair and also attends the Safeguarding Review Meetings.

Lead Member – the Lead member for Children's Services has responsibility for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal duties to safeguard children and young people. **Cllr George Hayes** represented the Council up to the November 2017

board meeting when **Councillor Jos Saunders** took over. The Board would like to thank **Cllr George Hayes** for his contribution to the work of the Board. The Lead Member contributes to the CESC B as a 'participating observer', i.e. they take part in the discussion, but are not part of the decision making process.

Lay Member – Lukhvinder Kaur.

Children and Young People's Challenge Champions – a strength of the Board is its commitment to ensure that the voice of children and young people is a key focus of the Board. **Voice for Children** are care leavers and Members of the Board. They work with young people in Cheshire East to represent their voices on the Board. **Liam Hill** continues to carry out this role on behalf of the Board. Partner agencies are also asked to share with the Board their approaches to children and young people's participation in their service developments.

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) – CESC B links with the Health and Wellbeing Board and is held to account for key safeguarding issues for children in Cheshire East. This annual report and business plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB) - The CESAB carries out the safeguarding functions in relation to adults 18 years and over. A number of members of the CECSB also sit on CESAB.

Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) – SCEP is responsible for the commissioning of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), which are undertaken on its behalf by the CESAB. It receives reports on domestic abuse and sexual violence. SCEP is the lead partnership for

'Prevent' (the approach to tackling extremism and radicalisation) in Cheshire East and works with the other partnership boards to ensure that the Prevent strategy is being implemented across all agencies and in the community.

Partnership Key Lead Areas

Key partnerships agreed the following leads for shared priority areas:

Shared priority area	Strategic governance lead
Domestic Abuse	Cheshire East Domestic and sexual abuse partnership board (CEDSAP)
Prevent	Safe Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP)
Reducing Offending	SCEP & Youth Justice Board
Anti-social Behaviour	SCEP
Organised crime	SCEP
Hate Crime	SCEP
Child Sexual exploitation (CSE)	CESCB
Trafficking and Modern Slavery	Local Safeguarding Adults Board (CESAB)
Hate crime	CESAB
Substance misuse	Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB)
Mental Health	HWBB
Improving outcomes for children and young people	Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)

Member Agency Management Boards – CESCB members are senior officers within their own agencies providing a direct link between the CESCB and their own single agency management boards to ensure that high quality multi-agency practice is embedded.

The Participation Network is a multi-agency group that brings together engagement and participation workers across the partnership to share and develop good practice and to join up services in engaging with children and young people. The CESCB is represented on this Network.

Board Membership and Attendance

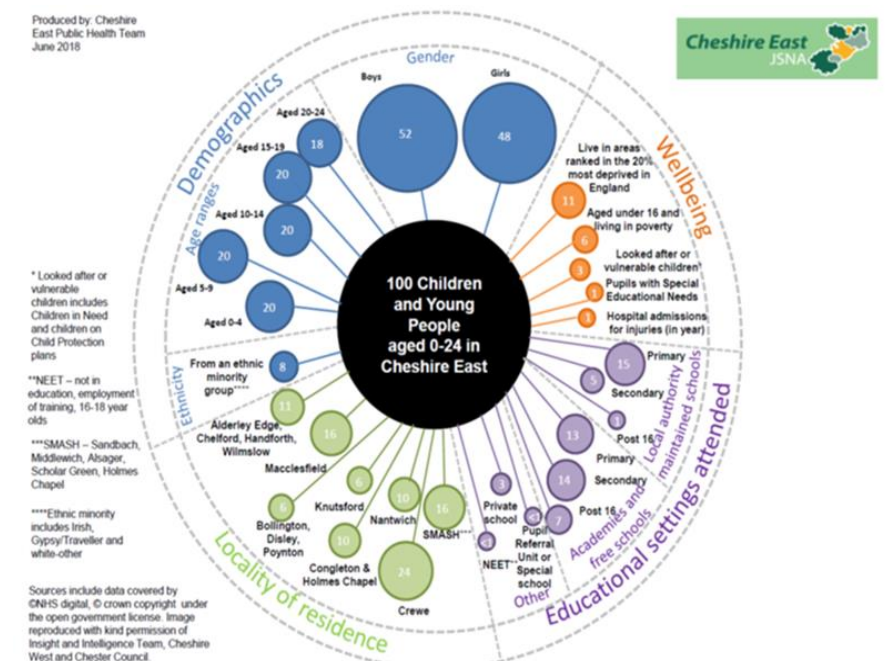
The Board is well attended by key partners. A summary of Board membership and attendance for 2017-18 is in Appendix 2.

Financial Arrangements 2017-18

The finances of the Board for 2017-18, including member contributions are at Appendices 3 and 4.

Children and Young People in Cheshire East

Produced by Cheshire East Public Health Team
June 2018



Our Child Population

Cheshire East is a generally affluent area and, for the vast majority of children and young people, it is a good place to grow up. However, there are pockets of deprivation in Cheshire East where we know that children and young people do not enjoy the same outcomes, and the gap in attainment between more vulnerable groups and their peers, although reducing, remains too great.

There are approximately 75400 children and young people under the age of 18 in Cheshire East, 51% are male and 49% are female. Children and young people make up approximately 20% of the total

population.

8.8% of primary pupils are entitled to free school meals (an indicator of deprivation), compared to 14.2% nationally and 8.4% of secondary pupils compared to 13.3% nationally.

Overall 92% of individuals are of British ethnicity. The biggest minority groups in Cheshire East are 'white other' (2.5%), Asian/Asian British (2%), and mixed/ multiple ethnicities (2.6%).

The vast majority of pupils' ethnic backgrounds are reported to be White British (87% of primary pupils and 89% of secondary pupils), albeit the ration has reduced slightly from last year

There are just under 100 different first languages recorded for primary and secondary pupils, although only 6.9% of primary pupils and 4.7% of secondary pupils have a first language other than English, compared to national figures of 21.2% and 16.6%, respectively, so although increased from last year it is at a lesser rate than the increase nationally.

The number on a child protection plan has increased from 275 on 31st March 2017 to 286 on the 31st March 2018

At any one time during 2017-18 there were between 7-11 disabled children on a child protection plan.

As at 31st March 2017, 477 children and young people were cared for by Cheshire East which is an 11% increase from last year; 21.7% of these live outside Cheshire East and more than 20 miles from home.

The Child's Journey in Cheshire East

Cheshire East Consultation Service

ChECS is the 'front door' to access services, support and advice for children, young people and their families; from early help and support through to safeguarding and child protection. All referrers are required to have a telephone discussion with a qualified social worker and are advised on the level of need for the child and family and the appropriate next steps. Co-location of the police, the multi-agency missing from home service, the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service, and domestic abuse hub within the front door arrangements at ChECS 'front door' team has been achieved through close collaboration, and is improving multi-agency responses.

	Consultation activity	No. converted to referral
2013-14	6788	2444 (36%)
2014-15	7493	2783 (37%)
2015-16	9843	3687 (37%)
2016/17	10,432	3438 (33%)
2017/18	9536	2976 (31%)

Number of consultations over the past four years that resulted in a referral to children's social care

There has been a 9% reduction in consultation activity since last year which is at similar levels to those seen in 2015-16. Conversion to referral has reduced by 2% to 31%

There has been an average of 795 consultations and 250 referrals a month over the past year.

Early Help

Prevention and Early Help Service.

Recent years has seen an increasing demand for family support services, often with the issues that families are facing becoming increasingly complex. The Early Help Brokerage Service is a service with a dedicated team whose aim is the swift allocation of early help cases. This will provide timely referrals to early help, and identification of the best service to meet the needs of the child or young person and their family.

During 2017-18 ChECS received 9536 contacts of which 2985 were passed to Early Help Brokerage Service. Overall this was 31% of ChECS contacts, and has remained fairly static since the start of EHB

CESCB will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of the front door and responses to early help in 2017-18.

The Local Authority aims to ensure that family support services are offered across a Continuum of Need with the right level of support meeting the right level of need.

The Local Authority remains committed to our Safeguarding Improvement Plan and an effective range of services are in place across the continuum to meet need. This includes:

- High quality advice and information through the Family Information Service support to our partners to engage with and deliver Signs of Wellbeing early help services, and supported access to more targeted services through CHECs and the Early Help brokerage.
- The Early Start service will deliver services in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and support families to achieve social mobility and early childhood health and ensuring localised intervention strategies between Children Centers and Maintained, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) childcare settings.

- EYFS will be embedded throughout the early year's services.
- Children Centers embed the Parent Journey consistently across all centers as the service universal offer.
- Family Support is offered across the continuum of need, and resources are aligned to need across level 2 Targeted and Level 3 Complex caseloads.
- Family Support services lead the council provision for parenting interventions.
- Supporting young people who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) to access provision post 16.

Children in Need and Child Protection

Local authority	Completed in 45 days		
	2014 -15	2015-16	2016-17
England	81%	83%	83%
North West	82%	83%	81%
Cheshire East	72%	89%	88%
Cheshire West & Chester	84%	82%	87%
Warrington	88%	81%	74%
East Riding of Yorkshire	78%	75%	74%
North Yorkshire	91%	95%	92%
Solihull	57%	83%	81%
Warwickshire	85%	84%	74%
Central Bedfordshire	97%	95%	93%
Hampshire	79%	88%	90%
West Berkshire	71%	86%	97%
North Somerset	56%	57%	62%

Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days nationally, regionally and for our statistical neighbours. 2017-18 data will not be released until October 2018.

