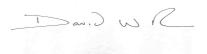
Public Document Pack



Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

Monday, 4 June 2007 at 6.30 p.m. Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn



Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman) Labour Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice- Labour

Chairman)

Councillor Philip Drakeley Conservative

Councillor Frank Fraser Labour
Councillor Robert Gilligan Labour

Councillor Trevor Higginson Liberal Democrat

Councillor Diane Inch Liberal Democrat

Councillor Joan Lowe Labour
Councillor Stan Parker Labour

Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe Liberal Democrat

Councillor John Stockton Labour

Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 471 7389 or e-mail lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 3 September 2007

ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Part I

Item No.		
1.	MINUTES	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
3.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	1 - 2
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

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REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and

Performance Board

DATE: 4th June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 33(5).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.
- 2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(11) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
 - (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
 - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
 - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be submitted by 4.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting. At any meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
 - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
 - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter, which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note that public question time is not intended for debate –
 issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in
 writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and

Performance Board

DATE: 4TH June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub since the last meeting are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.
- 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.
- 3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2007

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PORTFOLIO

EXB91 CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined the progress made in the Children's Disability Services in Halton and sought agreement to the expansion of the Pooled Budget for Disabled Children and revised 'Building Bridges' Multi Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children.

It was noted that the plans for the Children's Disability Services in Halton were regarded as an example of good practice and had been praised by representatives of the Department for Education & Skills, HM Treasury and the Department of Health. The significant progress of the plans would also positively contribute to the Joint Area Review planned in March 2008.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the expansion of the pooled budget as set out in the report be approved; and
- (2) the Building Bridges' Multi Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children be approved.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2007

EXB100 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2008/09

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People which had been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory framework to determine Halton Local Authority's (LA's) School Admissions Policy for LA Maintained Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, and Co-ordinated Admission Schemes, for all primary and secondary schools for September 2008 following statutory consultation.

It was noted that Halton LA had issued a statutorily required consultation paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission

schemes in January 2007 proposing no changes to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to LA Maintained Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. These criteria followed Department for Education and Schools (DfES) recommendations contained within the revised School Admissions Code of Practice. However, the revised School Admissions Code of Practice, which came into force on 28th February 2007, precluded the use of the first preference first system, which had previously been operated in Halton. Steps would therefore be taken in future years to address this and the process was outlined for information.

The Board was advised that the Halton Admissions Forum had agreed targets of 96% (for primary) and 94% (for secondary) first preferences met. Members noted that actual preferences met were 92% for primary and 95% for secondary. A target of 5% had also been set by the (then) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in respect of on-line applications for secondary schools; 6.5% had been achieved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Admissions Policy and Co-ordinated Schemes for primary and secondary admissions for the 2008/09 academic year be approved; and
- (2) the National and Local Performance Indicator targets set/achieved for meeting first preference applications and on-line applications be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRURARY 2007

ES76 NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION NURSERY WITHIN KINGSWAY LEARNING CENTRE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the current situation in relation to the National Day Nurseries Association Day Care (NDNA) Provision in Kingsway Learning Centre, and provided information on the proposed sale of the NDNA to a third party.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee endorses the proposed sale of the National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) Nursery to a reputable third party.

EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2007

ES 93 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND SHORT BREAK CONTRACTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined a number of contracts which provided a range of short breaks for disabled children and their families in Halton commissioned by the Council from the voluntary sector.

In 2006 quotations were sought from providers and contracts awarded based on this process. Contracts were awarded to provide these services for one year due to the annual nature of the funding (Carers Grant).

The exception to the above was the Crossroads contract awarded in 2004 for three years at a cost of £12,333, ending on 31st March 2007. Renewal of the Contract was sought at an increased value. Additional contracts to fund additional carers within the clubs was awarded in 2006 bringing the total value to £17,555. The cost of running the clubs however, exceeded the contract value, the balance having been funded by charitable funding which Crossroads had been able to secure. This charitable funding had now ended and Crossroads therefore required the full cost of the service provision to be provided by the Council in order to continue to provide the service.

The cost of the Contract for 2007-08 would therefore be £29,367. This price level was consistent with the pricing of other contractors and takes into account additional staffing and transport costs.

The report sought a waiver of the Council's Standing Orders to enable the extension of the existing contracts until 31st March 2008 due to the specialist services provided to meet the needs of disabled children and their families and as there were limited providers delivering these services in the Halton area.

In order to fulfil the requirements and comply with Standing Orders the existing providers would be required to submit a written quotation to provide the same service for 2007-08 as they have provided in 2006-07. Each of the existing service contracts had been monitored on a quarterly basis and all perform to a satisfactory standard or above.

RESOLVED: That the waiver of Council Standing Orders (S4.1) and a one-year extension for each of the contracts outlined in the report be agreed.

ES94 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed new duties on local authorities. Within these duties, the local authorities powers of intervention were strengthened. It was reported that these duties placed considerable challenges upon the existing structures within the Council for improving standards in schools.

