THE VOICE

The Autumn Edition

Council 9



The VoiCE Editorial

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If you would like to get in touch, please email us on: thevoice@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Contact Us

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- @cheshireeast
- f /cheshireeastcouncil
- (i) /cheshireeast
- /cheshireeast



Leader's Welcome

Welcome to our autumn edition of The VoiCE and, once again, thank you for your positive feedback.

Next year promises to be extremely challenging. No one

can predict the full impact of Brexit – deal or no deal. Like many organisations, we must prepare for this – for our residents and businesses.

As a public sector organisation, we do not hold a corporate view on Brexit. But we do want to help and support companies, charities and organisations concerned about the potential impact of leaving the EU. We are listening to businesses to better understand the implications for them and we are assessing both the potential risks and benefits for the borough.

We are also currently preparing our budget plans for next year. We face further reductions in central government grant support but we continue to innovate and re-shape our services, while protecting vulnerable members of our society. We still deliver services that some local authorities have removed altogether.

We are approaching winter and this edition of The VoiCE provides information on how you can stay safe during the winter months and how we will continue to provide you with essential services.

Finally, I want to congratulate our registrations service on being awarded 'best ceremony provider' by County Brides Magazine (see article on page 14). The team presides over 2,000 ceremonies a year, often at one of our many romantic wedding venues. The borough's splendid hotels and historic settings make Cheshire East a popular place for couples to say 'I will'.

The wedding business is worth £32m to the borough's rural economy and our overall visitor economy is on target to top £1bn by 2020 – good reasons to celebrate!

Councillor Rachel Bailey, Leader of Cheshire East Council

Raene Barrey

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LATEST **NEWS**



Regeneration plans for Crewe town centre have taken a step forward with the announcement that Empire Cinemas has agreed terms for a new state-of-the-art, eight-screen multiplex.

The 800-seat cinema will be the centre-piece of the Royal Arcade scheme, which Peveril Securities and their development managers,

Cordwell Property Group, have been working on since being selected as Cheshire East Council's preferred development partners.

The main screen will feature a hi-tech 'impact' screen showing the latest blockbuster movies to 230 customers seated in luxury seats, including some in a new sofa format.



On track for a billion pounds tourism target

Tourists continue to flock to Cheshire East and visitor rates are set to top £1bn a year, according to the latest economy figures.

Cheshire East's visitor economy has increased by 3.2% on the previous year's figures – placing the total value of hospitality and visitor revenue at £921m. It means it's on target to reach £1bn by 2020.

School admissions

The closing date for applications for September 2019 primary school places is 15 January 2019.

To apply and for more information, go to: cheshireeast.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Phone: 0300 123 5012 Twitter @CE admissions

Pioneering foster carer recruitment service launches



We launched the new 'Foster4' service together with Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington borough councils.

Foster4 pools resources and expertise to recruit more foster carers, while providing enhanced training and benefits packages for current foster carers. The collaboration allows

more local children to continue to live in an area familiar to them.

As one of the first groups of authorities in the country to collaborate on a project of this kind, the service is making real waves in the sector.

Interested in becoming a foster carer?
Fostering families come in all shapes and sizes and there's really no such thing as a 'typical' foster carer. So if you're great with children, have a spare bedroom for a child to call their own and want to make a real difference, fostering could be for you.

It's a truly flexible, home-based, self-employed role that uses your skills with children. Visit **foster4.co.uk** to request an information pack.

Council service directory proving its worth



An online directory with information and advice pages promoting usage of local services has reached its first anniversary.

Live Well Cheshire East helps people to live well and for longer by providing clear information to enable residents to get the service support they need more quickly. It covers a wide range of services relevant to public health, childrens' and young people, adult social care and community services.

Since launching last year, Live Well has received an average of 12,000 page views a week to the 3,000 services it promotes, and in the last 12 months, has had nearly 125,000 visits. Go to: cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell



New campaign opens the door on unhealthy relationships

A campaign to help people spot the signs of domestic abuse and know where to get help was launched at The Georges Community Centre, in Crewe, in September.

'Open the Door' aims to equip people with the tools to feel safe and confident having a conversation about unhealthy relationships.

