What is the problem?	What needs to
change?	

- Increasing numbers of children are entering care, including a significant number with emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD) entering care in a crisis with complex needs met largely through out of area residential placements.
- 2. There are extremely limited options for emergency accommodation to assess a child's needs before being placed more permanently or returning home.
- 3. We need to attract and support more foster carers to support more children, with greater needs
- Unaddressed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child EBD both contribute significantly to the need for care and support.
- Family support can be provided in a fragmented way by different agencies who are not yet working sufficiently closely together to meet these needs effectively, including where families are in crisis.
- Children and young people, including those with care and support needs, even those in crisis / on the edge of care, find it very difficult to get help with their emotional health and wellbeing / mental health needs.

What are we doing to effect change?

- Flintshire's Early Help Hub provides coordinated support. 630 families supported April – Sept 19.
- Family Group Conferencing supports families to develop their own solutions. 182 families referred for support between April –September 2019.
- 3. The **Mockingbird Model** of fostering will extend our fostering provision. Our ambition is to develop up to 5 Hubs over 3 years supporting 80 children.
- 4. A FAST (Family Assessment Support Team) Team will provide 'rapid response' assessment and support for children on the edge of care The Team will include a clinical psychologist and family therapist.
- 2 additional long term placements at Arosfa for children with complex needs.
- 6. In 2020/21 we will launch a short term residential service to i) promote effective return home for children on the edge of care and ii) enable a comprehensive multi-disciplinary assessment for children who cannot return home, to inform the most appropriate move-on placement and support package

What will look or feel different if we do these things?

- 1. More children and families receive effective, targeted help to address their ACES and promote their individual and family resilience at an early stage (before a crisis)
- Improved including more timely, accessible and effective responses to the emotional health and wellbeing needs of children and young people, including those on the edge of care
- Community children's workforce feeling more confident about responding to children's complex (EBD) needs and about managing risk effectively together to avoid the need for care (and support)
- 4. Children and families in crisis experience responses that are more timely, therapeutic and appropriate to their needs
- 5. Reunification is considered carefully and more routinely as an option for children on the edge of care / who have entered care in a crisis
- There are more options for supporting the safe reunification of children with parent(s)

What longer term outcomes will result if we succeed?

- Children and young people receiving therapeutic supports have improved emotional health and wellbeing
- 2. Fewer Children require registration on the Child Protection Register
- 3. Fewer care proceedings are required
- Fewer children need to become looked after for a significant period of time
- More children are reunified successfully with their parent(s) after a short period of being looked after
- More children requiring a placement are supported through in house Fostering
- 7. Fewer placements for looked after children break down
- 8. Fewer children require an independent residential placement for their long-term care
- 9. Fewer children are placed in residential care out of area
- Fewer children are admitted to hospital in a mental health crisis
- 11. Fewer children are permanently excluded from school