Following initial work which had been undertaken with Steve Turnbull, EM Direct, it was proposed that there were a number of areas which required further development to deliver aspects of the Education and Inspection Act and expectations of the Joint Area Review.

It was proposed that specialist consultancy support was now required to

remodel the service. Specifically, the consulting support would be required to undertake developmental work whilst also bringing forward specific recommendations on service configuration. Specialist support had been sourced from SERCO.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.1 be waived in respect of the contract for securing the services of a consultant to undertake key development work relating to the remodelling of how the local authority undertakes its statutory function in relation to school improvement.

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Agenda Item 5

REPORT TO: Children & Young People's Policy and Performance

Board

DATE: 4 June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Review of the Children & Young People's Plan

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Policy and Performance Board about the Review of the 2006 – 08 Children & Young People's Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The contents of the Report be noted
- (2) The Board considers the Review and contributes any comments within the deadline prescribed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children & Young People's Plan was published in April 2006 and there is a statutory requirement to review this plan on an annual basis.
- 3.2 There is no prescribed format for the Review but requirements outlined in the guidance include:
 - The strategy and targets for raising standards and improving educational outcomes need to be at the heart of the Plan.
 - The Review should involve all partners and should also involve children and young people 0 – 19 years, care leavers over 20 years and children and young people with learning difficulties up to 25 years.
- 3.3 A range of professionals from agencies in Halton that provide services to children and young people in Halton have been consulted as part of the Review. The consultation has taken the form of participation in 2 half day meetings; invitation to complete an agency questionnaire distributed to all Alliance Board partners, Head Teachers and School Governing Bodies; consideration of drafts of the Review at a range of partnership meetings and provision of information in response to direct requests.

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- 3.4 An on-line survey of young people 11 16 years was undertaken to ascertain their views on whether the aims and targets set out in the Children & Young People's Plan were making any difference in their lives and what they thought the priorities should be for the coming year. 383 young people responded. Consultations were also undertaken with groups of children from 2 19 years, which included nearly all school councils and groups of vulnerable children. 300 children in total contributed through group discussions and exercises.
- Parents were involved through questionnaires distributed to members of the Parent and Carer Forum, foster carers, childminders and through Children's Centres asking them to review the Plan in terms of the outcomes being achieved for their children.
- 3.6 Halton's Children & Young People's Plan 2006 2008 was comprehensive and included a total of 90 targets. This has proved a challenging task in terms of monitoring and reviewing progress against a wide range of targets.
- In undertaking the Review we have aimed to identify those areas making good progress, which we can continue to monitor through Halton's Children & Young People's Performance Management Framework and those areas, which we need to prioritise for improvement during 2007/08.
- 3.8 There has been improvement in many areas but there is still much to do in improving the prospects for the children and young people of the borough. We have therefore identified:
 - Areas where we have not made as much progress as we would like
 - Areas where external review has identified deficiencies in our services
 - New areas of need identified due to changing needs in the Borough
 - New areas of need identified due to greater awareness of the needs of specific groups of children
 - Areas where we want to make a greater impact
- 3.9 This process has resulted in the identification of 15 Priorities for improvement with 37 specific associated targets.
- 3.10 The Review must be submitted and published by 14 June 2007

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Guidance has been published by the DfES in relation to the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan establishes that from this year the a Review of the Plan also the self-assessment for the Council's Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and the Joint Area Review for Children's Services.
- 4.2 The children's services grade awarded in relation to the APA, contributes to the Corporate Performance Assessment and as such the Review of the Children and Young People Plan is a critical contribution to the CPA process.
- 4.3 Given the timing of Halton's Joint Area Review, this self assessment/Review of the Plan will also be the self assessment for the Joint Area Review with some updating of information.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 The Review of the Plan presents an opportunity for Halton to demonstrate the many areas of good work undertaken in the Borough and the Borough's self-awareness of areas where further improvements need to be made.
- The main risk associated with the Review is that there are some target areas included in the Plan over which the Council has no control and views of the Council's performance could be distorted by performance in these areas. We have addressed this by identifying where appropriate the lead organisation with responsibility for particular targets.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 Equality and Diversity issues are addressed within the Review of the Plan both within specific Outcome areas and within Service Management Section of the Review.
- The Review of the Plan must be subject to an Equality Assessment. This has been completed by the Directorate's Equality and Diversity Officer.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children & Young	Halton Borough Council Web Site	Kath O'Dwyer

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REPORT TO: Children & Young People's Policy &

Performance Board

DATE: 4th June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, C&YP Directorate

SUBJECT: Schools Facing Challenging Circumstances

(formerly known as 'Hard to Shift' Schools)