It has been developed by a partnership of a local domestic abuse survivor group, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Halton and Warrington borough councils, the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Constabulary and Public Health England. For more information go to: openthedoorcheshire.org.uk



Sarah's smile is one of the first things you notice about this young mum from Knutsford – but step back five years and you would see a very different Sarah.

Suffering with depression, extreme anxiety and feeling trapped inside her home, Sarah was struggling to look after a new baby and deal with a relationship breakdown. She felt as though her life was in a downward spiral.

Thankfully, with our support she managed to take that vital first step towards getting help and is now inspiring and helping everyone in her local community through her role as

volunteer coordinator and support worker at the Welcome Community Centre, on the Longridge Estate in Knutsford.

Sarah said: "Depression isn't simply a case of mind over matter and it's fine to ask for help if you're struggling. That first step is the scariest but it's the best thing you can do to get support and start to change things for the better.

"Looking after yourself has to be a priority and it's not selfish to give yourself that help – you have to be 'self-full'. If you're feeling good and happy, you're able to support your family, friends and community – but it has to start with you."

There are community services, groups and support available in the borough, such as



connected communities centres, children's centres and libraries where you can speak to a friendly face, get information and meet people with similar interests or challenges. In many centres, there are community cafés like the Welcome Café, where you can get a bacon butty and a cup of tea – there really is something for everyone.

Sarah adds: "I am telling my story in the hope that it reaches that one person who might be sat like I was, hair in a mess, wearing pyjamas all day and trying to cope with a screaming baby. Life doesn't have to be that way, so please find that ounce of energy to walk through the door of a local community centre, pick up the phone or go online and find someone to help you. The

biggest discovery for me was that I wasn't the only one to be feeling this way. It was a huge relief to share experiences with others."

Sarah is going from strength to strength with many achievements, including raising a happy and healthy family, leading a 'stronger women' course, speaking in support of her local children's centre at a public meeting, working towards getting on a degree course in social work and a new job.

You can view Sarah's inspiring story on our YouTube channel and find out about services near you at: **cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell** or by phoning 0300 123 5500.

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION 2019-22



YOUR SERVICES - YOUR SAY

We are seeking your views on what you think our priorities should be and where you think we should be spending money. Your opinions matter, as they inform us and help with our decision-making processes.

Like many other councils up and down the country, we continue to face significant funding pressures set against growing demand for essential services, especially in children and families, adult social care and for our most vulnerable residents.

The local economy continues to grow with more houses being built and businesses being set up or relocating from outside the borough. However, we must continue to look at how we can make savings across the services provided and where spending should be prioritised. This might mean that some existing services will be reduced or delivered in a different way in the future.

The consultation runs until 14 December and will be considered by all council members at a full council meeting on 21 February 2019.

To have your say, go to: cheshireeast.gov.uk/budget

Funds will be used to prevent homelessness

Thankfully, we have a low number of people sleeping rough in Cheshire East – but one person sleeping on the streets is still one too many. That's why we're stepping up our policy to tackle homelessness and using £350,000 of government funding to help boost the support offered to those sleeping rough or at risk of being out on the streets.

We have appointed a rough-sleeping coordinator and are making additional beds available in Macclesfield and Crewe through our partner organisations. We're also working with several community groups to develop ways to reduce homelessness and provide the right services to those affected.

As we look ahead to winter, our severe weather emergency procedures for rough sleepers will also be on standby. When the night time temperature is predicted to be below freezing for three nights in a row, local

authorities must provide accommodation to anyone sleeping rough.

But in Cheshire East, we've opted to use the 'real feel' temperature. This means we can provide accommodation to individuals for greater periods of time and work with them to prevent them having to go back out on the streets.



More information and advice about homelessness, including what to do if you believe someone is sleeping rough, can be found on our website: cheshireeast.gov.uk/homelessness

Your winter pull-ou

STAY WARM, STAY WELL, STAY SAFE

Stay healthy with Dr Matt

Keep warm

To stay well during the winter months, it's important to keep your home heated to at least 18°C (65°F) – but you may want to keep your main living room warmer than this. Keeping your home heated and staying warm outdoors can help prevent colds and other serious diseases, like pneumonia. Wearing warm clothes, keeping bedroom windows closed at night and making sure you aren't sitting still for more than an hour can also help you stay warm and stay well.

