**West Cheshire Children’s Trust Executive**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025**

**In attendance:**

Adam Langan (AL) – Councillor – Cabinet Member for Children and Families, CW&C (Chair).

Amanda Perraton (AP)– Executive Director of Children and Families.

Zara Woodcock (ZW) – Head of Service, Early Help and Prevention, CW&C.

Gary Cliffe (GC) – Chief Executive Cheshire West Voluntary Action (representing Clare Crerand).

Amanda Allen (AA) – Senior Manager Children’s and Social Care, CW&C.

Debbie Edwards (DE) – Head of Education and Inclusion, CW&C.

Helen Bromley (HB) – Director of Public Health, CW&C.

Stella Higgin (SH) – Assistant Director, Adults Social Care Operations CW&C.

Katy Ellison (KE) – Co-production Development Manager, CW&C.

Delyth Hughes (DH) – Director, Student Services, University of Chester.

Ian Devereux-Roberts (ID-R) – CWAPH.

Anna Johnson (AJ) Innovation and Practice Development Lead for OWOW, CW&C.

Catherine McKeagney (CMc) - CWASH.

Sarah Blaylock (SB) – Business and Governance Manager, CW&C.

Isabel Noonan (IN) – Business and Governance Manager, CW&C.

Elaine Ludgate (EL) – Performance Support Officer, CW&C (Minutes).