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Board that the following schools have been identified by the School Improvement and Targets Unit of the DfES as being "schools facing challenging circumstances", and to report on the key actions to be taken to secure improvements in each school's performance by 2008.
 - Hallwood Park Primary School
 - Oakfield Community Primary School
 - Palace Fields Primary School
 - Simms Cross Primary School
 - Woodside Primary School
- 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 3.1 On the 5th January 2007, the Local Authority received notification from the DfES that additional funding to support an Intensive Support Strategy was being made available to support five Primary Schools in the Borough that have been consistently below the KS2 floor targets in English and Maths over several years. These have been categorised by the DfES as schools facing challenging circumstances.
- 3.2 For each of the schools identified, a sum of £12,500 has been allocated to support the development and implementation of a Raising Attainment Plan (RAP) which must be approved by the Strategic Regional Director of the National Strategies. The allocation is for 2006/07 with a further allocation to be made for 2007/08.
- 3.3 The letter notifying the Local Authority of this information indicated that the RAP should be based on a rigorous audit, and should refer to all the relevant improvement activity going on in the school and should be

- focussed on improving results in English and Maths at the end of KS2 by 2008.
- 3.4 To support the development of the RAP, the Local Authority commissioned external consultants to undertake audits of teaching and learning in each of the schools concerned.
- 3.5 Following the completion of the external audits the Local Authority invited the Headteacher and Chair of Governors/representative of the Governing Body to meet with Local Authority representatives, including the Link Adviser, to discuss next steps in drafting the RAP and progress towards implementation. These meetings took place in March 2007.
- 3.6 The RAP for each school is in the process of being finalised for submission to the Strategic Regional Director.
- 3.7 The Governing Body of each school must take steps to monitor the school's progress against the actions identified in the Raising Achievement Plan.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Inclusion of the schools within the Intensive Support Strategy signals a significant concern over the performance of the schools over recent years. The targeting of the additional resources to identified actions, over and above those identified in the School Development Plan, provides an opportunity for the school to more effectively focus upon key improvement strategies.
- 4.2 The Governing Bodies of the identified schools and the Local Authority are required to effectively monitor the progress of the schools against the key actions identified. The Local Authority has determined that it will monitor the schools progress on a half-termly basis through the mechanism of a Single School's Update. This meeting will be coordinated by the School's Link Adviser and will include the Headteacher and Chair/representative of the Governing Body of each of the schools concerned.
- 4.3 The Governing Body of each school have been invited during the Summer term to consider what steps they will take to effectively monitor progress against the RAP at school level.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Each of the schools are currently at risk of an adverse inspection by OfSTED.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Failure to make progress against key actions identified in the RAP will have an adverse effect upon the school's ability to improve learning outcomes at KS2 by 2008.
- 6.2 From the 1st April 2007 the Local Authority acquired stronger powers of intervention for schools causing concern. The Local Authority now has a statutory duty to act quickly in taking steps to secure immediate and sustainable improvements in instances of schools causing concern. The Local Authority is currently revising its systems in the light of draft quidance received.
- 6.3 The Local Authority will need to consider the application of the powers of intervention if the schools are unable to demonstrate progress.
- 6.4 The Local Authority is currently considering the application of these powers.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Any Equality and Diversity implications arising as a result of the proposed action should be included.

(NB ONLY INCLUDE 8.0, 9.0 AND 10.0 BELOW IF THE REPORT RELATES TO A KEY DECISION INCLUDED ON THE FORWARD PLAN)

- 8.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION
- 9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
- 10.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE
- 11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document Place of Inspection Contact Officer

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Agenda Item 7

REPORT: Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 4TH June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER:

Strategic Director, Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board Annual

Report

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents a draft Annual Report of the activities of the

Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board (PPB) during 2006/07 for comment/amendment. Subject to endorsement by the PPB, the Annual Report will go forward with the Annual Reports of other PPB's to a forthcoming meeting of the full Council

for adoption.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the PPB consider, comment upon and if necessary agree amendments to the attached Annual Report of the PPB's activities in 2006/07; and

(2) the PPB endorse the attached/amended Annual Report for the purpose of its adoption at a forthcoming meeting of the full Council.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 None

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None arising from this report itself.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None arising from this report itself.

6.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 1005 OF

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

6.1 None



ANNUAL REPURI CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007

(Cllr.Mark Dennett Chairman

"The Victoria Climbié case, one of many high profile cases, provided a stark reminder that all children's services – educational and social care needed to work together. It also raised the profile of the responsibilities of elected members, local authorities officers, and other agency workers like the Police and doctors, had to the children and young people within their area.

The Children Act 2004 and the Every Child Matters agenda set out to address these failings by requiring all local authorities to integrate all children's services under one Director and also to have a lead Member with sole responsibility for children.

A new overview and scrutiny board focussing solely on the needs and welfare of the children and young people of the borough was created as a direct response to this agenda.

Bringing all of these issues together has created a board with a wide remit, and the topics examined by the board during its first year have highlighted this. Presented below are some of the highlights from the year and thoughts about the boards future.

The start of the new Council year also brought the formal creation of the Halton Children and Young People's Alliance Board and the Local Safeguarding Board. Both of these boards are multi-agency boards whose membership comes from all of the different agencies involved with children and young people, for example the Police, the Fire Service, the Primary Care Trusts, and Health Trust, as well as the Halton Borough Council.

Together they commissioned a comprehensive needs analysis across the borough taking into account everything that has an effect on children's lives. This then formed the basis for the Children and Young People's Plan that outlined the main outcomes for the children of the borough and how the different agencies were going to tackle them together. This document would form the basis of how the services provided to our children by all agencies would be judged and was adopted at full Council.

