



Item 2

West Cheshire  
Children's Trust

West Cheshire Children's Trust Executive  
**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020**

**In attendance:**

Bob Cernik – Councillor, CW&C, Chair  
 Emma Taylor – Director, Children's Services, CW&C  
 Ian Ashworth – Director of Public Health, CW&C  
 David McNaught – Director Education and Inclusion, CW&C  
 Razia Daniels – Councillor, CW&C  
 Gill Frame – Safeguarding Children Partnership  
 Jamaila Tausif – Deputy Director, Commissioning and Partnerships, Cheshire CCG  
 Sarah Martin – Associate Director of Safeguarding, Cheshire CCG  
 Inspector Ian Stead – Police  
 Sarah Edgar – Police  
 Hayley Doyle – Commissioning Manager, Children's Services  
 Rob Pullen – CWAPH  
 Sue Tomlinson – CWAPH  
 David Charlton – Cheshire Education Improvement Board  
 David Curry – CWASH  
 Mike McCann – CWASSH  
 Anna Johnson - Innovation and Practice Development Lead, Children's Services, CW&C  
 Samantha Horton-Leigh – Programme Manager, Children's Services, CW&C  
 Sarah Blaylock – Policy Manager, CW&C  
 Isabel Noonan – Policy Manager, CW&C

Item No	Minute/Action	Who
1.	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>            Councillor Bob Cernik, Cabinet Member for Children and Families welcomed all to the meeting.            Apologies were noted: Richard Rees – Cheshire Police, Alison Amesbury - Housing, CW&amp;C, Helen Brackenbury – Director, Early Help and Commissioning, CW&amp;C</p>	
2.	<p><b>Notes of meeting held on 3 February 2020 and Matters Arising / Review of Actions</b>            The minutes from the previous meeting held on 11 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.            Matters Arising  <u>Page 1, Item 2 Matters Arising</u>  <b>Page 2, Anna Johnson to contact Dale Camp about New Ways of Working training.</b>            Anna Johnson reported that they are attending the Camp on 4 February 2020.            Further update at the meeting from Anna Johnson – meeting went ahead, and it was agreed that representatives from the Army should attend briefings to find out more about the Programme and how it could support</p>	





	<p>them. Plans to do this will be enacted when more normal circumstances resume following Covid-19.</p> <p><b>Page 4 Hayley Doyle to raise the issue of the use of MindEd in schools with Sioban.</b> Hayley Doyle reported that the MindEd tool is being promoted through Education Services encouraging use by schools, providers and other professions. The use of the Tool is also being promoted with parents.</p> <p><b>Page 6 iCON 'Babies cry, you can cope' and agency sign up – Action:</b> Gill Frame explained that all the information is on the Safeguarding website and provided a leaflet outlining the Programme to be distributed with the minutes.</p> <p><u>Page 2 Item 3 – New Ways of Working</u> <b>Action: Outcomes of the evaluation of the first year of the NWoW Programme be presented to the Executive in April 2020.</b> Anna Johnson explained that work had begun on this and high-level outcomes identified but due to Covid-19 and New Ways of Working leading on recovery programmes this has been put on temporary hold. It has been built into the Programme plan and shared at the Strategic Sub-group for the evaluation to be completed by September 2020.</p> <p><u>Page 3 Item 3 – New Ways of Working</u> <b>David Curry asked how many children the improved attendance for Children in Care represented.</b> Anna Johnson provided the figures – Trauma Informed approach to attendance for CiC - Improved average attendance for children in care Autumn Term 2018 – 78% (10 pupils) Autumn Term 2019 – 89% (7 pupils)</p> <p><u>Page 4 Item 3 – New Ways of Working</u> <b>Agreed: Parallel approach to continued funding of New Ways of Working Programme with letter distributed to partners based on Safeguarding Children Partnership approach to contributions.</b> Emma Taylor explained that a letter was drafted but that the Government confirmed funding for an additional year for Partners in Practice and New Ways of Working so for the short-term funding has been secured.</p> <p><u>Page 5/6 Item 7</u> <b>Action: Developed Obesity pathway to come back to future Children's Trust Executive.</b> Work is underway on a pathway and will be reported to the Executive at the October meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>PART 1: New Ways of Working</b> Emma Taylor explained that the approach and sign up to New Ways of Working made the practice appropriate for the recovery phase of Covid-19. A Strategic Group of the Trust Executive has been working on Recovery. Two updates were presented to the Executive; one on progress of New</p>	





Ways of Working and its embedding into practice and one on Covid-19 Recovery.