Protect yourself against the flu and other winter bugs

It's really important to make sure that you, your children or your grandchildren have had an NHS flu jab as, in severe cases, flu can result in hospital treatment and become very serious. You can receive these from your local pharmacy or GP. Protect yourself from other common ailments that are rife in winter by making sure you wash your hands well with soap and water.

Make sure your cupboards are stocked

It's helpful to make sure you have a supply of food and medicines at home in case the weather gets really cold. Making sure that you've got simple medicines for minor illnesses, as well as enough of any medicines that your doctor has

> prescribed for you, can help you to stay well at home. If you are feeling ill, then making sure you rest, drink plenty of fluids and have food and medicine available, will help you get better faster.

Take care 'out and about'

If you do need to go out in cold and icy conditions, make sure that you wrap up warm, with several thin layers rather than one thick layer. Ensure you wear shoes with a good grip, so you're less likely to slip. Wear a scarf, to allow you to cover your mouth so you're not breathing in cold air.

Look after each other

Some people may not be able to get around easily during winter, or might need a bit more help. Keep in touch with relatives, friends and neighbours and make sure they are feeling okay and, if needed, make sure they have a few days' worth of food in the house and that they have any medicines they might need before the Christmas holidays start.

For more tips and information, search 'winter wellbeing' on our website.

Stay well everyone and I look forward to talking to you all again in 2019.

Get active

Our leisure centres and swimming pools have some great fitness activities for all ages. Our most senior user is aged over 100, so there's something to suit everyone. For more information, go to: everybody.org.uk

School closures

For the latest information regarding school closures in winter, we recommend that you contact the school direct or visit their website. Schools may also publish closure information on local radio or by text alert.

Dr Matt Tyrer

Consultant in Public Health Medicine,
Cheshire East Council



HOW YOU CAN AVOIDWINTER DRIVING PROBLEMS

It is important to prepare your car for the winter weather and be aware of the change in road conditions. Cold weather can cause problems with your vehicle, so it's good to do some simple checks before driving.

Check:

- ✓ Your tyres are at the correct pressures and have at least 3mm of tread (legal minimum is 1.6mm)
- √ Your vehicle lights are working
- √ Your wiper blades are effective and winter windscreen wash topped up
- √ Your battery is in good condition and fully charged
- √ Your anti-freeze is at the right concentration (your garage can do this for you)
- √ Your windows and mirrors are clear of snow, ice or condensation

Potholes

At this time of year, there can be an increase in general degradation and potholes on roads across the country. Repeated freezing and thawing of water on the road surface during winter months can cause the condition of roads to deteriorate in isolated areas.

How do potholes form?

- Cracks develop in the road from heavy traffic
- · Water seeps into cracks below the surface
- Water freezes beneath the road and expands, making cracks bigger
- Vehicle movement causes cracks to collapse, forming a pothole

What to do if you spot a pothole

You can report a pothole and track its repair online at **cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx** or call 0300 123 5020. We will assess each report and take appropriate action.

Do all potholes reported get filled?

We have a prioritised response, dependent on numerous factors, including depth, width, location and risk. If a pothole or road defect is not prioritised for immediate attention, we may incorporate it into repairs in the following spring or summer.

Winter service

Our winter service is prepared to grit major roads, where there is a risk of ice, and also clears snow on these routes. We do this to keep key routes safe and minimise delays as much as possible during the winter months.

Daily gritting decisions are made based on local forecasts and road temperatures, rather than air temperatures. Gritting is likely to take place whenever road temperatures are forecast to fall below 1°C and ice is expected to form.

Gritting routes

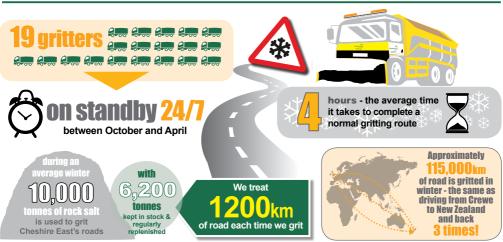
We treat almost 1,200km (750 miles) of Cheshire East's roads each time we carry out gritting between October and April.

