



**CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER**  
***Safeguarding Children Partnership***  
**BUSINESS PLAN 2019 - 2021**

## The remit of the Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Safeguarding Partnership includes all the agencies that provide support to, work with or commission services for children and young people and includes all statutory and voluntary agencies and faith groups. Led by 3 'safeguarding partners' (local authorities, chief officers of police and clinical commissioning groups), the Children and Social Work Act 2017 now places a duty on those safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within the area.

Cheshire West and Chester Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) seek to ensure that children and young people living in the borough are effectively safeguarded by local agencies and that they are working well together and co-operating to promote the welfare of children and young people living in Cheshire West and Chester.

### The core functions of the SCP include:

1. To develop and agree local policies and procedures for inter-agency work to protect children, within the national framework;
2. To audit and evaluate how well local services work together to protect children;
3. To put in place objectives and performance indicators;
4. To encourage effective working relationships between services and professional groups, based on trust and mutual understanding;
5. To ensure agreement across agencies about operational definitions and thresholds;
6. To improve local ways of working based on knowledge from national and local experience and research, and to ensure lessons learned are acted upon;
7. To undertake case reviews where a child has died or in certain circumstances has been seriously harmed;
8. To help improve the quality of child protection work through inter agency training and development;
9. To raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

## Our Vision

***"We seek to ensure that every child and young person in Cheshire West and Chester grows up in a safe environment that enables them to achieve their full potential".***

This vision underpins the strategic priorities identified within this business plan, and supports our aim to ensure that all children in Cheshire West and Chester are supported to do the best that they can and make a positive contribution.

## Our Values

The ethos of this business plan is based upon the following shared values:

1. All Children and Young People in Cheshire West and Chester have a right to:
  - a. be treated with dignity and respect and have their voice heard
  - b. the best possible outcomes regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and circumstance.

2. Safeguarding the wellbeing of Children and Young people is a priority for us all
3. Active involvement of Children Young People and their Families will be incorporated in our work
4. We will listen to front line practitioners and take their views into account
5. The Board will act in an open, transparent way and will foster a culture of challenge, scrutiny and support across the partnership
6. Constructively sharing learning to safeguard Children and Young People will be integral to the Board business
7. Celebrate strengths and positive achievement, and a commitment to continuously improve
8. Board partners and their respective agencies have a shared responsibility to work together to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare
9. We will work with other strategic partnerships across Cheshire West and Chester i.e. Children's Trust Executive, Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that our plans are aligned to maximise the opportunities for our Children and Young People.

## Our Priorities

The business plan was developed collectively in June 2019 and outlines the strategic objectives that will inform the work of the Partnership in its first two years. The following information was considered when we met to agree these priorities:

- West Cheshire Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan priorities – these include: Emotional health and wellbeing; Children in Care and Care Leavers; Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND); Prevention (Integrated Early Support); Closing the Gap (Attainment), and Domestic Abuse.
- Cheshire West and Chester's Health and Wellbeing Strategic priorities – these include Starting Well; Substance Misuse (Living Well) and Mental Health.
- LSCB Annual report 2018-19
- Recommendations from inspections and other reviews
- Evaluation of the impact of the previous LSCB Business Plan 2015-19
- Analysis of local need (Joint Strategic Needs Analysis - JSNA)
- Priorities identified from the SCP performance management data and local quality assurance audits.
- Outcomes of case reviews and audit – including national serious case reviews and local reports.

As a result of the above three strategic priorities were agreed. These are:

- 1. Priority 1 (led by Police) A focus on children and young people with complex needs including those who go missing from home or care; missing from education; and those at risk of exploitation**
- 2. Priority 2 (Led by LA) Ensuring a Think Family response to children and families where substance misuse, domestic abuse, learning disability and mental health problems are a feature of the family environment.**
- 3. Priority 3 (Led by CCG) Responding effectively to children and young people who experience poor emotional wellbeing or mental health problems**

**Priority 1 (led by Police) A focus on children and young people with complex needs including those who go missing from home or care; missing from education; and those at risk of exploitation**

