

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2019-2021

CHESHIRE EAST - A GREAT PLACE TO BE YOUNG

TOGETHER

1

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WE CARE FOR

WELCOME

Raising Future Stars

2

FEEL AND BE SAFE

6

Children & Young People's Trust

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

ADDITIONAL CHANCES

0-25

LOCAL OFFER

FUTURE WAY

5

BEST SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

WE DID IT! YEAH!

SET YOUR TARGETS

Investing in children

4

live well Cheshire East

BEING HEALTHY & MAKING POSITIVE CHOICES

GOOD SEXUAL HEALTH

DRUGS & ALCOHOL - THE FACTS

3

HAPPINESS & MENTAL HEALTH

It's so good to talk to you

We should talk more

Foreword

Our ambition is for every child and young person in Cheshire East to have the best start in life, be safe, happy, healthy and to reach their potential. We are proud of what we have already achieved as a Trust towards our ambition, but there is more we need to do.

We want this plan to make a difference, not just to the services we deliver, but to children's lives. No one agency can do this alone, which is why we have set out our commitments to improving outcomes for children and young people in this joint plan.

We believe that through working **TOGETHER**, our Children and Young People's Trust, which is well represented by young people and all relevant agencies, can make Cheshire East a great place to be young for all children and young people.



May 2019

*Mark Palethorpe,
Chair of the Children
and Young People's
Trust and
Representatives from
Cheshire East Youth
Council*

Our Vision and Ambition

TOGETHER We will make Cheshire East a **great place to be young**.

This plan has been put **TOGETHER with young people** from Cheshire East in an easy read format.

The plan builds on the success of our 2015-18 plan to take us on the next steps to achieving our **joint ambition** to make Cheshire East a great place to be young. Together we want the following **6 outcomes** for children and young people:

1. **Children and young people we care for** are happy and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.
2. Children and young people **feel and are safe**.
3. Children and young people are **happy** and experience **good mental health and wellbeing**.
4. Children and young people are **healthy and make positive choices**.
5. Children and young people leave school with the **best skills and qualifications** they can achieve and the life skills they need to thrive into adulthood.
6. Children, young people and young adults with **additional needs have better chances in life**.

Who are we?

The Cheshire East Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) is a group of people who provide services for children, young people and families. We work with other groups, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership to make the lives of children and young people better.

Jargon buster

Although we have tried to make this plan simple, there are some words that might need explaining.

Jargon	Meaning
Autism spectrum disorder	A developmental disorder where there are mild to severe difficulties in areas of social skills, communication and thinking.
Cared for	Those who the local authority care for when they are not able to live with their families.
Care Leaver	An adult who has spent time in care outside of their immediate or extended family before the age of 18.
Child protection (CP) plan	A plan drawn up to set out how we will work together to keep a child safe.
Commission	Choose someone to do a piece of work.
Corporate Parent	Collective role of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing care and

	safeguarding those in care.
Contextual Safeguarding	Risk of harm for children and young people beyond their family.
Co-production	Working on a project from the start to the end with those who use the service. In Cheshire East, we call this TOGETHER
County Lines	Groups or gangs that use young people to carry and sell drugs from borough to borough, and across county boundaries.
Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	A plan for children and young people aged 0-25 in education who have additional needs.
Health inequalities	Unfair differences in people's health across the population or between groups.
NEET	Unemployed or not in training or in education
Outcome	What we want to achieve in the end or the difference we want to make.
SEND	Special educational needs and disabilities – children who have additional needs
Signs of Safety	A way of working with families that looks at what's working well, what we are worried about and what needs to change.
Transition	When children and young people move from one stage to another, so it means preparing for change, eg, from primary to secondary school.

TOGETHER in Cheshire East

TOGETHER is our shared definition of coproduction in Cheshire East because it is inclusive to all.

- T**eamwork when designing, delivering and evaluating individual support and services
- O**pen-minded ideas and discussions
- G**enuine communication for all parties involved
- E**qual partners help to shape and improve support for all
- T**rust each other to make the right decisions
- H**onest
- E**ngage and empower children, young people, adults and families
- R**espect for everyone's views and opinions

Working TOGETHER as equal partners towards a common goal for all of our children, young people, adults living in Cheshire East.

Our TOGETHER Values and Commitment

We will...

- Listen to your views
- Communicate honestly
- Trust each other
- Be person centred
- Adapt to people's needs
- Respect and value all opinions
- Do what we say we will

We won't...

- Use jargon or acronyms
- Give too much information
- Rush meetings
- Take too long to complete our actions
- Be judgemental

Here is some further information about our four key principles of **TOGETHER** going forward, and who is involved in delivering that.