We treat pavements only when snow or ice is present and is likely to persist. Priority is given to pavements that carry the greatest number of pedestrians (such as shopping areas and outside hospitals or schools) and pavements of gradients steeper than 10%.

For our latest gritting updates follow @CECHighways on twitter or track our gritting fleet online at: cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways

Winter gritting facts & figures We're working for you...





cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways

WE COLLECT FROM 172,000 PROPERTIES AND EMPTY 250,000 BINS EVERY WEEK. THAT'S MORE THAN 13 MILLION BINS A YEAR!

Adverse weather and bin collections

We will always operate our waste collection service, where safe access can be assured. However, with large snowfalls or icy conditions, it will not always be possible to fully complete waste collection rounds. Where extreme weather and road surfaces compromise the safety of our staff, residents and other road users, we will sometimes take the difficult decision not to attempt collections. In these rare situations, we ask for your patience and understanding. We will issue updates on our website and social media when missed collections will be rescheduled.

You can also help us by keeping your bin safe. Labelling your bin and not leaving it out after your collection are two simple ways of doing this.

Contact us

You can report a missed bin collection, order a new or replacement bin or book a bulky collection at: cheshireeast.gov.uk/recycling Our customer services team are here to support you if you

cannot access our website.



WINTER 2018/19 GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

During the winter months the garden waste collection service will be suspended on SUNDAY 02/12/18 and will resume the week beginning SUNDAY 10/02/19.

As garden bins are collected every fortnight, please check the online calendar for your last collection of 2018 and your first collection of 2019.

Please recycle your real Christmas tree:

- Charities and youth groups may collect your real Christmas tree for a donation - please visit the website below.
- At your household waste recycling centre for opening times, please visit our website. Vehicle permit may be required.
- In your garden waste bin cut up larger trees so that the lid still closes - we are unable to collect trees that are not in a closed bin.







cheshireeast.gov.uk/recycling Tel: 0300 123 5011



We hosted our first ever Pride in the Park event in September – and are delighted to say that it was a huge success.

About 700 people, not including all the volunteers and performers, came to the gardens of Tatton Park for a day of celebrating the LGBTQ+ community with the 'Pride in the Park Picnic'.

The event was a big family affair and people attended from all over the borough and beyond. On the day, attendees were entertained by music from Brazilian carnival and dance act Juba do Leão, jazz saxophonist Alex Clarke and a variety of choirs and performers.

Despite some persistent rain in the middle of the day, everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, which was supported by more than 50 volunteers as crowds gathered to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture and pride.

As well as a fantastic range of musical entertainment, we also provided a health and wellbeing marketplace, where visitors were able to talk to people safely and confidentially.

The plan is to build on the success of this year's Pride in the Park event and host a second event next year at a location still to be confirmed. We'll keep you posted here in The VoiCE!





Why 2,000 couples choose Cheshire East to tie the knot

Getting married soon? Did you know that each year more than 2,000 couples choose to marry in Cheshire East through the borough's awardwinning registrations service?

The borough has more than 70 approved venues – from historic halls to outstanding hotels – often situated in the most breathtaking settings.

Such is the popularity of Cheshire East with brides and grooms to be, that a staggering 70% of them come here from outside the borough.

The registrations team has also received the highest rating of all from the Registrar General for all their services delivered, including births and deaths registration. The superintendent registrar said: "We take a great deal of pride in the service we offer and we have a fantastic team. We want to see our couples enjoy their day and

have a seamless ceremony." She added: "We try to go that extra mile, ensuring that no detail is overlooked."

The wedding business brings £32m to the rural economy through hotel and venue bookings and related requirements.

The team received the award of 'best ceremony provider' from County Brides Magazine.

Are you thinking of getting married in Cheshire East? Visit: yourceremony.org.uk





Three Cheshire East primary schools teamed up with schools across Staffordshire in a partnership project with BBC Radio Stoke, to do a large-scale community litter pick.