Assessment timescales

3098 social care assessments were completed in 2017-18, 86% of these were completed within 45 day, and 1116 of these were ended following assessment with the individual not being in need of social care support.

Children in Need

A child in need (CIN) is defined as; a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without provision of services from the local authority, or he/she has a disability. As at 31st March 2018 there were 2182 open episodes as per the CIN census guidance. This compares with 2183 at the end of March 2016. This equates to a rate of 289.4 per 10,000 of the 0-17 population compared to 263.2 in 2017. Last year our statistical neighbour average was 292.5 so we sit in the mid-range of the group and we were substantially lower than the national and northwest figures of 330.4 and 372.3 respectively.

Child Protection

When the local authority receives a referral and information has been gathered during an assessment (which may have been very brief), in the course of which a concern arises that a child maybe suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, the local authority is required by Section 47 (S47) of the Children Act 1989 to make enquiries.

- The number of S47's initiated within the year was 786, a small increase of 2.5% from the previous year (767) but

substantially less than the 2014/15 figure of 914.

- The number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) undertaken in the year was 397, an increase of 13.4% from last year (350) and similar to the 2014/15 figure of 426. The percentage of S47's going onto ICPC has increased to 51% from 46% in the previous 2 years.
- The number of Child Protection Plans (CPP) started during the year was 362 which is an increase of 11% from the previous year (327), but still slightly less than 2014/15 figure of 394.
- The number of children becoming subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time has increased from 17.4% in the previous year to 17.7%.
- ICPCs taking place within 15 days has increased again to 84.3% from 80.4% in 2017/18.

Key Indicators	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
CPPs lasting 2 years or more	2.1%	5.7%	0%	0%	0.5%	1.1%
CPP for a 2 nd or subsequent time	15.1%	15.9%	13.9%	22.9%	17.4%	17.7%
CP cases reviewed within required timescales	97.9%	91.3%	89.1%	99.5%	99.0%	94.7%
ICPC within 15 days	85.4%	87.9%	41.7%	69.7%	80.4%	84.3%

Child protection numbers 2012-18

Cared for Children

Cared for children are those that are looked after by the local authority either voluntarily or through a statutory order. As at 31 March 2018, 477 children and young people were being cared for by the local authority, an increase of 11.7% from the previous year. This is higher than the Northwest average and in line with the latest available national average. For the second year regionally we are reporting a rise in cared for children so it is likely that an increase will also be reflected nationally once data is released.

- 21.7% live outside the local authority area and over 20 miles from home;
- 36 live in residential children's homes;
- 9 live in residential specialist school as at March 2018;
- 343 children and young people in foster placements; of these 141 (41.1%) live out of the local authority area;
- We also supported a number of individuals who presented as unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) with support and advice including accommodation, where appropriate.

The figures show a high number of young people live out of the area; in reality many of these live nearby but across Cheshire East's border. Extensive work is underway to ensure there are enough local foster carers in Cheshire East to ensure where possible local placements are made. 23 Children placed with a relative/friend were placed outside CE (28.8% of those placed with family/friends).

In the last 12 months a total of 146 children have ceased to be cared for by the Local Authority. Of these, 15 children have been adopted; 38 children became subject of special guardianship orders; 36 individuals have left care due to turning 18.

Cheshire East's proportion of cared for children is lower than the England average, North West average and our statistical neighbour average, and although we have increased slightly to 57, our performance is still at the lower end of our comparator group.

Care Leavers

As at 31 March 2018 there were 207 care leavers in Cheshire East. This has increased slightly over the last 12 months and is marginally higher than the 199 in March 2017.

Families Achieving Change Together

Families Achieving Change Together (FACT22 previously known as Project Crewe) has had a positive impact during 2017-18 with a reduction in referrals to children's social care of 8%. Repeat referrals have reduced from 25% to 22% and they are now in line with the national average. The overall impact has been that the average open caseload in Crewe CIN/CP has reduced from over 1000 to around 600 during the period that FACT22 has been in place. It is one of only 9 of the 50+ Round 1 Innovation Programme projects invited to take part in a longitudinal study. This follow up evaluation will track the outcomes for the families involved in the original Randomised Control Trial in order to assess sustained impact and will be a great opportunity for Catch22 and Cheshire East to showcase how their continued partnership has impacted positively on the areas children and families. Catch 22 and Cheshire East have also contributed to research conducted by Research in Practice, a national training and development resource that supports evidence informed practice with children and families. This research looks at best practice in effective Commissioner-Provider relationships when commissioning

innovative services.

Emotionally Healthy Schools Programme

Phase 2 of the Emotionally Healthy Schools (EHS) programme is now well under development with 5 components:

1. Access to specialist mental health advice (single point of access) and a brokerage model to support professionals working with Children and Young people (CYPMH Link Programme), which is now delivered by CWP;
2. Access to tools and support to schools to implement the tools (Tools for Schools) which is now delivered by Visyon;
3. Educational specialist Leadership Programme, led by Middlewich High School;
4. Systems and processes to identify and support vulnerable children and young people to thrive;
5. Development of 'Getting Advice' including on-line platform.

This programme of work is now a key element of the Cheshire East Clinical Commissioning Group Local Transformation Plan for Young People's Mental Health, which is governed via the Children and Young People's Strategy Group which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The project was highly commended in the National Local Government Chronicle awards in March 2018.

Review of Priorities for 2017-18

The following three partnership objectives underpin the key plans for children and young people; the children and young people's plan, the children and young people's improvement plan and the

CECSB business plan:

- **Frontline Practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused**
- **Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people**
- **The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East**

CECSB agreed the following priorities to deliver these objectives in 2015-17 and has committed to continuing with these through 2017/19:

We will improve frontline multi-agency practice through:

- Improving Board engagement direct with frontline staff
- Continuing to drive developments around key safeguarding areas including children at risk of Contextual Safeguarding.
- Embedding strengthening families
- Implementing our neglect strategy
- Implementing changes around the integrated front door
- Improving safeguarding arrangements for disabled children
- Improving identification and response around children and young people with mental health issues, including self-harming

We will continue to improve the participation of young people in CECSB business through:

- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is central to CECSB business
- Engaging children and young people in co-producing information and support relevant to them

- Ensuring that the CECSB celebrates children's rights and participation and the contribution of children and young people to safeguarding
- Ensuring the voice of children and young people is central to the CECSB's training programme

We will strengthen the partnerships through:

- Engaging the community through links with voluntary and faith sector
- Improving the board's role and traction in relation to developing early help

Improvements against the Priorities

Improving CESC's engagement with frontline staff

CECSB e-bulletins

CECSB has continued to publish its e-bulletin, Newsflash and Frontline Bulletin. These have covered a variety of topics including

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| • Child Death Overview Panel | • Threshold of Need Guidance |
| • Youth Justice Service Award | • Neglect case studies in Early Help cases |
| • Single Agency Reports to Conference | • Local Government Chronicle Awards |
| • PAN Cheshire Safeguarding Procedures | • November Children's Rights Month |
| • Female Genital Mutilation | • DfE child Protection Campaign |
| • Learning and Development | • Safer Internet Day |
| • Signs of Safety | |

Feedback from Board members has been that this method of communication is effective in supporting them in promoting CECSB and in disseminating safeguarding information within their services.

Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people

• Spotlight – The Voice of the Child

Board meetings now start with a partner agency sharing an example of their practice in developing participation by children and young people in their safeguarding work.

• November Children's Rights Month (NCRM)

November Children's Rights Month is an annual celebration of children's rights across the borough. CESC members took part in a range of activities including the 'takeover takeaway' developed by young people for adults to experience life for them. Within Cheshire East we worked with Cheshire East Youth Council to make it a celebration of the positive participation of Children and Young People for services within Cheshire East.

Key events include –

- Reverse takeover month is where professionals choose a challenge set by young people. The aim of the challenge is to become a young person for that chosen activity, professionals choose from a menu card and then complete an evaluation form at the end of the challenge. You can read about the challenges further in this report.

- “Hands up for children’s rights day” was the 16 November where all staff were asked to put their hands up. This year was slightly different as we asked that all staff who put their hands up also made a pledge of how they are going to make a commitment within their work to improve diversity and equality. This was a huge success and completed pledges are attached and will be sent back to teams to review as part of their development during 2018.
- National Take Over Day is where young people have the opportunity to become a professional for the day and run a specific area of business. This year four young people took over being managers and directors for the day, all young people and managers have reported back on the day later in this report.

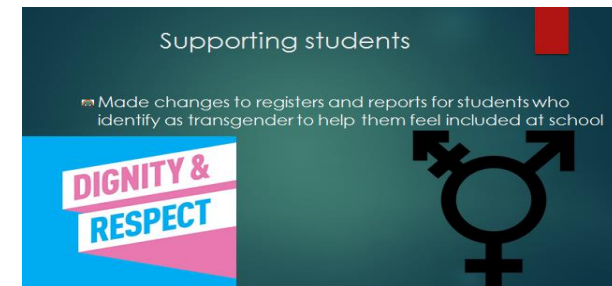
• **Act Now Conference 2017**

This event featured input from a number of schools on a range of issues



- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ ‘TWISTA’ - Eaton Bank | ➤ ‘Missing’ – Sandbach Boys School |
| ➤ ‘The Pride Youth network; a year on’ - Poynton High | ➤ ‘Child Sexual Exploitation- the radio show’ - St Thomas More |
| ➤ ‘Child to Parent Violence’ – Adelaide | ➤ Big Sisters’ – Sandbach School |
| ➤ Bullying’ - Brine Leas | ➤ ‘Sticky Situations Solved!’ - Middlewich High |

Individual Board members agreed to link with the schools and conduct a follow up visits supported by SCIES to thank them for their involvement with the Act Now conference and to be a ‘champion’ for the work they are doing going forward.