Anna Johnson presented an evaluation and key findings of the first year of the Programme as at March 2020. There is evidence that the trauma informed approach is starting to be used in practice, systems, process, reports and documents. There have been system changes in particular Child Protection Conference which has had a positive impact. There is evidence of increased awareness and embedding of shared language and training on Motivational Interviewing which is seeing an increase in practice in services such as DA, schools, supervision and TAF. Although the way of working is seen as enabling and powerful there remains the need to build confidence to articulate it and time, organisational support and resources are barriers.

#### Multi-agency Group Supervision and Learning Conversations

The average age of focus was 10-15-year olds with the majority of requests through TAF, Child Protection then Child in Need. The key reasons for requests included Non-school attendance, child and parent mental health, Domestic Abuse and professional difference. Developing summary notes and learning conversation through MS Teams are currently areas of focus.

For the period July 2019 – July 2020 there had been 32 Multi-Agency Supervision Conferences and 32 Learning Conversations – 64 in total.

#### Evaluation of Key themes

Following an evaluation of key themes from November 2019 – July 2020 key areas identified for further development include:

- Understand the contribution the frameworks make for improving outcomes for children;
- DIP sampling;
- Comparison of those that have had learning conversations and Multi-agency Group Supervision and those that have not.

#### Training and Development Programme

A series of training had had to be postponed due to Covid-19 and alternative delivery is underway including induction briefings delivered on-line, Governor, Police and Foster Carer briefings.

#### Risks and Issues:

Main current risks relate to Covid-19 for example training and development not being delivered face to face could lead to momentum being lost on the Programme.

#### Next Steps

- Interim Evaluation completed by end of August 2020.
- Full Evaluation (DfE funded) – March 2021





- Recruitment of Independent Facilitator – July 2020
- Training and Development Offer – September 2020-March 2021
- Embedding shared Language – March 2021

Emma Taylor asked if work was being undertaken to demonstrate impact and outcomes to show what it means for a child. Samantha Horton-Leigh explained that conversations are taking place across the Partnership on how to demonstrate impact. In addition to the data which is quantitative, dip sampling of vulnerable people interviews will provide some qualitative information. Work is being undertaken with Safeguarding Children's Board to bring data sets together to strengthen information. Gill Frame reported that where Safeguarding Children cases were graded good where there is evidence of New Ways of Working.

Going forward it was put forward that 'New Ways of Working' should be changed to 'Our Way of Working'

Covid-19 Recovery

Anna Johnson explained that the Strategic Sub-group of the Trust was enhanced, and membership extended to respond to the Covid-19 Recovery Programme.

The aims are to:

- Develop a collaborative and co-ordinated multi-agency response
- Strengthen and prevent demand across services
- Prevention of need and risk to improve outcomes and make a difference
- Build resilience
- Ensure needs of all children, families and adults are supported through the transition to a more usual way of life
- Enable the workforce to respond to Covid-19 as a one workforce approach.

There will be a phased approach to recovery covering Now, Near Future and Further Future. The approach to recovery will include Trauma Informed Practice, Motivational Interviewing, Psychological First Aid and PACE.

The response will take a Think Family approach working from universal services up the Continuum of Need to assess the stress and trauma caused by Covid-19. It takes a preventative approach to working with children and adults. The Model considers next steps that can help to respond to need, vulnerabilities and risk:

- Is this ok?
- Is this still ok?
- Am I still worried?

