The main reasons for admission are:

During the first few years of life
- upper respiratory infections
- minor viral infections and fever
- Gastroenteritis
- minor neonatal diagnoses
- lower respiratory infections

In older children and into teenage years
- asthma
- abdominal pain and constipation
- injuries (particularly head injuries and limb fractures)
- tonsillitis
- upper respiratory infections

In Cheshire East there were 7,726 emergency hospital admissions by children and young people aged 0 to 19 during 2010/11.

These admissions are equivalent to 9.3% of all the children and young people living in Cheshire East.
Emergency admissions may occur because parents have insufficient knowledge of the causes and prevention of common childhood illnesses.

Some admissions occur because parents lack confidence to manage minor illnesses in their child.

Children’s Centres and health visitors are key sources of support and education for parents.

Tobacco smoke causes respiratory disease. Children who breathe cigarette smoke have an increased risk of acute and long-term chest problems. Areas with high adult smoking rates are also the areas that have the highest rates of children being admitted with upper and lower respiratory problems.

Alongside the increasing burden of chronic respiratory disease in children, this makes tobacco control a priority for improving child health. There is a need to reduce adult smoking rates in local communities, and particularly in those areas that are shaded on the map in orange or red.

Rotavirus is a very common gastrointestinal infection that mainly affects very young children. It produces diarrhoea that can be severe enough to cause dehydration and hospital admission. Outbreaks can easily occur in nurseries and other day care settings, although high levels of cleanliness and good toilet/nappy-changing hygiene can significantly reduce the risk of transmission in the home and in care settings. Breastfeeding also reduces the severity of the illness.

About a quarter of emergency admissions occur in the first year of life, which is a time when the child lives in a highly passive environment and is totally dependent on the abilities of its parents.

A further quarter of emergency admissions occur between the ages of one and three. It is during these first few years of life that we begin to see the health impacts of poor environments starting to affect the future lives of these children.