The Act Now Event generated calls for action that were presented to the Board by Liam Hill that have been integrated into the Board’s business plan.

- Improve communication and promotion of local services regarding CSE to all young people to raise awareness and understanding of CSE i.e. Deliver interactive sessions and provide information through assemblies and lessons in school, Enable young people to hear directly from people who have survived CSE
- Continue to raise awareness of both radicalisation and extremism and what action young people should take if they have concerns someone is vulnerable to this.

All members were also asked to consider their own services websites in relation to LGBT.

The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East.

- **Continuing to drive developments around Child Sexual**

Exploitation

From March 2017 until July 2018 the CSE Operational Group operated as in previous. From August it altered to be managed through the multi-agency MFH/CSE team. The new model is 2 shorter groups held, one North and one South to ensure that appropriate professionals for the geographic area are present. Four meetings were held in the previous format then 7 meetings in both South and North.

There were 26 referrals for young people at risk of CSE that were considered in 2017-2018. Of these, 22 (88%) were flagged as being at risk of CSE and for continued monitoring by the group, which is a 73% increase on 16/17. This suggests that the monitoring and scrutiny of CSE Tools provided by the Integrated MFH and CSE Team is ensuring that appropriate cases are being identified.

The referrals were from a range of agencies, schools (50%), Cheshire East Council (CEFS, Youth Prevention and Children's Social Care) (31%), Youth Justice (4%), CAMHS (4%), School Nursing (4%), A&E (4%) and Catch22 (4%). Of the school referrals, half initially had concerns identified via the police however the schools were the best placed professionals to complete a robust CSE Screening Tool to ensure an appropriate referral to the CSE Operational Group due to there being no other professionals involved. There was no identifiable common pattern and they were identified through reports to police from parents directly. There was overall improvements in quality in the screening tools that led to referrals, with some good evidence of multi-agency collaboration in completion.

Girls were 92% of those identified as at risk. This is an ongoing trend from previous years reporting. It is known through national statistics and regional North West statistics (via TITAN) that there continues to be a low number of males identified and flagged due to CSE concerns.

Young people identified were aged between 13-18 years, the majority of flagged cases (87.5%) were 13-15 and the remainder (12.5%) being 16+. Based on previous reporting periods, the youngest children have been 12; this change indicates that children aged below 13 are being escalated for Children's Social Care Intervention and not being managed at CAF Level due to the nature of concerns.

Work in these key areas is regularly reported into the CECSB to ensure focus.

- **Continuing to drive developments around children missing from home**



Most children who go missing in Cheshire East go missing once and go missing from their home. Some children go missing many times and this includes children who have moved between care and home/semi-independent living and those who are cared for.

There has been a positive and substantial reduction in the number of individuals going missing in quarter 4 of 2017/18. A total of 339 individuals were reported as missing from home in Cheshire East in 2017/18. A small element of these will also be reported in the missing from care figures as the presenting issues may have resulted in the individual being taken into care. This is a positive picture however as it is a reduction of 11% on the previous year.

- **Trafficking**

A number of victims and perpetrators of modern slavery have already been identified across our boroughs, reinforcing the sad reality that modern slavery exists here, today, just as it does in others parts of the UK.

Modern slavery involves the abuse and coercion of vulnerable people. As such, it constitutes a safeguarding issue and, learning from our work around CSE, Forced Marriage, FGM and radicalisation, agencies across Cheshire are well placed to tackle it effectively. However, it presents a great number of overlapping issues and crimes which require a strong, coherent partnership response. It is essential that all of us across the public sector recognise that protecting people from slavery and exploitation is

everybody's business, and part of our day job as professionals who work continuously to safeguard and support those at risk. The Pan-Cheshire vision will be delivered through four priorities:

1. Embed the Modern Slavery Act into mainstream activity
2. Improve awareness, understanding and identification
3. Develop a positive protection and support system for victims
4. Hold perpetrators to account and promote appropriate prosecutions

- **Continuing to drive developments around children in a home with domestic abuse**

Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (CEDSAP) undertook the following directly addressing Children and Young People's work.

1. High Risk Cases

There has been a 17% reduction in high risk/MARAC cases over the last three years and a parallel rise in early help seeking through the Domestic Abuse Hub sited alongside ChECS. 576 children have been heard at MARAC which is a decrease from the 663 last year and 782 in 2015-16.

"They gave me support. Which in my case is what I needed. My daughter needed support too. But they advised me where to go. They were in constant contact which is excellent"

2. Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)

Specialist Services (IDVA, Barnardo's and Cheshire Without Abuse) continue to be present at all initial conferences where domestic abuse is a factor, regardless of whether the case is open to services in order to broker support and advise on appropriate interventions. Domestic abuse was identified as a factor in 36% of 273 notifications sent. In addition to these a further 9% referrals were open to domestic services but had come to conference for other reasons, making a total of 45% ICPCs where domestic abuse is a factor.

"Just wanted to raise a positive piece of work undertaken by (IDVA) in an ICPC I have chaired today.

Her professional views assisted to focus professionals on the immediate risk factors for the children and mum in this family. DV is a historic and current factor and mum WILL not engage. (IDVA) was clear about her recommendation and category to ICPC, which was discussed between professionals in an appropriate and balanced way. She was able to express her professional opinion and back it with reasons. She demonstrated professional confidence. Having an IDVA present was beneficial to the development of the outline CP plan and focusing on the impact of the DV on the children."

3. Joint Working with Child in Need/Child Protection Teams

Specialist services staff now sit alongside these teams three days a week facilitating information exchange and shared planning as well as undertaking joint visits where appropriate. This has improved working relationships significantly resulting in better input and outcomes for families.

4. Training

Specialist Services deliver a wide range of training supporting workforce development to safeguard children and families:

- 4 x Level 1, Level 2 Domestic Abuse
- 6 x Parenting Challenges (Toxic Trio)
- 4 x Sexual Violence awareness
- 3 x Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse
- Hospital based delivery through Hospital IDVAs
- Responding to those who harm

"Much better informed about how services are organised in the authority and how to navigate them"

5. Priorities for 2018-19

These include:

- Recommissioning outreach, accommodation and specialist children's services and ensuring that these work in an increasingly integrated way with partners and whole families
- Embedding Signs of Safety tools and approach across the specialist sector
- Introducing eMARAC to fast track information and action to protect families at the highest risk

• Continuing to drive developments around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards across Cheshire agreed and implemented Pan-Cheshire practice guidance for FGM. This covers female children under the age of 18 and adult females including those who come under the Care Act 2014 definition of an Adult at risk.

To prevent FGM in the future, agencies need to work closer with practicing communities and foster stronger links so together we are able to break the taboo and silence surrounding the harmful practice of FGM.

- **Continuing to drive developments around Radicalisation and extremism**

The Prevent strategic work is now led by the pan-Cheshire Protecting Vulnerable People group, to ensure all agencies are kept up to date with latest developments. The OSCT have now decided to extend the original Dovetail pilot as part of a gradual rollout across the North West, rather than implementing it across the country at this stage. A Dovetail Governance Board (DGB) in the NW is in place, providing an opportunity for oversight and input from a range of stakeholders. The aim is to build the resilience of the regional hub model, and ensure that there are appropriate formal mechanisms to report and resolve challenges. Liverpool represents Cheshire and Merseyside on the DGB as host site for the C&M Hub. Cheshire East are part of a C&M Hub Working Group which are now working together to develop the new working arrangements.

Partner agencies been asked to ensure they follow the Prevent training strategy by ensuring their staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. The CECSB website has a Prevent page where information on resources and training is available.

A Channel Panel has continued to meet throughout the year to safeguard individuals at risk from being radicalised or being groomed into becoming involved in acts of violent extremism. The multi-agency Channel Panel manages risks on a 'case by case' basis through meetings. The panel is chaired by a senior manager

from the Safer Communities Partnership. The overall number of cases considered has reduced due to nationally mandated changes from summer 2017. All of the 12 cases referred to Panel in 2017/18 were males, 11 of which were under 25, and 8 of these referrals were from schools. There were no cases which included mental health concerns. 6 of the referrals were regarding extreme right wing concerns. Only 1 last year was regarding ICT use (link to change in criteria).

Each situation is assessed on its own merits and the work done will vary depending on the needs of the individual young person. The interventions completed have included: attendance on conflict/anger management courses, being assigned a mentor at school, participation in sessions with an intervention provider to address skewed thinking or entrenched distorted ideological views, being taken to a local religious centre and being mentored by religious leader, CAMMS, support from drugs and alcohol services, support applying for jobs/benefits/housing and support tracing birth parents.

- **Child Protection Case Strategy meetings**

There is an active task and finish group working on improving the quality of strategy discussions and ensuring that these are multi- agency meetings. This includes exploring the use of technology and improving systems to alert partners to a forthcoming strategy discussion.

The majority of strategy meetings now taking place are of a good quality with appropriate decision making and application of thresholds. They are well planned with multi-agency representation. There are improved systems in place to ensure

partner agencies are invited to Strategy Meetings and receive a timely copy of the minutes. The main priorities moving forward are to improve attendance of health representation at urgent strategy meetings that take place on the same day that a concern is raised and to align strategy meetings with the Signs of Safety Model.

