1. **Introduction**

The Healthy Young Minds Alliance (HYMA) is a collaboration of organisations in Cheshire East, including Local Authority, Health, Education, and VCFSE organisations. Our focus is to ensure that children and young people (aged 0-25) in Cheshire East thrive, through early intervention support, enhancing their resilience and wellbeing. The views, needs, and experiences of children, young people, their parents, and carers are at the heart of our work.

1. **Vision**

The HYMA aims to create an environment where every child or young person can thrive and easily access early intervention advice and support, when needed.

1. **Mission**

HYMA’s mission is to influence local policy and processes by sharing information, innovation, and best practices at the early intervention and prevention stages (in line with the iThrive Framework). We leverage collective expertise and listen to children, young people, families, and Alliance members, to help reduce mental health and wellbeing inequalities.

1. **Strategic Context**

* Cheshire and Merseyside Children and Young People's Mental Health Plan 2024 – 2026
* CEC Early Help Strategy 2024-2026.
* The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Population of Cheshire East 2018-2021
* Cheshire East 0-25 SEND Strategy 2021-2024
* JSNA - Children and Young People’s Emotional and Mental Wellbeing across Cheshire East - January 2024.
* Together for Children and Young People Plan 2022- 2026.
* Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2025
* CE Mental Health Plan 2024-2029
* Core20PLUS5 – NHS England’s approach to reducing health inequalities for CYP

1. **Child and Youth Voice**

The views and experiences of CYP are embedded in the work of the Healthy Young Minds Alliance, through member feedback, active engagement, and direct input from children and young people, their parents, and carers.

1. **Core Values**

* **Trust:** Valuing all voices and experiences.
* **Inclusivity:** Embracing diversity.
* **Equity:**  Ensuring fairness.
* **Integrity:** Committing to honesty.
* **Innovation:** Encouraging creativity.
* **Transparency:** Promoting open communication.
* **Lived Experience:** Person centred engagement with children and young people and their families.

1. **Professional Conduct**

* **Co-production:** Embedding co-production in work.
* **Accountability:** Taking responsibility for actions.
* **Collaboration:** Valuing teamwork.
* **Information Sharing:** Sharing upcoming activities.
* **Confidentiality:** Protecting sensitive information.
* **Compliance:** Adhering to relevant laws and declaring conflicts of interest.

1. **Coordination/Secretariat**

The Alliance is facilitated and administered by CVS Cheshire East, which organises Steering Group and Alliance meetings and promotes membership. A Chair or Deputy Chair from CVS CE sets meeting dates and agendas. Members can suggest agenda items for the Alliance meetings, ensuring the Alliance is driven by the voices of its members, children, young people, and their parents and carers. Minutes and other papers are circulated no later than three days before an Alliance meeting.

1. **Healthy Young Minds Steering Group**

The Healthy Young Minds Steering Group provides guidance, insight, and expertise, working closely with the Alliance, to agree a five-year Strategic Plan, ensuring quality outcomes for children and young people’s mental health with clear impact measurement. It comprises up to twenty Alliance members, meeting bi-monthly with a quorum of six.

Core members include representatives from CVS CE, Cheshire East Local Authority, Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, CWP, Just Drop In, Visyon, the Parent Carer Forum, and Wirral NHS Foundation Trust.

Each year, the Steering Group, in consultation with Alliance members, will agree workstream priorities, aligned with the Healthy Young Minds Service Specification, considering the latest information on needs from both children and young people, their parents and carers, Member’s insight and feedback - and relevant CYP mental health strategies and datasets.

1. **Healthy Young Minds Alliance**

The Alliance aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Cheshire East by focusing on:

* **Collaboration:** Increasing problem-solving and system strength.
* **Pathways to Support:** Simplifying access, reducing stress, and improving referrals.
* **Service Mapping and Review:** Enhancing access to service information.
* **Value for Money and Quality:** Ensuring the best use of resources.
* **Consistency and Coordination:** Improving interventions and prevention.
* **Multi-Agency Focus:** Promoting continuous improvement and best practices.
* **Education Support:** Providing resources and tools to schools.
* **Stakeholder Support:** Empowering parents, carers, and professionals.
* **Sourcing Funding:** Ensuring sustainability of activities/ identifying funding gaps.
* **Evidence of Change:** Demonstrating measurable impact that informs future decisions.

1. **Alliance Meetings**

Alliance meetings are typically held quarterly online, with some face-to-face meetings and occasional additional events.

1. **Joining the Alliance**

Membership is open to organisations in Cheshire East supporting the mental health and wellbeing of CYP, including VCFSE, Local Authority, Health, and Education sectors. Members must complete the HYM online contact form and commit to the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, these Terms of Reference, and the Core Values and Professional Conduct. Members must also adhere to best practices for safeguarding, anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion.

Members will have access to events, networking, training, and funding opportunities and contribute to and shape best practices.

1. **Associate Alliance Members**

Organisations wishing to stay informed without becoming full members can receive HYMA updates as Associate members by signing up for HYM bulletins and updates via the online contact form.

1. **Alliance Decision Making**

A democratic open discussion approach is taken to decision-making, with a majority vote taken, if needed. Each member organisation has one vote. If more than one representative from an organisation attends, there must be one nominated voting representative. Proxy voting - or alternative representatives are permitted - with advance notification.

1. **Alliance Member Funding Opportunities**

While funding opportunities are not the primary focus, the Alliance will disseminate funding information, discuss eligibility criteria and funding priorities with members. The Alliance is not a constituted organisation and cannot apply for funding directly, but can support members to submit partnership working applications, or apply for funding independently.

1. **Alliance Disagreements**

The Alliance aims to facilitate discussions, aid collective understanding, and agree on key actions, promoting healthy debate and transparent, open, and friendly communication. Disagreements between members should be resolved independently, following their respective organisational policies and procedures.

1. **Alliance Working Groups**

Working Groups will be established as needed to tackle for example, specific challenges, simplify processes, or review approaches. Each group must have a clear aim, focus, and added value to avoid overlapping with other similar groups, fora, partnerships etc. in Cheshire East. Where an established workstream exists, the Alliance will collaborate with the relevant vehicle.

Working Groups can include:

* **Permanent Groups:** Focusing on ongoing priorities.
* **Task and Finish Groups:** Addressing specific, short-term projects

Both types of Groups can be led/chaired by Alliance Members, with the relevant expertise and time availability.

These groups may:

* Gather, analyse insights, research, and data to inform the activity or project
* Make recommendations and seek wider Alliance Member’s views.
* Develop projects aimed at making tangible improvements in the focus area.
* Agree resources and clear and measurable outcomes for project activity
* Feedback progress to the Healthy Young Minds Alliance and Healthy Young Minds Steering Group.

1. **Review Of These Terms of Reference**

* **Annual Review:**  To ensure relevance and effectiveness.
* **Approval of Amendments:**  By the Steering Group.

1. **Date**

* **Date of Approval .......19/12/24................................**
* **Date of Next Review ...19/12/25...............................**