Co-Involvement

We will involve and engage with you from the very start to make you aware of changes to services and policy. Your needs will be identified and views are welcomed at every stage.

Co-Design

We will work closely with you to plan and design your individual support, services, and policy making sure that children, young people, adults and families are at the centre of those services.

Co-Delivery

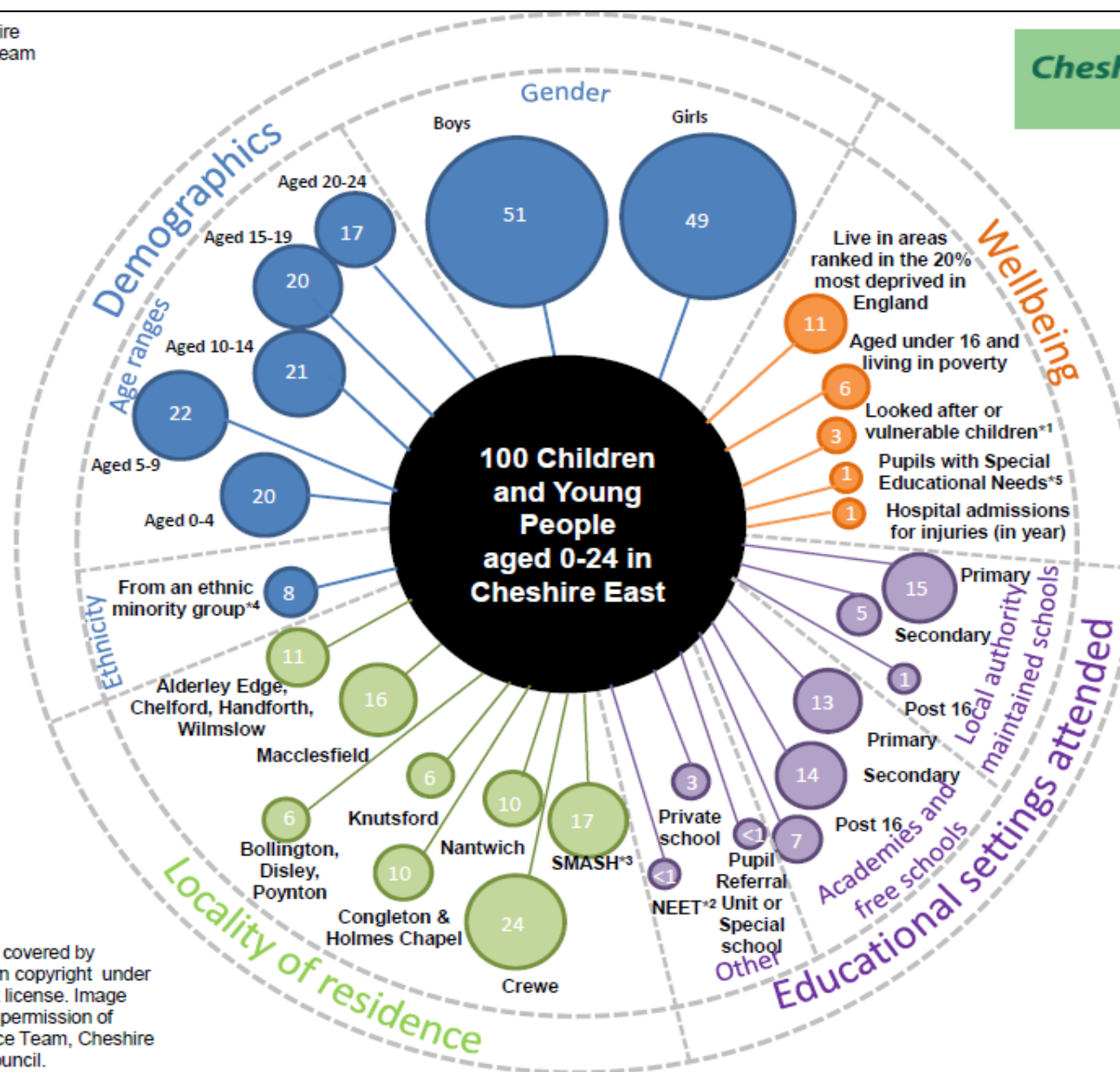
We will plan and deliver services together ensuring your voice is heard and acted on at every stage.

Co-Evaluation

We offer opportunities for feedback so that we can improve your experience.