The desired impact of this work is that strategy discussions will in the majority of cases be planned, multi-agency meetings. Although this work is not yet complete the activity from the group has already increased focus on multi-agency participation in strategy meetings across the partnership.

- **Implementing our neglect strategy**



Since the neglect strategy was launched in 2017 over 600 staff across the multi-agency partnership have been trained in the use of the Graded Care Profile 2. This is a testament to the strategic commitment of the partner agencies and a very good indication of the priority that neglect is afforded by frontline staff. In 2017/18 the:

- percentage of children subject of a child protection for neglect for more than 12 months has reduced from 22% in 2016-17 to 7%, thus indicating more effective interventions are being delivered more quickly

- percentage of children made subject of a child protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time for neglect reduced from 67% in 2016-17 to 39%
- use of the graded care profile, a tool used to assess the level of neglect, increased from less than 10% in 2016-17 to over 60%, and in the month of March 2018 all child protection case conferences considering plans for neglect were supported by a completed grade care profile
- number of children subject of a child protection plan for neglect reached a peak in quarter 2 at 175, which is evidence of better identification of neglect and a number of these children went on to be subject of court proceedings and being protected from further harm

The use of the Neglect Screening and Graded Care Profile tools needs to continue to improve and that assessment and planning is more effective in tackling neglect in a timely and effective way, so we achieve lasting change. There remains a need to strengthen the impact of early help assessment and planning so we achieve the strategic priority of preventing neglect through early help.

Recent auditing of the effectiveness of child in need and child protection planning has again identified areas for improvement and is a business plan priority. Partner agencies need to provide greater support and challenge to CiN meetings and core groups. Partner agencies either take the minutes or chair the meeting.

The recently revised JSNA for child maltreatment highlighted that we are under identifying maltreatment in young people aged 12-17. Each priority lead of the Children's Trust is linked with Members of the Young Parliament and as priority lead for feel and be safe we are working together to raise the profile and impact of

neglect amongst young people.

In 2019 a review and refresh of the 'Neglect Strategy' will be undertaken to ensure the learning and impact of the current strategy informs the next. The recently published Ofsted/CQC/HMIP JTAI Report, Growing up Neglected: a multi-agency response to older children will be used to inform the revised strategy.

The neglect strategy and campaign has been short listed for several national awards and we have received requests from a number of local authorities asking if they can use our strategy and scorecard as a template.

- **Developing our Early Help Strategy**

Having a strong early help offer is extremely important in ensuring we provide families with the support they need as soon as they need it, and we prevent problems from escalating. Serious problems can cause serious harm to children and young people in the long term, are detrimental to everyone in the family, and are more difficult to address.

A range of agencies are involved in identifying where families need additional support, and in providing early help. This strategy will support us to have a consistent and coordinated approach across the partnership, so all families can expect the same support and good quality service no matter what their needs are and where they live.



This strategy evaluates the needs of children, young people and families in Cheshire East, ensuring that our resources are targeted where they are most needed and will have the most impact.

The Strategy and action plan was endorsed by the Board for implementation in 2017-18.

- **Learning and Development**

The Learning and Development sub-group have:

- Had full engagement of relevant partners in the groups work
- Established a working party to identify the a range of methods to disseminate multi-agency learning from the two SCRs
- Developed a one page guide to screening tools and will be available on the LSCB website
- Implemented GCP 2 training, which has been supported by the sub group which is reflected in the number of practitioners who have attended training and its increased use
- Identified updates to include MAPPA and Neglect Topics for the e-learning platform
- Acknowledged that the increase in the training demand on staff complete in addition to own agency mandatory training may affect their ability to attend safeguarding training.

There is a need for ongoing support from all agencies to the learning and development department to complete post course evaluations to evidence impact of training on practice and outcomes for children.

Strengthening Partnerships

We will strengthen relationships with other key partnerships to improve the reporting, accountability and sharing of good practice

Key updates from Children's services have been scheduled on the forward plan for the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure they have strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Partnership Chairs Group has continued to meet during the year. It has been exploring cross cutting issues within Business Plans and identifying shared risks.

Performance, Scrutiny and Challenge

CESCB has a comprehensive quality assurance framework, which can be found on our website. In 2017-18 this has provided CESCB with a range of quantitative and qualitative information in relation to the effectiveness of safeguarding in Cheshire East. CESCB has strategic oversight and scrutiny of the quality of children's services and the key issues for children and young people in Cheshire East.

The Partnership Chairs Group has continued to meet during the year. It has been exploring cross cutting issues within Business Plans and identifying shared risks.

Performance

A quarterly picture, showing a clear trajectory of progress. Allowing us to set targets and evaluate our performance against our statistical neighbours

Qualitative Information

Detailed information on what is working well and areas for improvement for specific services, including what the causes of issues are.

Feedback from Children and Young People, Parents and Carers

What children, young people and their families want and is important to them, what their experience is of our services.

Feedback from Staff

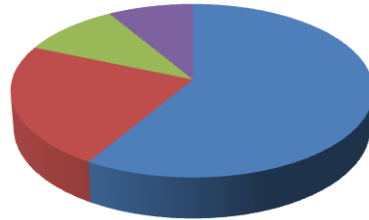
What staff know would help them to work with families, what is working well, and what could work better.

Performance Monitoring

The CESCB scorecard has covers a range of measures from all partners and has been aligned with the areas of focus for the CESCB. It provides a robust oversight of safeguarding practice across the partnership.

The CESCB Quality and Outcomes Sub Group is effectively scrutinising and challenging partnership performance and is driving improvements to partnership working.

A range of quality assurance activity supports performance monitoring. Arrangements for this are robust and support and supplement partnership performance monitoring. This includes the CECSB multi-agency audit programme.



and effective multi-agency debate and agreement on findings. Scrutinised and monitored the progress of agreed actions from audits and reflective reviews

The Audit and Case Review subgroup has:

- overseen Serious Case and Reflective reviews
- undertaken analysis of the findings over the year across all audits and reviews (3 audits, 2 reflective reviews, 4 single agency audits and 1 case review), and highlighted recurring themes to enable the Board to focus on the areas of practice it wishes to improve
- further developed the audit methodology which is much more comprehensive and inclusive with better practice based findings

Areas of challenge in 2017-18 include:

- Taking forward the learning from the Serious Case Reviews
- engagement with parents and children more about their experience as part of the audit function
- Improving the quality of multiagency decision making at CiN/CP meetings
- Merge the Audit and Case Review group with the Quality and Outcomes with a clear QA framework established to meet the new requirements under WT 2018

Multi- Agency Audits

These audits consider five different cases covering a range of ages and levels of need each time. The agencies audit their own involvement using a common tool. They all make judgements on the quality of partnership working. Agencies then came together to analysis the audits and make recommendations for improvements. The agree improvements are then tracked to completion by the Audit and Case Review Sub-Group.

Neglect

There was historical information indicating that some of these children have had identified neglect for a long time.

Strengths found	Areas of improvement within the wider system:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people are protected and were found to experience positive outcomes • In 67% of cases audited neglect was identified at an early stage with most identified at birth • Child protection plans were found to be SMART. • The new style of case conference was very rigorous and chairs were professional and gave plenty of opportunity for challenge, health visitor contribution was also excellent • Identification of risk and response was swift and appropriate <p>Good practice evidenced throughout case records across all the agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In CiN and CAF Meeting minutes, clarity is required regarding the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who records the minutes ○ Who distributes the minutes ○ And who receives the minutes. • Communication between agencies in the organising of CiN meetings sometimes lacked consistency. Attendance at meetings would be improved if communication was improved. • Child Services and Adults Services requirement for a joined up approach, both children and adult services may be offering the correct support there was still a need for better links and coordination between them. • Referrals were made to the Learning Disability team for parent's cognitive assessments to take place. There needs a better understanding of the criteria for when this specialist assessment is required and then a clear pathway for this type of assessment to be done covering the referral process, service thresholds and which agency is commissioned to undertake the assessments. • Clarity for schools and DSL's on how to escalate concerns for children who are CiN or CP with agencies when there is a disagreement with action plans.
Areas for improvement specific to Neglect:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of home conditions. There were inconsistencies in defining if home conditions were of an acceptable standard. The multi-agency meetings should provide a forum within which these judgements and the evidence informing them can be moderated. • The Graded Care Profile tool was applied two of the five cases audited; there was consensus that when it was used it was a helpful tool. • Police involvement was documented and it was agreed that the correct actions were taken however neglect was not identified on their system even though detailed recording indicated neglect. 	