Astbury St Mary's, Pear Tree (Nantwich) and Woodcocks Well (Mow Cop) primary schools all went out for an hour in September, as part of a community project led by BBC Radio Stoke, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Thousands of schoolchildren from 60 schools in Staffordshire, and south Cheshire went out in their local communities with the aim of encouraging them to take pride and responsibility in looking after their local environments.

Colleagues from our wholly-owned company Ansa made sure that all the schoolchildren were properly equipped to do their litter pick, providing bags and grabbers on the day and, as you can see, the children had a great time!



Providing appropriate mental health 'early help' support services is an important part of what we do and supporting vulnerable young people, in the way that works best for them, is a key priority.

But we understand that providing that support means being able to talk to a range of people in sometimes a very different way. For example; how do you support your son/daughter when they're going through a difficult time and finding it difficult to speak to you as a parent?

Having a mental health worry is a very personal thing and can present itself in a number of different ways. Our approach to providing key support is through our partnerships with expert providers. We know that we can't always have all the answers immediately, so we look to signpost people to the expertise of others around us, who will help to ensure that no one should ever feel alone.

Our partners provide essential support to our work. Kooth is an online provider, which is on hand seven days a week to provide specialist, free, safe and anonymous support to children and young people. Visyon and Just Drop-In are two of our partner charities. Both charities empower young people to take the responsibility for their mental health positively into their own hands.

The support is there for young people to access as and when they need it. So, if they want to have an online chat late at night, they can do that safely. Likewise, if they want to drop in and talk to someone, they can also take that route. We've also developed some of our own support networks, including the very successful, highly commended 'Emotionally Healthy Schools' programme, which helps staff at schools to recognise signs of a young person potentially having a mental health concern.

Whatever a young person's concerns might be, there will be support out there for them. As friends, family members or guardians, we all have a duty to let young people know where to go to get help.

That first step could be the most crucial one they take.

Visit our Live Well pages at: cheshireeast.gov.uk/mentalhealth to find out more.

Recycling – a life with less plastic

We've made a significant commitment to reduce the impact of single-use plastic – and are urging you to do the same.

In September, we stopped providing plastic cups at water stations at all our corporate buildings and this is just the start of our commitment to live a life with less plastic.

We'd like to thank all'The VoiCE' readers for their feedback to our last edition – it was great to see so much engagement around plastic and we really valued all your opinions. Please keep them coming!

The 'Life with less plastic' campaign is open to anyone to get involved. There are so many

ways that the community can reduce their reliance on single-use plastic but here are some of the easy wins to get you started:

- The UK uses 8.5 billion plastic straws a year

 stop using them and use environmentally-friendly alternatives, such as steel and glass straws instead
- Invest in canvas or cotton bags for your shopping and keep them handy
- Carry your own drink container with you and refill it instead of purchasing new bottled water

Why not let us know what you are doing to cut out single-use plastic by joining the conversation online using: #lifewithlessplastic

For general recycling advice, visit: cheshireeast.gov.uk/recycling





Could you be the difference?

Working in social care is about providing personal and practical support to help people live their lives. There are lots of different roles and opportunities available to those working in social care, depending on what you want to do, who you want to work with and where you'd like to work.

You could be supporting someone with a physical disability, autism, dementia or a mental health condition. You might be working in a care home, out in your local community or from someone's home.

There are many opportunities in our borough to work in a sector in which 96% of workers said they feel their work makes a difference. Adult social care has lots to offer. It's a very rewarding career and you can make a real difference to someone's life.

If you don't have experience of working in social care but would like to know if it could be for you, why not take this short guiz: skillsforcare.org.uk/careers-in-care

If you have the skills to make a difference for our residents and are interested in career opportunities with the council's adult social care provider service Care4CE, please call the team on 01625 374261 or visit: cheshireeast.gov.uk/jobs

Shared Lives scheme

Cheshire Fast's Shared Lives scheme supports self-employed carers, who share their home and family life with adults who need support. There are more than 100 Shared Lives carers in Cheshire East, supporting more than 220 adults, who have a learning disability, mental health or dementia-related support need.



If you think you could share your home,



Sharing the story of Cheshire's past



Cheshire Archives and Local Studies is the archives service for Cheshire.

It's based at the Cheshire Record Office, in Duke Street, Chester, in a converted 19th-century warehouse and holds unique and irreplaceable archives, which tell the story of the people and places of Cheshire.