Children and Young People in Cheshire East

Produced by: Cheshire
East Public Health Team
June 2019



^{*1} Looked after or vulnerable children includes Children in Need and children on Child Protection plans

^{*2} NEET – not in education, employment of training, 16-18 year olds

^{*3} SMASH – Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Scholar Green, Haslington

^{*4} Ethnic minority includes Irish, Gypsy/Traveller and white-other

^{*5} Special Educational Needs includes Pupils with statements or EHC plans only

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Outcome 1

Children and young people we care for

Why this is a priority

Cared for children face some of the biggest challenges in life.

Their pre-care experiences can impact significantly on their outcomes. However with the right support, we can shape their future happiness and set the foundations for what they can achieve throughout their adult lives. As their '**Corporate Parents**' all staff working in Children's Services are 'raising our future stars' and we all have a responsibility to do for them what any good parent would do for their own child.



What we will do

The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-21 sets out a number of pledges to improve outcomes for cared for children, including:

- **Being a good corporate parent**, i.e., giving cared for children and young people the same opportunities we would give to our own children.
- Enabling them to live in **good, safe homes locally**, either with their family or in another permanent home, as **early as possible**.
- Improving their **education, employment and training** outcomes.
- Improving their **health and wellbeing** outcomes.
- **Preparing** these children and young people **for adulthood**.

Who will lead this?: Corporate Parenting Committee

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Outcome 2

Feel and be safe

Why this is a priority

We want all children and young people to be safe and to feel safe in their families and communities. We must tackle the risks that they face, including bullying, domestic violence, substance misuse and more complex safeguarding issues such as county lines.



To achieve this, we need to work together to identify and offer early help at the right time and place for those children and young people who need it. By reducing levels of risk to children and help families, we can lessen the impact and reduce and prevent problems from reoccurring.

What we will do

Key priorities for the Safeguarding Children Partnership include:

- **Working together to make safety plans** for children and young people
- Protecting young people **at risk of harm beyond their family** (contextual safeguarding)
- Embedding **new partnership arrangements**
- **Emotional health and wellbeing** of our **vulnerable children**

Who will lead this?: Safeguarding Children Partnership (was the Local Safeguarding Children Board)

Outcome 3

Happiness and mental health

Why this is a priority

The latest data suggests that there are around 12,500 individuals aged 0-24 with a mental health diagnosis in Cheshire East. The majority of mental health problems are preventable and almost all are treatable.



What we will do

Cheshire East's All Age Mental Health Strategy 2019-2022 sets out a **whole system approach** to improve the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and their families, supported by **integrated health and social care services**, resilient communities, **inclusive employers** and services that **maximise independence and choice**. This includes improving mental services for our **most vulnerable children and young people**:

- those in transition (ie, between services)
- cared for children and young people and care leavers
- those in supported employment
- those at risk of entering or in the youth justice system; and
- those who are experiencing or have experienced abuse.

It also sets out plans to improve **crisis care services**. Young people told us that they want **more information that is easy for them to access**.

Who will lead this?: Health and Wellbeing Board

Outcome 4 Being healthy and making positive choices

Why this is a priority

In general, the health of children and young people in Cheshire East is good. However, there are still some big differences across the Borough, which means that the quality of health and how long a person lives depends on where they grow old in Cheshire East.

What we will do

The *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2018-21* set out 3 priority areas. The *NHS long-term plan*, published in 2019, gives key ambitions for the health service over the coming years.

Both of these documents focus on stopping people from getting poor health. The following are priorities for Cheshire East:

- **Preventing poor health** – promoting healthy lifestyles to address the main root causes of poor health – smoking, poor diet, high blood pressure, obesity and alcohol and drug misuse
- **Tackling health inequalities** – targeted work in those areas most at risk of poor health outcomes
- **Supporting change** – for those already living with a health or social care need so they can live well for longer.

Who will lead this?: Health and Wellbeing Board



Outcome 5 Best skills and qualifications

Why this is a priority

The majority of children in Cheshire East have high quality education in good or outstanding early years settings, schools and colleges.

However, a number of our more vulnerable pupils do not have access to full time education, employment or training and this impacts on their outcomes. There are also certain groups that do less well than their peers and we need to address these inequalities.

What we will do

- Work across the partnership, with education providers and employer's to develop a **skills strategy** to **improve the delivery of skills** in the Borough through a range of pathways and provision for young people.
- Develop a **sustainable sector led approach** to improving education outcomes.
- Deliver **sufficient school places** to enable children to attend their local/preferred school and reduce demand for transport.
- Provide **support for those most vulnerable to the poorest outcomes** including cared for children, those not accessing mainstream education, those with poor attendance and those with medical needs.