The recovery model draws on the five essential principles of trauma: Calm, hope, connected, community, safety,





<p>and PACE to assess the trauma caused through playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy.</p> <p>A guide for use by professionals to support the work that sits behind the Model based on Recognise, Respond and Link has been distributed. It identifies the main areas to recognise, suggest what to say and do and suggest Links and signposts for further advice and support.</p> <p>The Guide had been endorsed by Adult Safeguarding Board and several schools have already shared with their staff and pastoral support. I-ART will use the guide in their everyday practice. An animated film of Covid Recovery to support the guide was shown to the Executive. Briefings are on-going and an e-learning programme is being developed.</p> <p>Louise Bomber Collective Trauma Recovery webinars had been of help and well supported with positive feedback. There is an opportunity to work with Social Finance to respond to some of the demand placed on services such as Domestic Abuse services, increased police call outs and supporting parents of children with SEND as children return to school. One particular Social Finance initiative being progressed is preventing Exclusions, working with schools to target how to respond during recovery.</p> <p>The Executive acknowledged an impressive piece of work which has been raised at national level and thanked Anna and Samantha for their considerable input. Communication of the programme to make it widely available was raised. Anna explained that it has been distributed to Childrens' Trust Executive members and wider partners but cascading down through services remains an issue and asked for partners help in doing this.</p> <p>Jamaila Tausif explained that she had been heavily involved in the development of the Programme and felt it was the right way forward. Embedding it through GP services, particularly in the current virtual consultation time remains an issue and a workshop to embed with GPs would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Look to run Covid-19 Recovery Programme with GPs</b></p> <p>Safeguarding Adults Board has shared the briefing with its members and asked it to be widely distributed. David Curry reported that CWASH has had a NWoW update from two secondary Headteachers colleagues and pointed to wider communication methods such as You Tube. Ian Stead from Police pointed out that Police had had some training delayed but was very happy to support the Programme and will be rolling it out to Police Officers. It was suggested that a message be sent out to all partners from the Chair of the Children's Trust Executive highlighting the significance of this work and encouraging partners to access it?</p> <p><b>ACTION: Message from the Chair of the Children's Trust Executive be sent to partners highlighting the significance of the Covid-19 Recovery Programme and encouraging partners to access it.</b></p>	<p><b>Jamaila Tausif</b></p> <p><b>Emma Taylor and Bob Cernik</b></p>
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**PART 2 – Business and Development**

