Cheshire East
Children and Young People’s Plan
YOUTH PROOFED
2015-18
Goals

Children, young people and staff want us to make Cheshire East a **great place to be young**. So we created these goals:

~ every young person valued
~ children are safe
~ children stay with their families if possible, but get good care if not
~ children are healthy and happy
~ young people have opportunities and can share their opinion when we make decisions about them
~ everyone involved works together to help each child, with support based on experience
~ children are supported as they grow into adults, so that they can follow their dreams
~ celebrate the success of all children and young people

This plan sets out how we aim to make things better for children and their families in Cheshire East. With other plans, we have come up with three joint aims:
1. adults involved with children are good at their jobs
2. we listen to and use the ideas of children and young people
3. we do well at protecting and giving good futures to all the children in Cheshire East
What’s it like at the moment?

It is really important to listen to children’s views, so we gave 2800 some questions and interviewed 800 more, to get these results:
- in general children are happy, and feel ok about school
- primary age children are very happy and mostly worried about safety
- at high school boys drop to ok and lots of girls feel sad
- girls in high school worry a lot about how they look, and boys don’t realise how what they say can affect what girls think about their looks
- most children feel good about the things they have
- most children felt bad about their health
- young people in high school mostly want more shops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Good News</th>
<th>The Bad News</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ Under 4’s immunisations and development</td>
<td>✗ There is quite a big difference between the success of some disadvantaged children compared to others</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔️ Achievement and attendance at school</td>
<td>✗ Unsafe behaviour (for example getting too drunk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔️ Children and young people with special needs are catching up to the others</td>
<td>✗ Some children aren’t being looked after properly</td>
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<td>✔️ Less children wrongly sent to social care</td>
<td>✗ Car accidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔️ Less children in care</td>
<td>✗ Some cared for children aren’t happy</td>
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<td>✔️ Health of children in care</td>
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<td>✔️ Less young people doing nothing after school</td>
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<td>✔️ Less teenage pregnancy</td>
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<td>✔️ Less young criminals</td>
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<td>✔️ More money for young people’s rights and involvement</td>
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<td>✔️ Faster adoptions</td>
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1. **We want adults to ask young people what they think, when they’re making decisions about young people.**

- Make adults better at helping children to explain their ideas
- Give children more confidence to talk about it
- Help the youth council to listen to the young people and tell everyone else what they’re saying
- Make sure there won’t be anything stopping this from happening
- Make sure children get a chance to say what they think the whole way through their childhood

2. **Children and young people feel and are safe**

- Tell the adults about safety and make sure they will know what to do and if a child is at risk
- Reduce risk through early help
- Make sure more people understand the risks so they can help
- Make new plans for supporting and helping children
- Make new plans for helping children learn about road safety

3. **Children and young people are happy and have good mental health**

- Better support for children affected by fighting at home
- Make changes easier for children
- Less bad behaviour
- Make mental health services better
- More help to stop problems early
- Make improvements to how we deal with suicide and self-harm
4. **Children and young people are healthy and make good choices**

- Improve the plan for young children by getting adults involved to work together
- Design a new sexual health service with young people, and improve what is already provided
- Redesign school health service
- Create new drug and alcohol services
- Make sure services used by pregnant women understand the importance of being healthy from a young age
- Make it easier to change from young to adult health services
- Design new care plans with children
- Improve how we help people with weight issues

5. **Children and young people leave school with good skills and achievements so they can do well in the future**

- Improve support in early years
- Make sure there are enough nursery spaces available for children from poor families to get free places
- Carry out the early years plan
- Make sure families who need help can easily accept the offer
- Make the change from nursery to primary school easier for children
- Give personalised support for young people in education or training
- Work with people involved to make sure young people can get a good education and the right training and jobs
- Improve the choice of learning opportunities for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities
- Make sure there are enough places in schools for all the children in Cheshire East

6. **Children, young people and young adults with additional needs have better chances in life**

- Work with families to create a system to support them
- Listen to children and families’ ideas, and get them involved in planning processes
- Improve planning for young people moving to another stage of their life, and create more choice for further education or job opportunities
- Improve young people’s participation, ensuring they’re involved in discussions that affect them
- Make services bigger and better
- Have different organisations work together so that these children and young adults can each have a say in their support
- Let families decide what they do with some of the money to give them more control
Full details of the plan can be found at:


The Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015 – 2018
was written in partnership with children and young people.

‘Youthproofed’ by Harriet Drake (Young Advisor)