



Cheshire West
and Chester



Easy
Read

Health and Housing

Our report for 2024



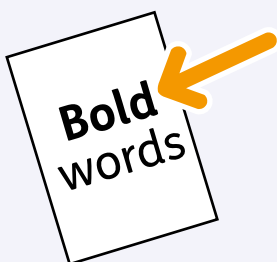
Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this report



My name is Professor Helen Bromley.
I am in charge of keeping people in
Cheshire West and Chester healthy.



I have written this report about how our
homes affect our health.



Good homes can help us to stay healthy
and feel good.



But bad homes can make us ill and
need to see the doctor more.

Healthy homes



Having the right home is really important for helping people feel happy and healthy.



A healthy home should be safe and easy to get around.



It should be warm enough.



People living in healthy homes should feel safe and happy.

If people live in the right home, it can help them to:



- Live independently.



- Go to school and get a job.



- Take part in their local community.



But homes are getting more expensive.



This makes it harder for people to live in a good home.



In Cheshire West and Chester, not everyone lives in a good home.



351 people live in homes that are not clean, not good enough or too crowded.



605 people need a new home to stay healthy and safe.



There are many projects in Cheshire West and Chester to help people stay healthier in their homes.



These projects help people to stay warm and have enough food.

Help with housing



In April 2024, the Council started using its new plan to help with housing.

This plan is called the **Housing Assistance Policy**.



It explains how people can get help to live safely and independently.



The Council can help disabled people make their homes easier to get around.

If you need it, the Council can give you:



- Money to pay for things like stair lifts and ramps.



- Up to £10,000 to make urgent changes to a home, to you if you are very unwell.



- Up to £5,000 to help pay for moving house, if your house is not good for your disability.



- A **loan** for home owners to pay for important repairs.

A **loan** is money that has to be paid back.

The Council can also give people:



- Up to £5,000 to make sure homes are safe and warm.



- Up to £5,000 to help landlords pay to make homes warmer.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice Cheshire West supports people with:



- Paying to keep their homes warm.



- Making the most of their money.



- Advice to make their lives better.



In 2024 they helped thousands of people who needed support.

Your health and your home



Where you live affects your health. And your health can affect where you live.



If you are not healthy, you might not be able to look after your home.



You might not be able to keep a job to pay for your home.



People who do not have a home often have worse health than other people.



This can make it harder for them to find a home.



Some people only live in places for a short amount of time.

For example, they might sleep in a hotel.

This is called **temporary housing**.



People who live in a hotel might not be able to get good food or see a doctor easily.

Help to live in a healthy home



Cheshire West and Chester Council knows it is important to help people to live safely in their homes.



But they only have a few homes that are cheap to rent.



So they are working with landlords to make sure people can afford to rent a home.

Other projects



There are other projects in the area to help people live independently.



Some projects help people get a job, or money from the Government.



Other projects help by making changes to a person's home, so they can stay there.



Over the next few pages, I will talk about some projects that are helping people in Cheshire West and Chester.

Grosvenor Hart Homes



Grosvenor Hart Homes is a group that helps children, young people and their families.



They give them a good place to live.



They also help them find work and get support.



Grosvenor Hart Homes works with the Council.



They have 29 homes in Chester and 40 new homes in Ellesmere Port.

Weaver Vale Housing Trust



Weaver Vale Housing Trust helps people with their homes.



They look after more than 6,500 homes in Cheshire and Warrington.



They also support older people to keep living in their homes.



Some people need a different type of home as they get older.



So they have 4 big places where people over 55 can go to live independently.



Weaver Value Housing Trust also give people the chance to take part in activities.



This helps people to spend time together and feel less lonely.



Weaver Value Housing Trust also help people with money.



They can help people buy things like cookers, fridges, freezers and microwaves.



This helps them to keep living in their own homes.

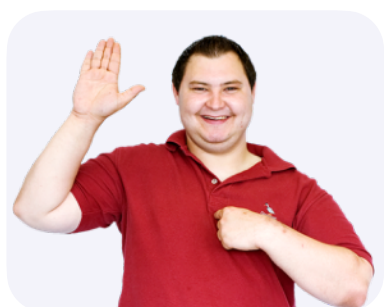
Cheshire West Voluntary Action



Cheshire West Voluntary Action is a group that helps people to speak up.



Organisations across Cheshire West and Chester listen to what they say.



This means that organisations learn about what is most important to people.



You can learn more about this here:
cwva.org.uk/local-voices-framework/

It's Only Temporary



It's Only Temporary is a project run by a **foodbank** in West Cheshire.

Foodbanks give people food and support if they cannot afford it.



The project supports people living in temporary housing.

They realised that people in temporary housing had trouble with:



- Cooking.



- Cleaning their clothes.



- Keeping their children in school.

It's Only Temporary helps people with:



- Places to cook and clean.



- Activities for children.



- Finding better places to live.

Disabled people



The Council worked with disabled people to make sure that the places they live are right for them.

They wrote a plan, to have:



- Enough places for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs to live independently.



- Not as many people who have to move out of Cheshire West.



This plan will help people to have better lives.

What should happen

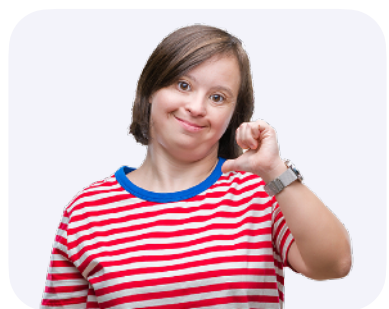
I have some ideas to make housing better for everyone:



1. Builders should build more homes in the places where people need them.



2. The Council should work with landlords and builders to make the most of the homes we have.



3. The Council should carry on supporting people to live independently.



They can do this by giving people money to make their homes right for them.

I also think that:



4. The Council should think about what each person and family needs when they move into temporary housing.



5. The Council should work with people who have lived through housing problems when they write plans.

What has happened since my last report



In my report last year, I had 10 ideas to help people in Cheshire West and Chester to stay healthy.

I said that the Council should:



1. Check on the **Age-Friendly** programme and look at making it better.



Age-Friendly programmes help people to live good lives as they get older.



The Council has looked at the programme and is working on making it better.

I said the Council should:



2. Write an Age-Friendly survey to find out if older people are living better lives.



The Council will do this survey in 2025.



3. Learn more about what different communities need.



The Council has supported groups from these communities.

I said the Council should:



4. Make Cheshire West a safe place for people who have come here from other countries.



In 2024, the Council won an award for their work to help people who had come here from other countries.



5. Make it easier for everyone to get around Chester City Centre.



The Council is working out how much this will cost.



They hope to build a new ramp at Pierpoint Lane and make Weaver Street better by the end of 2025.

I said the Council should:



6. Keep working to help people who have trouble with seeing or hearing.



The Council has hired a company called InterpretersLive!

They help customers to speak to council staff using British Sign Language.



7. Keep working to treat everyone fairly, and include everyone.



They have worked on many different projects to support staff from different backgrounds.

I said the Council should:

8. Work more closely with **LGBTQ+** groups.

LGBTQ+ is used to describe people with different sexualities, like gay and bisexual.

It also includes people who have changed their gender or feel themselves to be a different gender.



The Council has been making stronger friendships with Chester Pride and other LGBTQ+ groups.

I said the Council should:



9. Make a plan to help **Travellers**.

Travellers are people from families who move around from place to place.



The Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team is making a plan for council staff. This will be done by 2025.



10. Work more closely with the **Homelessness Reduction Board**.

This is a group that helps people who do not have somewhere to live.



The Homelessness Reduction Board have been making a new plan to stop people from becoming homeless.