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During the course of the year a one-off joint overview and scrutiny meeting was held with the members of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board to feed into the consultation on Alder Hey Children's Hospital's bid to be Foundation Hospital. This proved to be a lively debate in which we expressed our concerns about the nature of the new Trust and also the need of the residents of Halton.

Reviews and inspections of services were carried out throughout the year, including:

Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision Independent Review of the Youth Service Adoption Inspection Fostering Inspection

These highlighted areas for improvement, as well as strengths to be built upon. It is heartening to note that the review of the Youth Service showed that since its inspection in 2004 the Youth Service provided by Connexions for Halton Borough Council had moved from a poor service to a good service.

Members of the Borough's Youth Bank (Amy Baldwin, Daniel Belfield, Nicola Howe, Johanna Pickering and Jack Slater) provided an excellent presentation on the workings of the Youth Bank. This is a project where young people can apply for funding of a community project for young people. The scheme itself is managed and administered by young people and has funding of £328,000 from Halton Council to distribute to worthy projects.

During the year the board piloted two initiatives. The first was to create a small members group specifically to look at performance monitoring outside of the PPB cycle to make it more responsive to performance issues as they arose. The second initiative was to invite the board to hold a question and answer with the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tom McInerney. This proved very successful and I aim to make this an annual event.

Councillor Mark Dennett Chairman, Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2006/07 the Board comprised eleven Councillors and two representatives from school governing bodies — Cllr Mark Dennett (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Mr Andy Brothers, Mr Colin Chorley, Cllr Frank Fraser, Cllr Robert Gilligan, Cllr Trevor Higginson, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr Kelly Marlow, Cllr Stan Parker, Cllr Ged Philbin, Cllr Margaret Ratcliffe and Cllr John Stockton.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to ensure that children and young people in Halton have the best possible start in life and the opportunity to fulfill their potential and succeed, and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan and Children and Young Peoples Plan in relation to the Children and Young People Priority.

REVIEW OF THE YLAIN

The full Board met five times during the year, and set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during the year.

It was agreed that outborough school admissions be selected as the main topic for detailed scrutiny in 2006/2007. A wide range of quantitative data was compiled and analysed to help inform the group on the numbers of pupils who choose outborough provision and their destinations. Questionaires were issued to parents seeking information on the factors influencing their choice of provision.

The topic group will continue in 2007/2008 and concentrate on the financial impact of outborough admissions along with the impact on the authority's performance data. Consideration will also be given to identification of strategies to reduce outborough admissions.

A wide range of issues were covered by the Children and Young People PPB in 2006/2007 these included:

Schools Balances -

Children and Young People's Plan

APA/JAR Process

An update on Barriers to Learning

The transition from Sure Start to Local Children's Centres

Alder Hey Foundation Status

Gifted and Talented Education

Local Area Agreements

Secondary School Attendance

SEN Review

Every Child Matters in School – The secondary School Perspective

Education Business Partnership

Youth Matters

Halton Preventative Services

Educational Attainment

Youth Service Inspection and Action Plan

Complaints

Climbie Visits

Adoption, Fostering and Private Fostering

Health of Looked After Children

School Balances

School Balances through the introduction of a policy to clawback excess surplus balances and as a consequence of the level of reporting and scrutiny of school balances, both the level of balances and the number of schools with excess balances was seen to reduce significantly. Balances reduced from £6.1 million to £4.3 million. The number of schools with excess balances also reduced from 47 to 15.

Attendance

Following the identification of Attendance as a key priority for Children and Young People and the additional investment agreed in 2006/2007 budget, attendance in the secondary sector has significantly improved. There have also been improvements in primary attendance.

Special Education Needs

Following the identification of Special Needs as a key priority for Children and Young People reports identified the major progress in this area with the re-

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designation of all four special schools completed in 2006 and major capital investment in two of the special schools approved. Members were informed that the restructure of the Learning Support Service had been finalised with the new SEN service coming into effect in January 2007. Levels of pupils placed in outborough special provision has been seen to reduce along with the number of statements across the

Borough.

Health of Looked After Children

The excellent performance in relation to the level of health assessments completed in Halton in comparison to the national average was reported and commended with the Halton percentage at 91.2% compared to the 77.3% National Average.

Halton Preventative Services

The success of the establishment of the Preventative Services mini trust was reported to the Board and the approach by GONW to use the Halton model as a case study for national publication. It was acknowledged that although the trust covered both complex and challenging agendas combining Young Persons Substance Misuse, Children's Fund and Teenage Pregnancy would be a more effective delivery vehicle for these services.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact *Ann McIntyre — Operational Director — Business Planning and Resources — ann.mcintyre@halton.gov.uk telephone 0151 471 7543*)

REPORT: Children & Young People Policy and Performance

Board

DATE: 4 June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Race Equality – Racist Incident Reporting – Schools

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Board received a report in September 2001 which detailed how the Local Authority (LA) and its schools would meet the requirements arising from the Macpherson Report (the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry). It was agreed that a progress report would be received each year. This is the fifth of such reports.

