



**Director of Children's Services
Report on progress – September 2019**

Key Messages



- The Children's Improvement Programme remains in 'Stage 1 i.e. the 'Responding' phase of its development. Over the coming weeks forward planning will take place to identify the key steps necessary to transition smoothly into the 'Strengthening' phase i.e. focusing on shifting our culture to supporting families at the earliest stages of issues arising and ensuring we consistently deliver strong standards around the quality and pace of our front-line work.
- Progress continues across the 9 work-streams with **100%** of tasks either complete or on target.
- A dedicated project manager and project support officer are now in post and will further strengthen the existing Programme Management Approach in place to gather, monitor and report on key information related to the progress of the programme.
- 'Peer Support' workshops between our Partner in Practice Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester, and the Council have already taken place with more planned for the forthcoming weeks. Key areas of focus will be on Data and Performance, Early Help and Workforce.
- The final publication of the Improvement Plan has now been shared with OFSTED and will be formally launched at the 'Big Launch Event' on the 11th September 2019.

Highlight Report



Key 'On Track' Activity Highlights from September:

- Training for all staff around how to more effectively reflect the Voice of The Child in both the planning, delivery and recording of their work.
- Routine learning from audits for staff planned to be embedded into the Quarterly Practice Workshops starting from Autumn 2019.
- Case Recording and Staff Supervision Policies have now been issued to staff.
- Updated 'Single Agency Referral' form currently being updated and is on track to be completed by the 1st October 2019.
- Liquid Logic 'Health Check' completed. Series of enhancements to LCS and EHM now agreed to be completed by December 2019.
- Big Launch' Event booked for the 11th Sept. Invites gone to internal frontline staff, Pennine, CCG, GMP and Schools

Risk Heat Map (Post Mitigation)

Ref:	Title						
		Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25
CIP01	Lack of capacity to manage EH cases	Likely	4	8	12 CIP07 CIP08	16 CIP01 CIP02 CIP03 CIP09	20
CIP02	Lack of performance system to support Front Door and Early Help	Possible	3	6	9 CIP04 CIP05 CIP06	12	15
CIP03	Lack of project support for EH	Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
CIP09	Variable Assessment Practice	Rare	1	2	3	4	5
			Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
			IMPACT				

Performance



Doing well

- CP Plans have reduced over the past 12 months. ✓
- CP Cases open over 2 years have also reduced. ✓
- Proportion of LAC with Annual health assessment completed is above target for past 3 months. ✓
- Proportion of Referral Decisions being made within timescales is increasing even though the number of referrals is also increasing. ✓
- Proportion of C & F Assessments being completed within timescales is remains high whilst the number completed is rising. ✓

Could do better

- LAC cases are going up in the last 12 months. ✗
- Number of open cases is going up over the last 12 months ✗
 - The rate of cases opening has increased.
- Number of Contacts progressing to referral has reached “Unprecedented” levels. ✗