<p>4.</p>	<p><b>All Age Carers Strategy: Consultation Arrangements.</b> Hayley Doyle, Children's Commissioning Manager presented a report that went to CW&amp;C Cabinet on 8 July seeking authority to consult on the draft All Age Carers Strategy. The All Age Carers Strategy is an opportunity to improve and develop the current offer to all carers. Previously there had been two separate Strategies and a range of different commissioning arrangements which sometimes led to difficulties at Transition to Adulthood. The All Age Strategy sets out draft strategic priorities and associated actions for providing help and information to unpaid carers of all ages and is a joint Strategy with Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group.</p> <p>A 12-week period of public consultation was approved at Cabinet commencing on the 20 July and closing on 10 October 2020. The consultation findings will be submitted to Cabinet in January 2021 together with the draft Carer Strategy and the future recommissioning model to deliver the services. The Consultation process will be adapted in response to Covid-19.</p> <p>Carers' support is identified as a key priority and the following priorities are identified to meet need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater recognition and support for carers in both primary and secondary care</li> <li>• Focus on supporting carers in vulnerable communities</li> <li>• A more proactive approach to identifying and supporting young carers</li> <li>• Develop digitally enabled support</li> <li>• Include carers themselves in the development of carer services</li> </ul> <p>It is estimated that there are 408 young carers 0-15, although it is thought that this figure is an under estimation of the true number. Bob Cernik asked if a more accurate number of young carers could be obtained? <b>Action: Hayley Doyle to investigate producing a more accurate number of young carers.</b></p> <p>David Charlton raised concerns that the needs of young carers do not get overlooked in an All Age Strategy. Hayley Doyle explained that the production of the Strategy had been through many stakeholder and operational forums and that at every part of the Strategy, Young Carers views are represented. Jamaila Tausif pointed out that from experience of working with young people with mental health issues that an all age approach helps with the Transition element around the 13-18 age range and supported the Strategy that helps to support all carers across the borough.</p>	<p>Hayley Doyle</p>
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5.	<p><b>Targeted Early Help and Prevention: Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service</b></p> <p>Hayley Doyle explained that a proposal to address the emotional health and wellbeing needs of young people was presented through a bid for 'Priority Outcomes Reserve.' The remit included young people that are allocated a Family Intervention Worker through Early Help and Prevention. This was time limited to three years and the service is due to expire on 30 November 2020. Core Assets Children's Services are the provider for the contract with an annual value of £146,350. The Service had been well used and following initial training had focussed on the case management process with good interaction with the CAMHS Service.</p> <p>One of the main challenges has been managing family expectation and some referrals not meeting the criteria. During Covid-19 Core Assets Service has changed to respond to lock down. The virtual offer has been well received by families.</p> <p>Sioban Simcock, Children's Commissioning Officer is working with the provider on an exit plan. If no alternative funding is identified, then the service would have to close. If funding or partial funding is forthcoming, then a priority service would have to be re-drafted. Joint funding with the CCG could be looked at and Jamaila Tausif supported the service continuing. Any re-defined service would also have to consider the Mental Health Support Team Trailblazer and New Ways of Working.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Children and Adolescence Mental Health Update (CAMHS)</b></p> <p>Jamaila Tausif explained that waiting times and triage for CAMHS services had been raised at the February meeting of the Executive and presented a report set in the context of the Covid-19 pressure.</p> <p>Overall through the Covid period, there has been a reduction in referrals to community CAMHS of approximately 47%. Contact levels have seen a reduction in 17% indicating that C&amp;YP already known to CAMHS are receiving support. During the Covid period there has been a 50% increase in children wishing to access services. In response CWP mobilised a 24/7 all age crisis line which had been planned for 2021-22 and the CCG is in the process of commissioning online support for West Cheshire (Kooth) and counselling sessions via Healthbox. Currently the waiting time for family therapies is 3 weeks and for therapy 4 weeks. Any urgent referrals are seen on the day due to a crisis team being in place.</p> <p>Gill Frame pointed out that there is an increased demand for Tier 4 beds and asked how confident we are that there will be the service response to meet the potential surges. Jamaila Tausif acknowledged that the number of crisis calls has increased and explained that being able to assess and understand the need and then being able to access appropriate services would be vital in meeting need.</p> <p>Covid-19 has been disruptive but there has been a positive response which needs to be built on going forward. Books and guidance have been</p>	





	<p>developed for teachers and mental health support workers in Ellesmere Port. It is hoped that the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) which is funded by NHS England will be rolled out to other areas as well as developing a universal service in the future. The actual location for the further roll out of MHST will be consulted on over the summer and will be determined by a combination of both data and consultation.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Bob Cernik asked to be involved in the consultation on the further roll out of MHST.</b></p>	<b>Jamaila Tausif and Bob Cernik</b>
7.	<p><b>Safeguarding Children Partnership Challenge Covid-19 Multi-Agency Recovery Workshop – What will Safeguarding Look Like after Covid?</b></p> <p>Gill Frame referred to the circulated presentation from the Safeguarding Children's Partnership which had run a Covid-19 Multi-agency Recovery workshop aimed at giving the opportunity for reflection, shaping future practice, identifying support needed to practice differently and what works for children and families and what doesn't.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Items for Future Health and Wellbeing Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Ways of Working – Focus on Recovery following Covid-19</li> <li>• Young Carers</li> <li>• Children and Adolescence Mental Health</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b>  <b>Date: Monday 26 October 2020</b>  <b>Time: 3.00pm to 5.00pm</b>  <b>Venue: MS Teams</b></p>	