Child Protection Conferences

What's going well?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were some good multi-agency assessments identified with risks and strengths well explored • ICPCs, RCPCs and Core Groups were well attended by the involved agencies • Agencies communicated well between meetings • When there was progress in a case this was clearly evidenced in Core Groups, Conferences and Assessments • Where professionals formed good relationships with parents, progress was consistent and sustained • Where there was consistency of agency representatives, plans showed good and timely progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening Tools (GCP and CSE) need to be used more effectively and consistently and evidence impact at an earlier stage. • The Core Group needs to ensure that there is a better focus on the child's lived experience and views. Better use of SOS Tools would support this work • The impact of ethnicity, race and culture needs to be considered in assessments • There should be a better use of the Core Group agenda – including a discussion on the need for the use of the contingency in each Core Group
<p data-bbox="165 627 544 659">What are we worried about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of ethnicity was not always recognised and understood • There was not consistent focus on all children within a family • Parents ability to deflect/avoid professional input was not always clearly recognised and challenged • Professional sympathy could lead to overly positive prognosis without corroborating evidence • Whilst there are some good examples of the child's views and lived experience this was not consistent and did not always inform the Plan • The choice of Child Protection Category can lead to an incorrect focus of work effort and missing crucial evidence of impact on child • Absent parents and lack of engagement from non-resident fathers is rarely challenged or their impact understood • Neglect is rarely considered to be a crime and parents are not investigated for this as a crime • Adult Services do not consistently recognise the impact on children in the family • There is insufficient consideration of contingency planning • Agencies are not consistent in their challenge during the child protection process • Of the 5 cases audited, 2 were considered to be Good, 3 Required Improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP IROs need to ensure that there is active consideration of category at each Review Conference • The impact of parental alcohol use needs to be better considered. Alcohol Audit to be used to measure this • Adult specific services need to consider impact on the child and should think <i>family</i>. Asking an adult if they have contact with a child should be a routine question • There needs to be better engagement of the absent parent and more active consideration of their role in increasing/reducing risk • Agencies to better engage vulnerable young women before they become parents • All agencies to be equally accountable within the Child Protection Plan • Agencies need to feel more confident in offering challenge to partners and professionals where there is limited progress in a case

Child Sexual Abuse

What's going well?	What are we worried about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of multi-agency working – attendance at ICPC, information sharing • All cases seem to have evidence of appropriate challenge when in the Child Protection arena • Practitioners at core groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy meetings not involving all relevant partners and minutes not being routinely shared • Length of time to source work with parents • Lack of focus of religion and culture from front door • Health records repeated difficulties in making contact with social workers, cancelled core groups. This needs a basic exchange of contact details at the outset • Updates are required on the progress of criminal investigations to core groups to inform case progress • There needs to be a greater awareness by partners of the work carried out with sex offenders to enable a greater awareness of the progress of the case • No support for the non-abusive parent • The full implementation of the Signs of Safety into supervision of practitioners. • Community safety and families when ongoing investigation, information changes and evolves so requirements will change
What do we need to do?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy meetings developments to be fully implemented. • Ensure that risk assessments are being routinely used • Consider the application of the working/ written agreements including monitoring how they are used in practice • Core groups should set as an action a request for police information when there is an ongoing criminal enquiry • Pre-birth assessment policy – review the policy, what stage to refer, interventions • Consider what information partners require to inform them of the implications of work with sexual offenders to the safeguarding of children 	

Serious Case Reviews (SCR):

This year we have had 2 Serious Case Reviews underway. These reviews were not been completed within this year due to an ongoing investigations.

Reflective Reviews:

This year the CECSB accepted the recommendations of 2 Reflective Reviews reported to it. These recommended that:

- CECSB seek assurance that the development to improve multi-

agency contributions to strategy meetings is having a positive impact.

- CECSB ensure there is Health provision at CHECS that can access health records and provide that information to the strategy meeting process.
- All handovers of a CAF needs to ensure all information is shared and the child's transition to school is pre-planned; this should include CAF being attended by the school prior to transfer and clear plan in place to include the school nurse.
- The Neglect screening tool should be completed by practitioners, with the support of their managers wherever there is a concern about potential neglect.

- CEFS Supervision of staff working with children and young people should be more robust in the monitoring of case work.
- Ensure that professionals understand that CAF home visits do not always have to be conducted by the lead professional. The plan should identify and name which professional is best placed to fulfil these tasks and set out the purposes and frequency of home visits.
- Ensure that there is a process for The Education, Health and Care Plan to be informed by the history that will be recorded within CAFs
- School recording systems for contacts with Parents and Agencies to provide an overview to the DSL.

Actions plans to address these have been implemented and progress is being overseen by the Audit and Case Review sub-group

Single Agency Audits

Child Protection Independent Reviewing Officers Audit of Child Protection reports

Auditors identified that 27% of reports were inadequate and not of sufficient quality to support effective planning and decision making for the child. Only 30% of reports were of good or outstanding quality with the remainder requiring improvement. In response to this IRO Safeguarding Chairs will look at each report provided to review conferences, the quality of the reports will be scored, themes and trends will be looked at as part of the process. Feedback will be provided to each agency about their report together with what constitutes as a good report to provide guidance on what Good looks like. As from April 2018 poor quality reports will lead to a practice alert being raised.

East Cheshire Trust Audit Activity

There were number of findings from this:

- Wards are compliant
- A&E staff should be routinely using the risk assessment
- Improved understanding required of the needs cared for children
- Clear understanding of escalation in the health context
- Maternity audit evidenced
- Lots of multi-agency communication between midwifery and other services
- Good understanding of thresholds with all women were screened appropriately for mental health, FGM screened and Domestic Abuse
- That Domestic abuse was screen at initial meeting but no evidence of that being checked again later in pregnancy

Section 11 Audits

Section 11 (4) of the Children Act 2004 requires each person or body to which the duties apply to ensure they have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Board partners have been completing their S11 audits and the findings will be reported to the board in 2018/19.

Section 175/157 Audits

Schools are in the process of completing an annual S175/157 audit, this covers all the key areas of S11; findings from this audit are reported during the autumn to the CECSB. Considerable work is being undertaken in partnership with the Local Authority

Education Department, Schools, School Representatives and the Councils IT support to improve the reporting system.

Challenge Log

The CECSB has made a number of challenges to single agencies during 2015-2016. These are collated in a challenge log that track and monitor the responses ensuring that issues are addressed.

These included raising concerns with care providers on the quality of their responses to risk taking behaviors. Action plans to improvement practice were agreed with these providers and signed off when all the actions were completed.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) oversees investigations into allegations against staff and volunteers who work with children and young people. Cheshire East's LADO sits within the Council's Safeguarding Unit. The Board oversees the work of the LADO through scrutiny of its annual report and activity reports to the Quality and Outcomes sub group.

During 2017/18 there were 231 referrals to the Cheshire East LADO, which is a reduction of 2 from 2016/17.

- Of these: 231 Referrals: 66 (28%) were categorised as Consultations; 101 (44%) as No Further Action after Initial Consideration; and 64 (28%) met the threshold for a LADO strategy meeting.

- Most referrals were from professionals working in the Education Sector (36%) which is a consistent trend and linked to the majority of referrals relating to education staff
- There were a total number of 70 contacts from education professionals of which 23 (33%) met the threshold for a LADO strategy meeting and 26 (39%) required some preliminary investigations by the employer. The amount of referrals categorised as consultations (LADO threshold clearly not met) have reduced from 50% to 28% which suggests that education professionals have an improved understanding of the LADO's role.
- There has been an increase in referrals from foster care agencies which made up 17% of the referrals meeting threshold this year as opposed to 9% last year. 73% of these referrals came from Cheshire East Fostering Service which is a 53% increase from last year.
- The referrals from social care which met threshold dropped by 13% in comparison to the previous year, however the number of total contacts from social care has only dropped by 7%. 19% of the total contacts made by social care met the threshold; this has reduced from 31% last year.
- Referrals from Cheshire Police have reduced from last year; however they are consistent with previous years. Although the police might not be the source of referrals, the LADO consulted with them on 93% of the cases where threshold was met for LADO involvement.
- Referrals from and about those working in the voluntary and faith sectors remains low and although there has been an increase in the number of referrals from voluntary organisations these were all from the Scouts Association. LADO's throughout the country have reported similarly low levels from these sectors.

The LADO has continued to ensure that allegations are managed in a timely way: 73% of referrals were concluded within 3 months and 90% within 6 months. There have been several cases which have incurred significant delay (more than 12 months) once they reach the court arena. The delay appears to be a result of judiciary capacity and beyond the involved agencies control.

Child Death Overview Panel

The death of any child is a tragedy. It is vital that all child deaths are carefully reviewed. The death of any child under the age of 18 is reviewed by a Child Death Overview Panel on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The pan-Cheshire Child Death Overview Panel is made up of a group of professionals who met on four occasions between April 2017 and March 2018. The total number of child deaths notified across the Pan Cheshire footprint was 53. The total number of child deaths reviewed by the panel during this period was 58 of which 27 were from Cheshire East.

The Panel has a role to identify any trends or themes and to make recommendations to the CECSB on learning from the reviews and how to prevent and reduce child deaths. The panel has an independent chair who provides regular updates to the CECSB and produces an annual report that summarises the key themes arising from child deaths, progress against actions and priorities for the coming year.

“as an adult social worker the training has added to my knowledge and contributed to how I undertake my practice with adults and their children.”

“The training has taught me to look for the unthinkable and to ask myself "what if I am right?" rather than "what if I am wrong?"”

CECSB Training and Development

[CECSB Learning and Development](#) continues to develop, deliver and evaluate a robust needs led multi-agency training package.