Growing by the day, these archives date from the 12th century to the present day and come from businesses, schools, hospitals, local societies, councils and more. They include:

- The earliest plans for Crewe, when the town was beginning to grow after the railway opened
- Records of the wines and spirits provided for Lord Egerton's guests to Tatton Park in the 19th century
- Records of people tried in Nantwich and Knutsford, including an innkeeper being accused of keeping a house of ill-repute and allowing gambling, and someone brought before the court for the heinous crime of playing 'fotebal' on a Sunday!

Our archives staff, together with an army of dedicated volunteers, work to make sure they are accessible and preserved for future generations. Anyone can visit the record office – just check the archives website at:

archives.cheshire.gov.uk/home.aspx

Cheshire Archives works closely with our library service to provide local history material in many local libraries, where you can also search for your ancestors online. The archives website is full of useful information, as well as historic maps of the county and photographs, which are added to all the time.

Many visitors are interested in the history of their family. The archives service welcomes people from all over Cheshire and further afield, who are interested in the history of their house, town or village, school or business, or even people who have a legal question they'd like answered.

The archives team also work across Cheshire to support people to celebrate and preserve their history. It teamed up with sports clubs, schools and local history groups recently on a wide range of projects and wants to expand this in the future.

Why not try to guess where our archive photographs are from on our #ThrowbackThursday on Twitter and Facebook? Follow @CheshireEast on Twitter and Facebook to see if you can recognise the location of the photographs we share every Thursday!





We're proud to be one of the few councils in the UK to have held a four-year programme of events to mark the centenary of the Armistice.

Since 2014, our Cheshire East Reflects programme has used the arts and culture as a means to commemorate the First World War and has seen participation from more than 25,000 people.

Through schools workshops, theatre programmes, concerts, formal commemorative events and more, the programme has helped ensure the stories and artefacts, which tell the story of the First World War in Cheshire East, are preserved for future generations.

Our 2018 programme included a free family picnic concert at Tatton Park, in Knutsford, and featured performances from Staffordshire Military Wives' Choir, Cheshire's own Foden's Band and Sacred Sounds, which told the story of British India's involvement in the Great War.

Our final two commemorative events, called 'When the Light Goes Out', took place during Armistice weekend and saw professional artists working with residents of all ages to put them together.

The first event was held in Crewe and included a parade inspired by the town's 1918 Tank Week – part of a fundraising campaign led by the government, which saw tanks touring England's towns and cities – and a street concert featuring bands and choirs.

The second event took place on Remembrance Sunday at Tatton Park and featured a piece of building projection artwork – created and inspired by community-sourced stories and artefacts from the war – a promenade performance and the extinguishing of the commemorative flame, which has burned since 2014.

We'd like to thank all the staff at Tatton Park and all our partners for their support during the Cheshire East Reflects programme, including Imperial War Museum North, The Royal British Legion, Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery Fund, Crewe Town Council, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Cheshire Rural Touring Arts and Clonter Opera Theatre.

More information about Cheshire East Reflects can be found by visiting: cheshireeastreflects.com

24-HOUR ACCESS TO YOUR COUNCIL

cheshireeast.gov.uk

You can access a range of services 24-hours a day, as well as make a payment, view planning applications, contact specific services and report issues such as fly-tipping and potholes to us.

cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell

You'll find an easy-to-use directory of more than 3,000 services and activities in your area, plus useful information and advice on a range of subjects – giving you greater choice and control in finding care and support for you and your family.

cheshireeast.gov.uk/counciltax

Find out more about council tax and manage your council tax online. You can also contact our council tax team by filling in the online enquiry form.

Visit one of our customer service centres:

Visit cheshireeast.gov.uk/contact to check for locations and opening times.

Contact us by phone or post if you're not able to access our website or are unsure which service to contact.

Call the Cheshire East Information Line on:

0300 123 5500

Or write to:

Cheshire East Council, c/o Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ For emergencies out of hours – such as concerns for the welfare of an adult or child – call our emergency control centre on:

0300 123 5025

Find us on:

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f /cheshireeastcouncil

/cheshireeast