2.0 RECCOMMENDED THAT: the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Schools are required to ensure racist incidents are reported to the Governing Body and to the Authority. The Authority has recommended to schools that reporting to Governors is undertaken via Head Teachers' termly reports as a Part 2, confidential item.
- 3.2 Racist incidents in schools have been reported to the Authority since the introduction of this requirement. They are recorded by a nominated officer in the Directorate who monitors the information and the action taken in response by Head Teachers. To date appropriate action has been taken.
- 3.3 The nominated officer ensures that this information is included in the data submitted by the Council for the two Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) on this subject. BVPI 174 the number of racist incidents reported to the Council and BVPI 175 the number of those reported that have been acted on.

4.0 REPORTED RACIST INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

4.1 The following is the data submitted for the BVPI report for the years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 and a summary of some details of incidents.

April 2004 to March 2005				
BVPI 174 = 10	BVPI 175 = 10			
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED	CATEGORY OF INCIDENT		
		VICTIM PERPETRATOR		
7:	10	Pupil	Pupil	= 7
5 Primary		Pupil	Pupils	= 1
2 Secondary		Work	Pupil	= 1
		placement		
		student		
		Staff member	Pupil	= 1

April 2005 to March 2006				
BVPI 174 = 23	BVPI 175 = 23			
NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	CATEGORY OF INCIDENT		
SCHOOLS	INCIDENTS REPORTED			
		VICTIM PERPETRATOR		TOR
14:	23	None	Pupil	= 3
9 Primary		Pupil	Pupil	= 14
5 Secondary		Pupil	Pupils	= 3
		Students	Pupil	= 1
		Staff member	Pupil	= 2

April 2006 to March 2007				
BVPI 174 = 43	BVPI 175 = 43			
NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	CATEGORY OF INCIDENT		ENT
SCHOOLS	INCIDENTS REPORTED			
		VICTIM PERPETRATOR		ΓOR
16:	43	None	Pupil	= 2
9 Primary		Pupil	Pupil	= 30
6 Secondary		Pupil	Pupils	= 2
1 Special		Pupils	Pupils	= 1
		Staff member	Pupil	= 7
		Public	Pupil	= 1

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the Halton school population has become more diverse over the last twelve months policy guidance and support provided to schools now requires updating to ensure that all members of the school community experience equitable treatment in relation to race. Increased emphasis on reporting all racist incidents may have resulted in more reported incidents.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 To ensure that all members of the school community enjoy equality of access to learning opportunities within the 5 key outcomes and that statutory requirements are met.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to promote and monitor race equality will prevent the LA and schools meeting statutory requirements.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 To promote policies, practice and procedures in schools which ensure that:
 - there is positive representation of racial and cultural diversity
 - all members of the school community who do experience discrimination know how to receive support to have their concerns dealt with.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Race Relations	Children and Young	Ann McIntyre
(Amendment) Act 2000	People's Directorate	

REPORT: Children and Young People Policy and

Performance Board

DATE: 4th June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual

Report and Business Plan

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan for 2007/2008

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the contents of the Annual Report and Business Plan are noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children Act 2004 required every Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board by 1st April 2006. In Halton a shadow board was established in February 2006 in readiness for the statutory board to come into existence on 1st April 2006.
- 3.2 The Government Publication "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006" states that the "Local Safeguarding Board should have a clear work programme and should include in any plan or annual report Management information on activity and a review of the work in the previous year thus enabling the work of the LSCB to be scrutinised by the Local Authority, other local partners and inspectorates".
- 3.3.1 The Annual Report 2006-2007 and the Business Plan 2007/2008 reviews the first year of the Boards Activities and sets the work Programme for the coming year. It describes the achievements of the HSCB and highlights the work, which has been done by all in partner agencies in continuing to strive for a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for the most vulnerable children in Halton.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Not applicable

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 Equality and Diversity issues are addressed within the annual report
- 8.0 List of Background Papers Under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

<u>Document</u>	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Working Together To Safeguard	Ann Towey's Office 4 th Floor, Belgrave	Ann Towey Halton Safeguarding
Children	Grosvenor House	Board Manager

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HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2007-2008

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FOREWORD

This has been a challenging, but very fruitful, first year for our new Halton Safeguarding Children Board - the 'HSCB' - and I am pleased to present this Annual Report on our activities to our partner agencies and to the children, young people and adults throughout the borough.

Protecting our children and young people from harm, and supporting and preparing them through to adulthood, has always been central to the planning and provision of services in Halton. The demands on public services in recent years have been immense, but the commitment of all agencies in Halton to improving the lives of children and their families has not diminished.

Establishing the new HSCB has involved much commitment and hard work by the individuals and agencies that form this new partnership, and, while we have lost some long-standing representatives from the Area Child Protection Committee that preceded the new Board, our work over this year has consolidated many of their initiatives, as well as developing new ideas and taking on new responsibilities.