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| **Item No** | **Minute/Action** | **Who** |
| **1.** | **Welcome, Introductions and apologies.**  Adam Langan welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies were noted from: Matt Emmerson, Clare Crerand, Alex Holt. |  |
| **2.** | **Notes of meeting held on 4 November 2024 and Matters Arising and Review of Actions.**  All actions from the previous minutes are on today’s agenda. |  |
| **3.** | **Our Way of Working Update – Anna Johnson/ Amanda Allen**  AJ shared a PowerPoint presentation to give a summary of the OWOW update – this will be shared with the minutes. OWOW was Initially funded by DfE and since the launch, over 5000 members of the multi-agency workforce have been trained to embed trauma informed practice. Funding has changed recently to be single agency funding by the Council.  A supervision in schools programme has run for 2 years, 22 schools signed up in the first year and schools are now being approached for year 3. A full impact report is being prepared and will be available in February 2025.  AP – Due to changes in legislation by DfE from now until 2027, there is a need to realign the approach to Early Help and Children in Need. Both parts of the pathway will come together for children to have support from a Family Help Lead Practitioner. Multi-disciplined child protection teams will be developed involving all statutory partners, police health and education working together as a team.  There will be a need to continue with a practice model as a guide for a different way of working. OWOW has its strengths, reflected in the Ofsted report, we should stay with OWOW as it is partnership wide and is owned. It is a delivery vehicle for a practice model. It aligns to Systemic Practice.  AP/AJ confirmed that the Voluntary and Private Sector are included in the OWOW offer.  GC suggested External Grant Funders – there’s no guarantee but could be investigated.  ID-R and CMc – schools fully support Trauma Informed approach of OWOW, but there is no funding available in Secondary or Primary Schools.  AP/DE - Schools Forum Funding issues – de-delegated budget/funding. Growing numbers of children with complexities, support needed for the child and their families.  AP – Similar situation re the OWOW Supervision in schools programme may need to go back to the Schools Forum, Local Safeguarding Partnership or External Grant Funders.  AL – Suggested taking the OWOW presentation to Schools Forum. Need to discuss in detail beforehand as Forum has stated that OWOW is not an appropriate use of DSG funding, DE happy to be part of discussion, health and police to be included. AL thanked everyone for their frank and honest input regarding budgets.  **Actions:**  **How can we as a multi-agency partnership evidence that we are trauma informed and trauma responsive?**  **Moving forward strengthening practice, how can we align these together?**  **How can we develop our investment in quality assurance as a multi-agency partnership?** | **All**  **All**  **All** |
| **4.** | **West Cheshire Children and Young People’s Plan 2025 – feedback on consultation/engagement process – Katy Ellison**  KE shared the findings of engaging with children and young people, families and professionals via a PowerPoint presentation – this will be shared with the minutes. There were many strengths and compliments towards the workforce especially for Early Help, Social Care response. Found that a more universal access less targeted approach. Availability of support dependent on postcode. KE can drill down for more information if needed.  DE – Consultation strongly links to JSNA - item on the agenda today. |  |
| **5.** | **Development of West Cheshire Children and Young People’s Plan 2025: Discussion on Next Steps – Zara Woodcock**  ZW – Bearing in mind the significant changes coming from the DfE including aligning the approach to Early Help and Children in Need, together with the appointment of the new Director of Children’s Services it is suggested to have a one-year transitional Children and Young People Plan for 2025-26. This could be drawn up using the direction from the JSNA and KE’s consultation as this focused on voices of the users/residents and what they wanted. Within a year a new full plan will be written, based on the new direction of the government.  DE – SEND Strategy Group has delayed finalising the SEND Strategy and Action Plan, it too is proposing to have a 1-year interim Plan.  AP – In agreement that the SEND Strategy Plan is a 1-year plan to bring it in line with the CYPP plan. DfE have indicated that the  Secretary of State will make a policy announcement in June/July, which may impact on schools, preventative and intervention services, Early Help and our SEND support. This could be included in a longer-term strategy. A new Director of Education, Inclusion and SEND will be in place by June.  IN – If the CYPP is a 1-year plan, the strategic outcomes would need to be based on 1 year. The SEND Strategy Action Plan would also need to be a 1-year plan that matches the strategic outcomes of the CYPP.  ZW – Will aim to present an interim plan to the next meeting.  EHP strategy is already in place we can extend this for a year as it is with a caveat of the government direction. SEND Strategy might be different but can work on what is needed. Over the next 12 months we can work towards writing a new full strategy.  **Action: ZW to draft an interim plan to bring to the next meeting.**  GC – Representing the Third Sector, queried reallocating resources to the community sector, how can we ensure this happens. Following on from KE’s report re early intervention and users feeling comfortable in community facilities. Can the third sector be used more cost effectively.  ZW – Within the EHP strategy there is some additional funding that has been match funded that might be available. HAF has a 1-year position, but longer term is unknown some of this work is commissioned to the charity/voluntary sector. Some money is available that young people administer as part of Youth Service small grants, this could be doubled through match funding.  **Action: To liaise with Matt Pilling on Youth Service Small Grants.**  GC – Partnership working with the local authority is good, but can it go further, need to discuss and work together on where money is spent.  ZW – Family Hubs are a good opportunity; ZW would be happy to work together more with the Third Sector. | **Zara Woodcock**  **Gary Cliffe** |