Who will lead this?: Education Extended Senior Leadership



Team

Outcome 6

Those with additional needs have better life chances

Why this is a priority

In March 2018 an inspection of the local arrangements for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) found a number of significant weaknesses. These included how quickly children with SEND got good plans to support them in their learning and how well we made sure those with autism got the help they needed at the right time.



Our ambition is to provide support to children and families earlier to ensure better outcomes and to prevent escalation of their needs where possible. We want children and young people with SEND and their families to feel supported by all services in Cheshire East and to receive high quality education, care and health provision.

What we will do

There are a range of actions underway to address the following two main areas for improvement:

- Improve the **timeliness, process and quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans**
- Establish an **effective autism spectrum disorder (ASD) pathway** and reduce **waiting times** for diagnosis.

Who will lead this?: 0-25 SEND Partnership



We expect everyone to...

Support Good Relationships

Work hard to build good relationships with families and colleagues. Help families to find and strengthen their networks.



Honour Families and Colleagues

Work hard to understand and recognise everything that is working well.



Be Brave!

Be creative and try something different.



Work together WITH

Involve people, offer choices, be curious.



Share Experiences

Share what you have learned, and learn from what others have tried and are doing well.



Learn and Reflect Together

Practice using Signs of Safety in Group Supervision, and reflect on practice with your colleagues.



Our plan on a page

Outcomes	Priorities	Key Success Measures	Joint Commitments
1. Children and young people we care for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good, safe homes locally Improved education, employment and training outcomes Improved health outcomes Preparing for adulthood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children with plan of permanency at second review % of children living 20+ miles from their home address % of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training % of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation No. of children adopted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed the TOGETHER principles across all agencies. Improve the way we work together on a place based model (Together in our Community).
2. Feel and be safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe plans for children and young people Contextual safeguarding Embed new partnership arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of early help assessments % of repeat referrals % of assessments completed within 45 days % of children with a 2nd/subsequent child protection (CP) plan % of children on CP plans reviewed within timescales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a strength based approach to working with families (Signs of Safety). Have high aspirations for our cared for children and care leavers as their corporate parents.
3. Emotional and mental health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved mental services for most vulnerable Access to information Better crisis care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of children and young people who report good wellbeing No. of appropriate referrals to specialist services Waiting times for access to services Availability of information to children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the focus on prevention and early help through delivery of the Early Help Strategy.
4. Healthy and make positive choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing poor health Tackling health inequalities Supporting change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of children aged 4-5 and 10-11 classified as overweight or obese Number of children and young people with tooth decay Hospital admission episodes for alcohol related conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jointly commission and shape services, where possible, including sub-regionally.
5. Best skills and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for most vulnerable Sufficient school places Sustainable sector led model Improve delivery of skills Develop a skills strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % good or outstanding primary, secondary and special schools No. of vulnerable children not in full time education (missing education, low attendance, excluded etc.) Improved annual outcomes for disadvantaged learners at the end of Key Stage 2 and 4 Outcomes/destinations of young people post-16 and 19+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve transitions for children and young people, including stepping up/down between services.
6. Additional needs have better life chances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeliness, process and quality of EHCPs Effective autism spectrum disorder (ASD) pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) completed in 20 weeks Timeliness of advice provided from professionals % good or outstanding EHCP plans No. children awaiting start of autism assessment (12+ weeks) Average length of wait for autism assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use ways of working that are proven to make a difference to children and young people. Strengthen our partnerships to deliver services that are integrated, child-centred and meet need.

How we will know we have made a difference

We will measure the success of this plan against the difference we make to the lives of our children and young people. We will use the following sources to inform us on how well we are performing, what's working well, and where we need to take action to achieve change.

What our performance tells us

We have a number of scorecards in place which tell us how well we are performing. The Trust will monitor the key measures set out in this plan, along with any other relevant information, to check changes in performance over time.

What our audits tell us

A number of single and multi-agency audits are carried out across children's services. We will use the findings of these to tell us whether the quality of what we are doing is getting better.

What young people and their families tell us

We will continue to work **TOGETHER** with our young people and their families as they are the experts on what works for them.

What staff tell us

We will listen to what staff working direct with children, young people and their families tell us as they have a good insight into what needs to improve.