In linking directly to the central strategic planning body for children and young people in the borough – the Alliance Board – the HSCB is well placed to ensure that our services to those children and young people continue to improve, and that their safety and welfare remains the borough's over-riding priority. This strategic link also allows us to bring children, young people and their families into the HSCB's decision-making and planning processes, so that their own experiences and ideas can help shape ongoing policy and practice.

This Annual Report describes the achievements of the HSCB over the past year, and highlights the work that has been done by all its partner agencies in continuing to strive for a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for all our children and young people in Halton. The new HSCB is very different from the ACPC that preceded it, and I and my colleagues on the Board are able to report that we now have a firm basis on which to consolidate and build on our achievements in the years to come.

Audrey Williamson

Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board

SECTION 1

ESTABLISHING THE HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

1.1 Every Child Matters

Following the death of Victoria Climbie, and the resulting public inquiry by Lord Laming in 2003, the government fundamentally reviewed how services to children and young people should be organised and provided, and how agencies should work together. Central to this review was the concern for how children can be best safeguarded, and how their welfare can be more effectively promoted.

The resulting government programme of national and local action – "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" – is involving a transformation of the child and family support systems in all local authority areas. The ultimate aim of this transformation is to improve the lives of all children and young people, with a focus on five key outcomes:

- being healthy physical and mental health
- being safe protection from harm and neglect
- enjoying and achieving education and training
- making a positive contribution to society
- social and economic well-being

The Every Child Matters programme is now enshrined in law through the Children Act 2004, and all local authorities are in the process of making fundamental organisational changes to implement new legal requirements to more effectively promote the five outcomes. One of these key requirements has been the establishment of new Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) from 1 April 2006, replacing the long-standing Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs).

1.2 Local Children's Safeguarding Boards

Part of the government's guidance in relation to the implementation of Every Child Matters has been the revised publication, in 2006, of "Working Together" – the key document that governs how agencies should cooperate in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. This new 'Working Together' (2006) sets out how each local authority must establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board as the statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in their area will achieve these aims.

The LSCB is not responsible for the operational work of each of these organisations. However, it is responsible for:

- coordinating, across the local authority area, what each organisation does in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- ensuring the effectiveness of what each organisation does

While the LSCBs are centrally concerned with ensuring that children and young people achieve the "being safe" outcome – protection from harm and neglect – they are also developing their duties with regard to the other four outcomes. To do this, they are expected to coordinate their work with other structures and strategies, some of which are also in the early stages of development. For example, while LSCBs must maintain an independent voice and identity, they need to operate in the context of new Children's Trust arrangements, and there must be close involvement in all strategic planning that takes place in relation to the development of local services for children (e.g. the development of Children and Young People's Plans).

This Annual Report describes the considerable progress that has been made in setting up and developing the LSCB here in Halton during its first year. While much of the work has been a continuation of the business of the previous ACPC, the transition to the Halton Safeguarding Children Board has brought many additional challenges. As can be seen from the national context, this has come at a time of enormous change for both the local authority and many of its partner agencies, and has involved much commitment and work from both individuals and from organisations as a whole.

SECTION 2

HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The work and responsibilities of the new HSCB are very different from the pre-existing Area Child Protection Committee – the ACPC.

2.1 The new responsibilities

The focus of the HSCB's work is on those children and young people, aged 0-19 years, who reside in Halton and who have complex needs and compromised parenting, and who require a multi-agency response to ensure that they are safeguarded and that their welfare is promoted.

While the ACPC was established many years ago as a result of government guidance, the new HSCB is a 'statutory' body which means that its functions, responsibilities and how it organises itself are laid down by law, in the Children Act 2004. This Annual Report explains in detail what the new Board's activities have been during its first year of operation, but we can summarise its new responsibilities as follows:

- Developing a wide range of polices and procedures that govern how all the agencies in Halton work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These include:
 - multi-agency child protection procedures
 - clear thresholds that determine when various agencies intervene in families to safeguard children
 - the recruitment and supervision of all adults who work with children
 - investigating allegations of abuse against adults who work with children
 - cooperating and working with Halton's local authority neighbours and their Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Communicating and raising awareness in Halton around how children can be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted, and how this is everybody's responsibility
- Ensuring that all children who are 'privately fostered' within the borough (not living with their immediate relatives) are identified, and that their progress is monitored and reviewed and that their carers are supported where necessary
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done in Halton by all HSCB partners around safeguarding practice, and advising on how they can improve
- Commissioning and organising training around good safeguarding practice for staff and volunteers in all relevant agencies in the borough

- Being involved in Halton's planning and commissioning processes to ensure that they all take into account the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare. This involves linking with other strategic structures within Halton, such as the Alliance Board and the emerging Children's Trust
- Monitoring all child deaths that occur in Halton, and reviewing individual cases where children have died or been seriously harmed and where abuse or neglect is suspected
- Engaging in various other areas of activity where concerns about children and young people's welfare have been highlighted locally. One example of this, for the HSCB, has been around bullying

2.2 Our vision for children and young people

The Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) has a very clear vision that places safeguarding at the centre of the borough's overall commitment to supporting and valuing the community it serves:

"All children and young people in Halton will grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families. Where children are harmed, or at risk of harm, all agencies will actively cooperate to promote their welfare".