<b>What we want to achieve</b>	<b>How we will do achieve it</b>	<b>Who will do it</b>
A reduction in the number of vulnerable young people missing out on education	Seek Assurance that there is a multi-agency plan in place to support vulnerable children who are at risk of leaving school through exclusion or other means (including contact with SWs for CiN/CP/CIC)	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
Strengthened accountability on schools to demonstrate appropriate use of exclusion and management of unauthorised absence	Analyse data to ascertain if schools are 1) permitting repeated fixed periods of exclusion (under 5 days) 2) permitting more than 45 days per year 3) appropriately following-up unauthorised absence	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
Increased ability to co-ordinate the right action and safeguards for children who have been or are at risk of exclusion.	The SCP should receive real-time data on school exclusions (including by characteristics) in order to assess and address any safeguarding concerns.	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
A reduction in children and young people who go missing.	Seek assurance that the protocol for repeat missing children is embedded and	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group

	results in reduced missing episodes	
Assurance that our children in care placed outside the authority are appropriately safeguarded	Conduct a joint audit with North Wales Safeguarding Board to test processes for out of area children	Practice Improvement Group
	Seek assurance that Return Interviews are conducted as per protocol for children in care who are placed beyond the CWAC boundary	Practice Improvement Group
Greater knowledge of the factors (vulnerabilities) that can increase the risks of children being victims or perpetrators of crime	Use all relevant data and analyse it for trends	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
	Speak to young people about their experiences	Practice Improvement Group
There is a robust and preventative approach to safeguarding children at risk of exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear Terms of Reference for the problem</li> <li>• Obtain and analyse all relevant data sources available</li> <li>• Keep the profile up to date and relevant with regular reviews.</li> </ul>	Child Exploitation Strategic Group
Seek assurance that the local process and pathways in relation to Child Exploitation are embedded	Audit of child exploitation cases	Practice Improvement Group

**Priority 2 (Led by LA) Ensuring a Think Family response to children and families where substance misuse, domestic abuse, learning disability and mental health problems are a feature of the family environment.**

Assurance that the implementation of New Ways of Working is positively impacting on children and families	Use Data and Audit to scrutinise and challenge the Children's Trust Executive in line with the NWW Quality Assurance Framework	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
Assurance that Operation Encompass is resulting in CYP accessing swift emotional support following a DA incident	Receive assurance Reports from Cheshire Police that the IT systems are embedded; Survey of Schools & case tracking for evidence and impact	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
A robust, multi-agency response to working with families where	Review, refresh & re-launch of the Complex Trio Training	Training & Development Hub

substance abuse, domestic abuse and mental health co-exist (Toxic Trio)		
A robust, multi-agency, 'think family' response when working with domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parental mental health.	Review, refresh & re-launch of the Hidden Harm Protocol	Practice Improvement Group
	Joint Think Family Audit with LSAB	Practice Improvement Group
	Delivery of joint conference on 'Think Family'	SCP Business Unit
	Task & Finish group to translate the Think Family protocol into practice.	Practice Improvement Group
Assurance that children living with parental factors (DA; Substance Misuse, MH & Learning Mental) are being identified & supported as Young Carers	Completion of the Think Family Audit, publicity of Young Carers Service & challenge to single agencies	Practice Improvement Group
<b>Priority 3 (Led by CCG) Responding effectively to children and young people who experience poor emotional wellbeing or mental health problems</b>		
That schools are in a position to offer swift emotional support to children who have self-harmed	Development of an 'Ops Encompass style' notification system between health & schools	Practice Improvement Group
That children in need of emotional health and wellbeing support receive this at the earliest opportunity	To seek assurance from the EHWP that schools and frontline services have the capability and capacity to identify and respond at the earliest opportunity to children and young people	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
	Seek assurance from the EHWP that services commissioned to support CYP with poor emotional health and wellbeing have the capability and capacity to respond	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
That the EHWP of our most vulnerable children are being met.	Explore data in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was Not Brought;</li> <li>• Waiting Times for assessment;</li> <li>• Number of repeat presentations</li> </ul>	Quality Assurance & Scrutiny Group
	Seek evidence of signposting	Practice Improvement Group

	when threshold not met via audit.	
	Seek feedback from CYP that services are improving outcomes	Practice Improvement Group