Working Well	Next Steps
<p>GCP2 training to more than 550 participants across the workforce. Completed tools are being frequently seen in case conferences and planning meetings at all levels of the continuum.</p> <p>E-Learning - range of courses are being promoted including: Introduction to Safeguarding, C.S.E, F.G.M and Extremism awareness.</p> <p>training bulletin and 7 minute briefings have supported learning opportunities on current issues</p> <p>New course developed initially for managers including Harmful Sexualised Behaviour.</p> <p>Improvements in evaluation and impact on practice data have maximised administrative time.</p> <p>Partners have offered venues free of charge.</p> <p>E-Learning modules are now available through the LSCB website.</p> <p>Continued promotion of the single agency training policy, reducing the requirement for LSCB face to face basic awareness training.</p>	<p>Work with the LSAB to support a partnership approach to learning and improvement across the sectors.</p> <p>Development of learning and improvement opportunities for managers: mental capacity and DOLs and Risk Management.</p> <p>Further development of Pan-Cheshire learning opportunities and standardisation of courses</p> <p>Review of multi-agency domestic abuse training to maximise participation.</p> <p>Work with schools safeguarding forum to obtain the views of a range of children and young people across the area.</p> <p>Single agency training standards to be further developed for C.S.E and Neglect.</p> <p>Implement 2 day Signs of Safety training to partners.</p> <p>Review of impact on practice data collection methods.</p>
Worries	
<p>Signs of Safety, training delivery to partners are programmed for 2018 onwards.</p> <p>Courses have been cancelled for the first time this year due to low numbers.</p> <p>The LSAB and LSCB are not joined up for learning and development opportunities.</p> <p>More courses need to be considered for managers across the partnership.</p> <p>The voice of the child within the training environment could be stronger.</p> <p>Single agency training needs to be further developed in light of new safeguarding processes from June 2019.</p>	

Returns for course evaluation show that:

- More than 92% of participants report an increase in knowledge, confidence and skills by the end of the course, with the same numbers stating they would recommend the course. This is a 5% improvement on last year.
- More than 92% participants value the courses and engage with change when delivering services to children.
- 93% of respondents self report that the training has positively changed or influenced practice.
- 71% of respondents identify discussion with managers following attendance on LSCB courses.
- 87% have said they have shared information with colleagues, both of these figures show an increase of 25% and more in comparison to previous years.

2017-18 Annual Reports

Summary of reports

Each partner agency is expected to meet their safeguarding responsibilities as described in the member compact and under Section 11. All agencies are expected to ensure their staff and volunteers undertake appropriate single and multi-agency training.

Partner agencies are expected to provide an annual update for scrutiny to the board, setting out any key achievements in the previous year.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Cafcass is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. It represents children in family court cases, ensuring that children's voices are heard and decisions are taken in their best interests.

The demand on the family justice system and on Cafcass services remained very high throughout the year, with rises in local caseloads varying across the country. Overall Cafcass has seen a rise in private law applications (involving arrangements for children following parental separation) and a small decrease in public law applications (involving the local authority), Cafcass is actively contributing to the Care Crisis Review, a sector-wide initiative that aims to stem the increase in care cases and promote safe and beneficial outcomes for children. We are also undertaking innovative projects that seek to improve practice promote good outcomes for children and make

better use of limited resources. An example is the three assessment pathways that we have been developing – domestic abuse; high-conflict; and parental alienation.

Cafcass' strategic priorities in 2017/18 were to:

Continue to improve our performance and the quality of our work; contribute to family justice reform and innovation; use our influence to promote knowledge and best practice; bring the uniqueness of each child (including diversity considerations) to the court's attention; be efficient and effective in light of high demand and financial constraints.

In February and March 2018 Ofsted undertook its second national inspection of Cafcass, the overall judgement was outstanding. They found practice was effective and authoritative, helping courts to make child-centered and safe decisions, adding value and leading to better outcomes for children. The overall judgement was influenced by many factors including: the exceptional corporate and operational leadership; sensitive and knowledgeable direct work undertaken with children in relation to a wide range of diversity issues; the culture of continuous learning and improvement; and a strong aspiration to 'get it right' for vulnerable children. The inspection identified some areas for Cafcass to improve relating mostly to the quality of recording and to explaining to court consistently when issues of diversity are not relevant to the application. They will be working on these in the year ahead and will continue to try to improve our services, and to contribute to family justice reform.

Impact of Partners safeguarding activity against the Board's Key Business Plan Objectives	
1. Strategic Partnership Objective Improving frontline practice	
Partner	Outcome to be achieved - Competent practitioners and consistent practice. Children and Families provided with the right level of support and intervention.
Cheshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focussed on improving front line practice with officers have undergone safeguarding training to understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and not to expect others to safeguard children. • Domestic and child abuse is a priority. There is front line supervisory scrutiny regarding the quality of investigations and action taken. There is further senior leadership scrutiny during level 1 and 2 meetings held during every day where safeguarding is the main focus. • The Public Protection Directorate (PPD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operates Pan-Cheshire providing a consistent organisational approach in the response to child protection. ○ Locally there is a consistent team with excellent working relationships with partner agencies. ○ All officers that work within the Directorate are detective accredited or are working towards that. ○ Has oversight of Child Exploitation and Missing From Home issues with dedicated officers • Officers consider early stage intervention to divert children away from crime. • Local policing teams have school liaison officers that work with children within mainstream school and home schooled.
Wirral 0-19 Cheshire East	<p>Priority given to training all frontline practitioners in eCaf and GCP2 with the target that all practitioners are trained in by September 18.</p> <p>Continued participation in Single and Multi-agency Audits. Learning incorporated into single and multi-agency training.</p> <p>All frontline practitioners attending Signs of Safety multi-agency training</p>
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with their providers to develop dashboards which reflect safeguarding standards. • Focussed on GP practice in safeguarding and on the quality of health assessments for Cared for Children. • In partnership with public health jointly commissioned a specialist nurse to work within Cheshire East Contact and Referral Service. This contributes to the timeliness of information sharing where there is a may be at risk of harm or in need of early help services. • Extended CSE nurse role to include working with children at risk of criminal exploitation • Improved information sharing processes between GPs, health professionals and our multi-agency partners, evidenced by a significant increase in the number of GPs reports provided for child protection case conferences. • Contributed to multi-agency work between health and the LA to establish timely and good quality health assessments for Cared for Children. There has been a significant improvement and the work will continue.
East Cheshire NHS Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained 80% training compliance target for all levels. There were national difficulties with the level 2 E learning package and an interim local solution was developed and implemented.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A "Think Family" approach is being promoted throughout the Trust and triggers for referral to children's safeguarding team have been developed and cascaded to staff working within adult focused areas. • Formal quarterly supervision is provided to Midwives, Specialist Nurses and the Sexual Health Teams. • The Named Safeguarding Doctor/Nurse provides regular peer review to medical staff. The Named Doctor, Nurse and Midwife receive quarterly supervision from the Designated Doctor/Nurse.
Reaseheath	Ofsted care standards inspection during the year confirmed by grading outstanding that Reaseheath has competent and consistent practice and their young and vulnerable are provided with excellent support.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCiES, CEASH, eCAPH and the DSLs liaise and communicate with their teams to ensure frontline practitioners are informed and supported. • Safeguarding is a standing item on CEASH and eCAPH agendas. Newsletters etc. are circulated to Headteachers and DSLs by SCiES, CEASH and eCAPH
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>CESCB endorsed and began implementing a single operating model across the levels of need, Signs of Safety; this will underpin good practice with families and consistency in children and family experience. There has been good strategic engagement across the partner agencies. Alongside this there has been a focus on audit shifting to reflect the quality of practice at the frontline. There is evidence that this is having a positive impact but CSC recognise there is still further work to do.</p> <p>CSC has also focussed on ensuring children achieve positive outcomes in a timescale that meets their needs to be safeguarded and achieve permanency. There is clear evidence of fewer children on a child protection plan over 15 months and a reduction in repeat child protection plans.</p>
National Probation Service (NPS)	<p>Completed two audits, one of frontline practice with officers responsible for the supervision of custodial and community sentences. A safeguarding children workshop was developed to cover improvements related to NPS Policy requirements, as well as strengthening understanding of CESCB procedures.</p> <p>NPS identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each local team to promote and drive improvements.</p>
2. Strategic Partnership Objective - Listening to children and young people	
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Children's views are strongly represented.
Cheshire Police	<p>The 'voice of the child' is understood by officer. Not just what the child says but what the child is experiencing.</p> <p>There are officers in dedicated roles regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, School Liaison and MFH co-ordinators. Officer's focused on representing the views of the child and ensure that colleagues are effectively safeguarding children.</p> <p>There are procedures for officers to speak to children to record that. Officers will utilise visually recorded evidence in line achieving best evidence. The child's views are taken into consideration when making decision on how we proceed.</p> <p>If cases progress to court then the police will support the child/children through the process.</p>
Wirral	School Nurse Health assessments completed with vulnerable children and Young people now include wishes and feelings.

0-19 Cheshire East	Involvement in multi-agency and single participation events and processes.
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	CCGs have strengthened its approach to listening to children and representing their views on services and redesign of services. They have approached children participation groups and worked with other agencies to establish a network of young people who can provide a voice.
East Cheshire NHS Trust	<p>Paediatric services have listened to the child's wishes and feelings about their situation now as well as plans and hopes for the future; Providing them with honest and accurate information about the current situation and future possible actions and interventions; involved the child in key decision-making processes; Providing appropriate information about their right to protection and assistance; invited them to make recommendations about the services and assistance they need and/or are available to them; Ensuring they have access to independent advice and support (for example, through advocates) to be able to express their views and influence decision-making and considering with them, issues arising in relation to identity, diversity, culture, faith, sexual orientation language, disability, low confidence and trust.</p> <p>Specific examples of work include 'The Feedback/Wishes Tree' on display in the Paediatric ward. Children are encouraged to 'plant the seed' - their ideas on how we can to improve their experiences in hospital. Staff then update the tree with how they have implemented the children's idea's.</p> <p>Specific feedback from the survey of 8-16 year olds included: Trust's values not being displayed in a child friendly way, wanting changes/improvements to the food available, updated décor and curtains on the ward and more variety of what activities are available for them during their stay – these were then actioned by staff.</p>
Reaseheath	The reaccréditation of the Matrix Standard confirms the college's learner voice is very well represented.
Education	The voice of the child is at the forefront of practice in education; including students in interview panels, ensuring children are able to express their views at case conferences, students completing surveys on a range of issues that may affect them (mental health, emotional well-being, stress et al; both positive and areas for improvement views sought) and participating in group work at cross phase conferences on particular issues (bullying, homophobia, racism, gender equality et al).
Children's Social Care	CSC have a strong focus on ensuring that children's lived experience is evident, and there are examples of excellent child focused work, particularly for children in CP Plans and C4C. However CSC recognise they want greater consistency and strong evidence that the information has always informed the plan for the child and been revisited as change occurs. There are also good examples of how children have led work (e.g. chairing their statutory reviews) and how they have informed strategic development (e.g. the Local Offer for Cared for Children and Care leavers, and the animation about CP Conferences). CSC have also invested in the provision of direct work tools for frontline staff. There is evidence that these are being used to improve the quality of direct work.