This vision embeds the work of the HSCB firmly into the overall Children and Young People's Plan that has been endorsed by Halton's Alliance Board.

While the HSCB contributes to all the five outcomes for children and young people, its particular focus is on keeping children and young people safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation, and it is seeking to do this through promoting high standards of safeguarding work and by fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

2.3 Key areas of activity

The HSCB safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and young people aged 0-19 years in three main ways:

i) <u>Identifying and preventing harm in respect of all Halton's children</u>

The HSCB has been active in:

 increasing the understanding of safeguarding issues in the professional and wider community, and promoting the message that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. The Training Sub-group has taken the lead in raising awareness amongst professionals, and the HSCB's Safeguarding Development Officer has begun to raise the issue within community groups, and will continue to forge these links. The Safe Parenting Handbook is in the final stages of preparation ready for distribution and will eventually go to all households in Halton.

- monitoring the effectiveness of individual organisations in carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The self assessment audit tool, that is being completed by HSCB member agencies and schools, is a mechanism to support this work (see Section 6.3 below)
- making sure that children and young people, and adults, know where to go
 when they have concerns. The Training Sub-group, as part of its publicity and
 marketing strategy, has publicised this information; more details can be found
 in Section 6.4 below.

ii) Working proactively with certain target groups

The HSCB aims to target particular groups who may be at particular risk, but who are not subject of formal child protection enquiries, such as:

- children in families who have been identified as being 'in need' under the Children Act 1989, but where they are not at risk of 'significant harm'
- children who are potentially more vulnerable than the general population, such as children living away from home. The HSCB has led a publicity campaign in order to raise awareness about children living in 'private fostering' arrangements, and this has involved the use of local newspapers and radio. A protocol has also been agreed between the local authority, the police and providers of residential and foster care, detailing actions to be taken to protect children who are missing from care

The HSCB is overseeing the implementation of Halton's Child in Need Strategy, which aims to ensure that children and families receive the support that is necessary to prevent the need for more intrusive protective measures. Associated multi-agency procedural guidance was issued in January 2007 to support this strategy.

iii) Working responsively with children about whom there are actual concerns

The HSCB works to protect those children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering, harm, including children abused and neglected within families. This includes a range of concerns:

- children suffering emotional or physical harm in the context of domestic abuse.
 Specific training has been provided to agencies working with families where such abuse is suspected or has been evident
- children harmed as a consequence of substance misuse within their families.
 Members of the HSCB are progressing the Hidden Harm Action Plan, which includes training for agencies in this area, and a report is soon to be presented to the Board

- children abused by adults known to them outside their families
- children who are harmed by their professional carers within institutional settings, or anywhere else where they are cared for away from home. The Policy and Procedures Sub-group has drawn up a set of principles to ensure safe staff recruitment and supervision practice, and the Training Sub-group has organised multi-agency training on this issue. A Local Authority Designated Officer' (LADO) has also been appointed with a new responsibility that involves the oversight of investigations into allegations against professional carers. Information on such investigations is provided on a quarterly basis to the HSCB.
- children who are harmed by strangers. This is a particular focus of the work of the Policy and Procedures Sub-group for next year, and is highlighted in the Safe Parenting Handbook where information is included about babysitting arrangements
- children abused by other young people. As indicated in the Business Plan for next year, this has been highlighted as a priority issue by the HSCB
- children who demonstrate abusive behaviour towards others. Developing skills
 to work with these young people is a focus of the HSCB's multi-agency training,
 as is the raising of awareness generally about this issue to relevant agencies
- children involved in child exploitation. The HSCB are exploring an awareness raising event during the coming year, and this will be an ongoing priority for the Policy and Procedures Sub-group

A specific Threshold Protocol has been introduced by the HSCB for identifying children who may be at risk of neglect, and this includes a helpful tool (a Neglect Threshold Matrix) to assist practitioners when they are investigating such concerns.

SECTION 3

THE STRUCTURE OF THE HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

3.1 The overall structure

The Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) was formally established by Halton Borough Council in February 2006, ahead of the government's timetable of 1 April 2006. This first meeting agreed the terms of reference for the Board, and confirmed how it would link into the wider strategic structures across the area. These decisions were subsequently ratified by the Alliance Board.

The HSCB deals with business at three levels:

- the main Halton Safeguarding Children Board, that has met every two months
- an Executive Board, that has recently been established and which will meet more frequently
- four Sub-groups, that have continued the work of the ACPC Sub-groups and which report to each meeting of the main Board

Written minutes are taken at each of these forums, and agreed by the main Board.

The members of the main Board, the Executive Board, and the four Sub-groups – and the agencies they represent - are detailed in Appendix 1of this report.

The work of the HSCB is supported by a newly established staff team, the details of whom are outlined below in this Section.

3.2 The Halton Safeguarding Children Board

The HSCB now has a wider and more strategic role than its preceding ACPC. While certain members of the ACPC do not now sit on the new main Board, the continuation of the Sub-group structure has been important in retaining the expertise of some of these individuals. To provide a greater degree of independence for the new Board, Audrey Williamson, Operational Director of HBC Health and Community was appointed Chair at the first meeting.

