



## COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Children Act 2004 makes provision for the objectives set out within the *Every Child Matters* agenda, and places a duty on a number of partners to work together to ensure everything is being done to protect the well-being of our children and young people.

Section 10 of the Act cites police authorities and chief officers of police as “relevant partners” who have a duty to make arrangements to co-operate with local authorities to improve the well being of children and young people.

The Act places duties on police authorities in terms of cooperating with the children’s services authority and ensuring their own functions (and those of the police) have regard to the Every Child Matters agenda.

Children and young people identified five key areas for which they wanted support to:-

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution; and
- achieve economic well-being.

In the Cheshire policing area, the percentage of the total population under 18 is 22.8%

<b>Population under 18 yrs</b>	<b>%</b>
Cheshire	22.1
Halton	24.7
Warrington	23.4

Cheshire Police Authority has three lead Members for Children and Young People. Their role is to ensure that :-

- the authority’s functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote welfare of children;
- through consultation, the views of children and young people will inform the work of the authority;
- as a relevant partner, the authority will engage with local children’s services authorities and ensure that the authority is appropriately represented on relevant local groups, bodies or boards that consider

outcomes, priorities and targets associated with children and young people;

- the authority is knowledgeable about the children and young people in its areas, including age-groups, diversity and needs, educational attainment, youth victimisation and criminality;
- the authority takes account of the Children and Young People's Plans when developing the policing plan;
- ensure that the force has appropriate and effective policies and procedures in place to meet its statutory responsibilities with regards to children and young people; and
- monitor complaints made against the police either from or on behalf of children and young people.

The lead members will work with the Constabulary's senior officer leads for children and young people through a joint strategic group to :-

- develop a strategy setting out internal implementation and development taking into account the objectives of Every Child Matters;
- have a clear partnership strategy setting out how the Constabulary will contribute to the objectives of Every Child Matters in co-operation with external partners;
- have an appropriate risk-based training programme in place for police staff and officers;
- have safe recruitment with secure vetting standards;
- recognise children under the age of 18 suspected of having committed an offence as vulnerable; and
- identify vulnerable children in domestic violence, substance misuse and missing persons.