How we will check on our progress

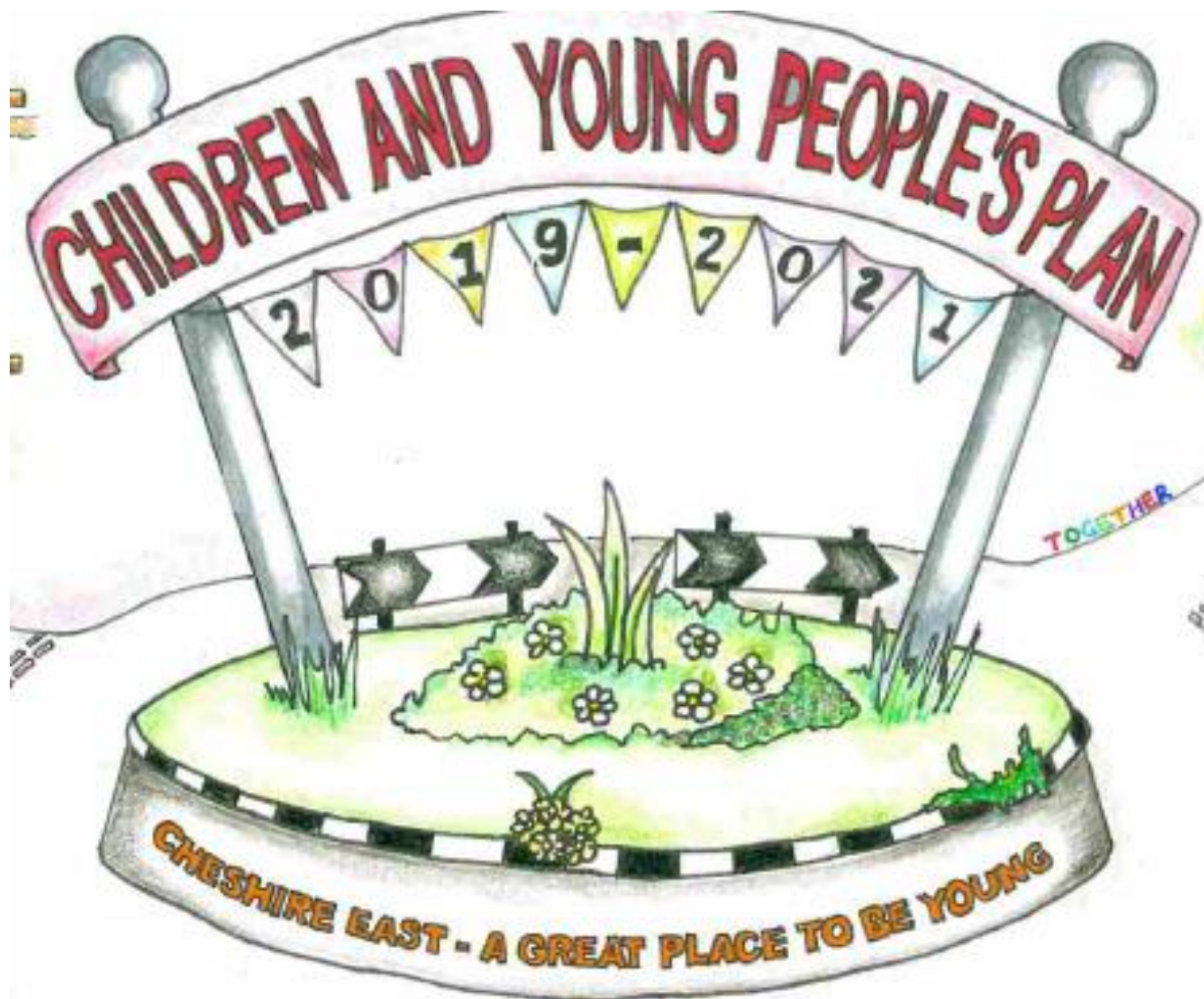
Each Outcome has the following:

- **A Lead Partnership** – this is the multi-agency partnership that has the most focus on the outcome area and will closely monitor progress.
- **An Officer Outcome Lead** – This Officer will be the key link between the Lead Partnership and the Trust and will coordinate information to the Trust on progress and issues.
- **A Young Person Outcome Lead** – There will be at least one young person with a focus on each outcome area. They will link with the Officer Outcome Lead to ensure that work is done **TOGETHER**.

Progress against our plan will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Trust. Progress against individual outcome areas will also be monitored by the Lead Partnership.

Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is the overarching board for the Trust. The HWBB will sign off this plan; ongoing updates will be provided to the board. Individual agencies will also be encouraged to share progress and issues through their own governance and other relevant boards will be informed/consulted, as appropriate.

Following each meeting, the Trust will continue to send out an easy read newsletter to update all on progress.



Your thoughts matter

If you have any views on this plan or how we can improve our services, please contact us at ChildrensTrust@cheshireeast.gov.uk