| **6.** | **Re-Naming of the West Cheshire Children’s Trust Partnership / Executive and Membership – Cllr Adam Langan**  AL – Potential for re-branding the Children’s Trust and adding different partners to it. How can we hear the young person’s voice or voices of others such as Foster Carers? This is done by the Corporate Parenting Board via Children in Care representatives, Foster Carers.  ZW – In Youth Service 11 – 19yrs (25 yrs with SEND), there is Youth Voice and Youth SEND Voice or through Children and Families in Children’s Centres.  DE - How to get representation of all the different groups of children? There is a Children in Care Council, but we don’t have a SEND YP Forum at the moment but also need a universal rep, may need more than one representative, possibly a subgroup.  AL – Some charities have youth boards, difficult to work out, as young people may not understand some of the jargon discussed at our meetings it could put them off attending.  GC – Has some experience of this, to help members develop the services they provide. Using the alliance to develop the young people’s voice – it’s not easy but is possible.  AP – Could Youth Federation help with this?  GC – Youth Federation are very involved with the alliance – this could be a good way to start the process.  **Action: To look at which groups might be interested to progress this.**  ZW – Agreed this would be a good idea as the alliance has access to groups.  AL – If enough young people are interested to feed into this, a young people’s board could be set up. Through GC we could look at providing training for the young people and if they are happy to feedback to the main board, we can follow up on their actions, it may be more meaningful than one representative.  **Action:** **To discuss with Matt Pilling as part of the Youth Voice for over 11 years young people.**  ID-R – Under 11 years children may be interested – some have valuable opinions as found as part of reducing poverty conference last year. There could be interest in being involved with this to share their opinions.  **Action: How to hear the voice of the under 11 year old children? To discuss with Primary Headteachers.**  AL – Happy to leave the name of the Trust as it is for now and maybe review it when the young people’s group is in place.  AP – Agreed – give times for discussion about Place Board, Children’s ICB and how they work together. Natalie Abraham, Assistant Chief Executive/Director of Transformation and Strategy CW&C, is keen to be involved.  **Action: AP will ask Natalie Abraham to contact AL about this.** | **Gary Cliffe**  **Zara Woodcock**  **Ian Devereux-Roberts**  **Amanda Perraton** |
| **7.** | **SEND JSNA - Draft**  DE - The document is currently in draft and is at the JSNA Board on Friday 31 January for final sign off. This will help inform some of the planning and strategies discussed earlier and will help when writing the Children and Young People’s Plan and SEND Strategy Action Plans. For the SEND Strategy the priorities from the JSNA together with the recommendations from the SEND Scrutiny Review and High Needs Review will be pulled together in overarching themes . The JSNA report was commissioned externally for the first time, feedback has been good so far. DE welcomed feedback on the format of the report.  **Action: Please feedback any thoughts on the format of the report.**  GC - How are PCF, SEND Accountability Children and Young People’s Alliance involved?  DE – PCF are represented on the SEND Strategy Group. SEND Accountability is not represented as there is a recognised PCF involvement. As discussed, gap in some parts - capturing children’s voices as discussed, but KE is working with PCF on co-production strategy to inform on this going forward. | **All** |
| **8.** | **AOB**  **School Allergy Policy**  DE – Gave an overview of the background as Alex Holt is not at the meeting.  IN – Due to IT issues at the last meeting, Alex Holt was unable to open the link / share her screen to talk through the Allergy Policy. The policy was shared with the minutes, asking for approval for this to be shared with schools. This was approved by all at the meeting. |  |
| **9.** | **Date of Next Meeting:**  **Monday 31 March 2025 3.00-5.00pm Via Teams** | **All to note** |
|  | **Please see Summary of Actions below** |  |

| **Summary of Actions** | | | |
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| **Date of Meeting** | **Action required** | **Progress against Action with completion date** | **Lead** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 3: How can we as a multi-agency partnership evidence that we are trauma informed and trauma responsive?**  **Action from Item 3:**  **Moving forward strengthening practice and moving forward? How can we align these together?**  **Action from Item 3:**  **How can we develop our investment in quality assurance as a multi-agency partnership?** |  | **All**  **All**  **All** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 5: ZW to draft an interim plan to bring to the next meeting.** |  | **Zara Woodcock** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 5: To liaise with Matt Pilling on Youth Service Small Grants.** |  | **Gary Cliffe** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 6: Re young people’s voice - to look to at which groups might be interested to progress this.** |  | **Gary Cliffe** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 6:** **Re young** **people’s voice -** t**o discuss with Matt Pilling as part of the Youth Voice for over 11 years young people.** |  | **Zara Woodcock** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 6: How to hear the voice of the under 11 year old children? To discuss with Primary Headteachers** |  | **Ian Devereux-Roberts** |
| 27 January 2025 | **Action from Item 7: The JSNA report was commissioned externally for the first time, please feedback any thoughts on the format of the report.** |  | **All** |