National Probation Service	<p>Voice of the child is a standing item on the MAPPA Agenda; chairs are required to consider the voice of the child in individual case decision making.</p> <p>NPS offender assessments capture details of children at risk; NPS are also required to identify children at the point of sentence. They are completing work to raise the profile of recording children's information and the impact of their parent receiving a custodial sentence.</p> <p>NPS have rolled out a nationally developed neglect toolkit and will support practitioners operating in an adult facing environment to recognise the features of neglect.</p> <p>There is a home visiting protocol and guidance about how to record any direct contact with Children.</p>
3. Strategic Partnership Objective Strengthening partnerships	
Partners	Outcome to be achieved - Strong safeguarding culture across the system, effective scrutiny, and challenge and evidence of improved outcomes
Cheshire Police	<p>Processes are in place to scrutinise officer's actions. Their actions are updated on police systems. Incidents are reviewed by the Force control room and local supervision.</p> <p>The Police have improved the recording of crime in line with the Nation Crime Recording Standards. Crimes/investigations are then reviewed by supervision prior to closure. There is clear direction endorsed on investigations which are reviewed at specific periodical times to ensure there is progress and that safeguarding is being addressed to improve outcomes.</p>
Wirral 0-19 Cheshire East	<p>Named Nurse is the chair of the CESCIB Learning and Improvement subgroup and worked on the development of multi-agency blended learning alongside the CESCIB Learning and Development Manager.</p> <p>Health lead for developing strategy meeting pathway</p> <p>Nurse Specialist in the Integrated Front door is establishing partnership working and attending meetings with colleagues to build relationships between agencies and this service.</p>
Eastern and South Cheshire CCGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have contributed to partnership working through the Health and Well-Being Board, the CESCIB Board and its sub groups. • worked with LA commissioners to develop joint safeguarding standards and quality assurance processes for providers; strengthened links to the Corporate Parenting Board and worked jointly with the LA to improve the timeliness and quality of initial health assessments for Cared for Children. • worked with the Police and LA to develop new local safeguarding arrangements in Cheshire East and the LA to develop new CDOP arrangements across the Pan Cheshire footprint.
East Cheshire	Trust has worked closely with the two CSC teams to improve the early help offer to parents. The Named Midwife for Safeguarding is the nominated Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Champion for the Trust and has worked with partner agencies to update the

NHS Trust	<p>CAF training and to deliver it to multi-agency teams. CAF is included in safeguarding level 3 training. Named Midwife also represents the Trust at the Early Help subgroup. To support the launch of the CESC Neglect strategy neglect training has been delivered at level 3 by the Safeguarding team to staff about the recognition and management of neglect. This training has included SMART planning and the use of the Neglect Tool and the Graded Care assessment tool. The use of these tools has been actively promoted to health practitioners through supervision. The use of Tools to support referrals made to CSC will be monitored quarterly via the Safeguarding Children Dashboard.</p> <p>The CSE Nurse Specialist represents the Trust at the Children Missing from Home and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub group operational meetings for the management of Child Sexual Exploitation. Level 3 training this year has included the learning from the Brookes CSE SCR 2015 and Trafficking and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.</p> <p>Trust hosted the CSE Nurse Specialist role for East Cheshire, this post is now in the process of being TUPED to the Wirral Community Trust. The Specialist Nurse is co-located and works as part of the multi-agency integrated team to deliver the CSE strategy across East Cheshire. The Nurse Specialist has been supervised and managed by the Safeguarding team. Training has been delivered by the Nurse Specialist to key groups of staff and links and information sharing pathways have been developed with health partners to enable early identification of young people at risk. A health pathway and health assessment has been developed which will be used by all health partners to assess the health needs of those young people who have been identified as at risk of CSE.</p> <p>The Safeguarding team continues to work with partner agencies at both strategic and operational levels to improve outcomes for children and adults subject to domestic violence and abuse. In November 2015 an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) was seconded from the Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit for 18 months to work within the hospital to support patients and staff who experience domestic abuse. This role has made a significant difference to patients and staff through the provision of immediate support and advice. The number of referrals has significantly increased as a result of improved staff awareness through training. The funding for this post is reviewed annually and was secured for 2018-2019.</p> <p>The Named Nurse, Doctor and Midwife have attended the Safeguarding Children Operational Managers subgroup to improve front line practice.</p> <p>The Named Midwife is the Trust Lead for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The Trust is compliant with the mandatory reporting requirements for FGM and to date has had 9 cases of historic FGM. All safeguarding procedures have been followed in relation to these cases. The Trust has a FGM policy and. FGM training has been delivered throughout the Trust this year.</p> <p>The Midwife for Vulnerable families continues to positively evaluated by multi-agency partners and the Midwife has been informed that she has been nominated for a good practice alert by the LSCB. This post has improved multi-agency working and information</p>
-----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>sharing. It has improved access and continuity of care for women who traditionally are hard to engage and therefore improving outcomes for the babies.</p> <p>The Trust has worked with the National Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project which will allow the identification of children who are Looked After or who are subject to a Child Protection Plan when they present to our Emergency Department of maternity services. CP-IS has been successfully implemented within the AE department, the Minor Injuries Unit, the Paediatric Observation Unit and the Maternity department.</p>
Reaseheath	Ofsted outstanding grading identified strong governance and management with a culture of continuous improvement.
Education	Schools illustrate good safeguarding practice; ensuring students know who they need to talk to if they have concerns; assemblies and tutor time spent on a full range of issues (often led by the students themselves and/ or significant partners, for example, police, health); information around the school; emphasis within the curriculum (all subjects and PHSCEE); all members of staff understanding that they have safeguarding responsibilities and knowing to whom they need to report concerns (DSL and/ or Headteacher); regular training and updates (with SCiES, on-line training et al).
Children's Social Care	<p>There have been many examples over the year for how CSC has work collaboratively to strengthen the partnerships. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was identified that the contribution from the Police in CP conferences was not effective in determining risk and informing planning – so a bespoke training session was held – the contribution has now improved and the exercise is now being repeated with health professionals. • There has been joint work between the IFD and police focussing on improving the quality and decision making in respect of Police referrals to the front door. Evidence of impact has been a reduction in referrals that do not meet threshold and an increase in the quality of information shared. • Worked collaboratively with GP lead to improve the submission of reports to conference – this has included collating and providing data, providing training, auditing reports. The submission has improved significantly and this has been sustained. • Established regular forums with partners, including the Designated Doctor and DSLs to identify specific barriers that may be impacting on working effectively together. The impact has been an increasing shared understanding at the frontline and strategically of specific roles and responsibilities. For example: child protection medicals and complex safeguarding. • The Safeguarding Unit have conducted a number of thematic audits that have had partnership lessons. These have been reported to the partnership and have informed Board priorities and work streams, for example, strategy discussions, neglect, effectiveness of core groups, the quality of single agency reports to conference. • Domestic Abuse is the most frequent characteristic for children on a child protection plan; CSC recognised that the partnership lacked rigour in developing effective plans for children based on the understanding of the adult abuse. CSC have supported better planning by ensuring that a specialist DA worker attends all ICPC where DA is identified as a risk factor. This has resulted in better planning and access to specialist support for the family.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safeguarding and Quality assurance Unit recognised the need to collate the challenge to agencies within the CP system, so CSC have developed a partner alert system to front line workers and leads, which identifies both excellent practice and where improvements can be made. This compliments informal discussions and is used to focus on thematic priorities e.g. the quality of reports to conference to give structured feedback to partners. • Worked with the key agencies to ensure strategy discussion/meetings are multi-agency.
National Probation Service	<p>NPS have identified practitioner level safeguarding champions within each Cheshire team to promote and drive improvements.</p> <p>Conducted two audits for scrutiny purposes.</p> <p>HMIP has introduced an annual inspection regime – the standards incorporate safeguarding children considerations.</p> <p>NPS participated in the Neglect JTAI in Cheshire West and are progressing actions in response to its findings.</p>

Key Priorities for 2018-19

The three overarching objectives remain for 2018-19:

- **Frontline practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused**
- **Listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people**
- **The partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East**

At a Board workshop members worked together to agree the following key priorities and actions that will sit under the objectives:

- Implementation of the [Signs of Safety](#) approach to practice
- Improving the effectiveness of multi-agency child protection/child in need planning
 - Improve the quality of the Child in Need meetings
- Oversee the deliver and engagement with the
 - Early Help strategy
 - Neglect Strategy
- Strengthen our response to Complex Safeguarding and Safeguarding vulnerable groups
 - Develop local implementation plans for vulnerable groups and on-line safety based on the Pan-Cheshire strategies.
 - Ensure that Young Carers are identified early and services become more 'joined up'.

- Collaborate with LSAB, to improve the way that agencies work together to respond to the whole family.
- Provide assurance to the Board that agencies respond and link LGBTQ young people into support services as appropriate.
- Effectiveness of partnership response to child sexual abuse to ensure good outcomes.
- Dedicated consistent approach to new emerging Contextual Safeguarding issues i.e. Trafficking. Child Sexual Exploitation, On-line safety

Budget for 2018-19

An outline budget for CESC's work in 2018-19 is set out at Appendix 4.

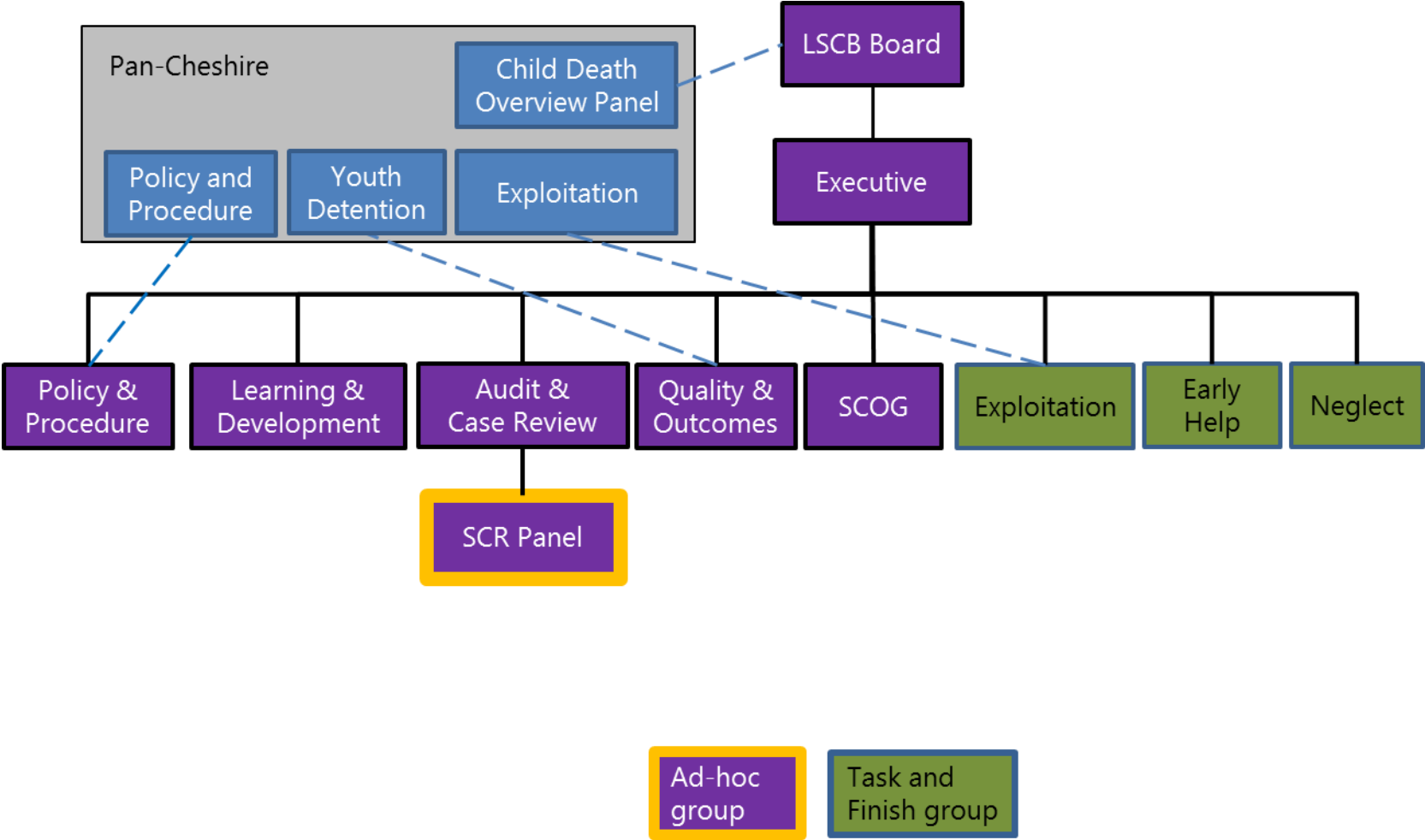
Risks and Issues

It is essential to identify, analyse and priorities risks to ensure that these are managed effectively and do not impact adversely on the Board's plans. The Board maintains a risk register which is reviewed and updated bi-monthly with action updates at the Executive Group. During the year the following risks were on the LSCB Risk register.

Registered	Risk	Actions	Status year end
Dec 14	Partnership ownership of the improvement plan.	All actions complete	Closed Feb 18
Apr 17	Capacity within the Business Unit to manage SCR/Reflective reviews in line with national guidance.	Weekly Case tracker updated and available to CE Safeguarding Manager and LSCB Chair. Quarterly report to LSCB Board. Nine partner agencies have nominated chairs for Reflective Reviews.	Closed Oct 17
May 17	Changes in membership of the Board through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restructures within partner organisations impact on the continuity of the business and pace of change needed to improve, uncertainty in relation to the future model of safeguarding partnership arrangements (Wood Review); emerging Pan Cheshire Structures that could impact on partner's capacity. will impact upon the Boards ability to fulfil its functions 	Continue to strengthen the Pan Cheshire approach. Agreement in principle from Cheshire Senior Leadership group to look at opportunities for alignment of LSCB's.	Open
May 17	No Designated Nurse for looked after children.	Looked After Children's Nurse appointed July 2017.	Closed Oct 17
Nov 17	Embedding Signs of Safety (SOS).	SOS is monitored and making progress.	Closed Feb 18
Feb 18	The need to improve the Effectiveness of Multi-agency Child Protection Plans/Children	The effective use of a suite of evidence based practice tools for assessments, direct work and planning to be agreed.	Open

	in Need has been identified in LSCB audits.	Signs of Safety model implementation.	
Feb 18	The rise in the Cared for population and its impact on partnership resources.	Specific legal support for discharge of care orders for children placed at home of in the care of family and friends with plan to discharge Care Order in favour of Special Guardianship Order. Children Social Care introduced a Resource Accommodation Panel to discuss all requests for children to become cared for. Work across the region in respect of children placed on care orders at home – including working collaboratively with CAFCASS and Courts.	Feb 18

Appendix 1: Cheshire East Safeguarding Board Structure



Appendix 2: Board Membership and Attendance

	25.05.17	19.07.17	27.09.17	22.11.17	17.01.18	14.03.18
Independent Chair						
Voice for Children						
The Children's Society						
South Cheshire CCG						
South and Eastern Cheshire CCG Designated Nurse						
CWP NHS Foundation Trust						
East Cheshire NHS Trust						
Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust						
Wirral Community NHS Trust						
NHS England						
Public Health						
Executive Director of People						
Lead Member for Children's Services						
Head of Children's Safeguarding						
Director of Children's Social Care						
Head of Service - Children in Need and Child Protection						
Principle Manager for Early Help						
Safeguarding Adults Strategic Manager						
Cheshire Police						
Youth Justice						
Cheshire Fire Service						
Primary School Heads Representative						
Secondary Schools Head Representative						
Representative for Colleges and Further Education						
Independent Schools Representative						
HMP Styal Head of Residence and Services						
Probation – CRC						
Probation – NPS						
Lay Member						
Voluntary Sector Representative						
Voluntary Sector Representative						
Housing						
Cheshire CAF/CASS						
Designated Doctor						
Director of Children's Prevention and Support						
Senior Lawyer						

Appendix 2: Financial Arrangements – 2017-18

The tables below sets out the CECSB's outline budget and outturn expenditure for 2017-18, along with the financial contributions from partners.

Area of Expenditure	2017-18 (£)
Direct Employee Exps	196,185
Safeguarding Project Manager (0.70 fte)	
Performance Officer (0.50 fte)	
Training Manager (0.81 fte)	
Training Officer (0.91 fte)	
CECSB Admin (2 fte)	
Indirect Employee Exps	0
Employee training	
Conferences and seminars	
Transport	
Mileage and car parking	2,000
Premises	6,000
Hire of rooms for training, CECSB meetings	
Supplies and Services	48,000
Independent Chair	
Agency staffing to cover Safeguarding Project Manager post prior to appointment	
Training costs - printing, tutor and course costs	
CDOP Pan-Cheshire Chair (CE contribution)	
Peer challenge costs	
Auditor costs	
LADO funding (0.5 fte)	
Phone and mobile phone charges	
Lay member expenses	
Refreshments for meetings	
Competition prizes	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	252,185
Carry forward reserves from 2016-17	73,507
Income in 2017-18	206,878
Total available spend 2017-18	280,385
Expenditure 2017-18	252,185
Reserve carry forward to 2017-18	28,200

Appendix 3: Partner Contributions.

	CESCB Partners	2017-18 contributions (proposed)
Health	Eastern Cheshire NHS	£5,000
	Mid Cheshire Hospitals	£6,772
	South Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Eastern Cheshire CCG	£18,778
	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership	£4,093
	Wirral Community NHS Trust	£5,500
Criminal Justice	Probation Service (NRC)	£1,700
	Probation Service (NPS)	£992
	Police	£25,000
	HMP STYAL	£2,000
	CAFCASS	£550
L A	Local Authority	£44,300
Education	Schools	£68,915
	Independent Schools	
	Cheshire FE Consortium	£4,500
Total		£206,878