The membership of the Board has grown over the past year, as it has developed and reviewed how it has been working, and it now encompasses all appropriate local agencies. In addition to these main members, each agency has been able to nominate a deputy to attend Board meetings in their absence.

Since its first meeting in February 2006, the Board has met seven times on the two-monthly basis that is laid down in its terms of reference, and there has been good attendance at all meetings. The matters it has dealt with have been wideranging, from the progression of issues from previous ACPC business, through to

dealing with fresh imperatives arising from its new and wider safeguarding responsibilities. Details of this work are set out in Section 5.2 of this report, but the broader strategic achievements of the Board have included:

- approving the operational structures and terms of reference for the various groups within the HSCB
- agreeing financial and other arrangements to support the infrastructure of the HSCB
- agreeing and implementing a comprehensive Business Plan for 2006-2007
- ensuring that the work of the HSCB is consistent with, and supports, the Halton Children and Young People's Plan
- the HSCB's Executive Board assuming the function of Partnership Board to the Halton Children in Need Mini Children's Trust
- agreeing a framework for the joint planning and commissioning of children and young people's services
- monitoring the quality and scope of safeguarding practice in Halton, through the regular receipt of performance management information
- the appointment of the HSCB's support team to take the work of the Board forward (see Section 3.5 below)
- the approval and launch of Halton's Children in Need Strategy and associated procedural guidance

In addition to the formal Board meetings, the HSCB met as a team in December 2006 for an Away Day, to review and revise its Business Plan for 2007/8.

The terms of reference for the HSCB can be found in Appendix 2 of this report. They set out the overall vision for the Board, and detail its aims, core objectives, functions, and key areas of activity.

3.3 The HSCB Executive Board

The growth in the size of membership within the HSCB, and the wide role and remit of the safeguarding agenda, has already created pressures on the decision-making processes. The Board, therefore, established, in December 2006, an Executive Board which will increasingly become the 'work horse' behind the main Board, and which is already allowing more effective and timely decision-making. It reports on its work to each meeting of the main Board.

In addition, the Executive Board has recently assumed the function of Partnership Board to the Halton Children in Need Mini Children's Trust.

The terms of reference of the Executive Board are attached to this report in Appendix 3, but its main functions are to:

- monitor and take forward the work that is undertaken by the main Board between Board meetings
- co-ordinate the activities of the four Sub-groups
- agree and monitor the HSCB budget

- monitor outcomes and targets agreed by the main Board, to ensure that strategic plans are kept on track
- identify national and local initiatives that require a response from the main Board

The Executive Board is chaired by the Operational Director Vulnerable Children, of HBC Children and Young People's Directorate, and has met on two occasions since its inception. It is initially meeting monthly, but this is likely to become two-monthly in the longer term.

Member agencies are:

- Children and Young People's Services (HBC)
- Chairs of the HSCB Sub-groups
- PCT
- Police
- HBC CYPD Commissioning Manager
- HSCB Manager
- Lead Officer for Children in Need, Mini Children's Trust

The Executive Board can, in addition, consult other agencies and organisations or invite them to participate in meetings as required.

3.4 The Sub-groups

The HSCB has continued with the Sub-group structure that had been developed by the preceding ACPC. Four Sub-groups have met on a regular basis throughout the year:

•	Policy and Procedures	 reviews, develops and updates safeguarding
		policies and procedures as required

- Screening responsible for two specific functions of the HSCB concerning Child Deaths and Serious Case Reviews
- Scrutiny and Performance monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of what is done by the HSCB and individual partner agencies
- Training identifies and delivers relevant training to help deliver the HSCB's priorities

Each Sub-group is chaired by a senior manager from the local authority and reports to the main Board. The HSCB Manager sits on each of the Sub-groups to ensure continuity and collaboration between the work streams.

The business that has been dealt with by each of the Sub-groups over the past year is detailed in Section 6 of this report.

The terms of reference for each Sub-group can be found in Appendix 4.

3.5 The staff team

The HSCB have appointed a dedicated team of staff to take forward its work, and the costs of this have been met from contributions by partner agencies (see Section 9 for a breakdown of the HSCB budget). Three posts have been created and filled during this first year:

i) HSCB Manager

The key responsibilities of this post are to lead and coordinate the work undertaken by the HSCB, and to represent it in public, multi-agency and regional forums. This post is the central point of contact regarding all HSCB issues for senior managers and front-line staff in the partner agencies and across Halton.

The post holder has been primarily responsible for developing and monitoring the HSCB's Business Plan, and reporting on its progress to the main Board. She has coordinated the work of the four Sub-groups, and has particularly focussed on the drafting and implementation of the various new policies and procedures that have been required in this first year.

The post holder is responsible for the work of her staff team, and has ensured – in its first 6 months of operation - that it has delivered the expertise and professional support that has allowed the HSCB to achieve its stated objectives and targets. The systems and structures that the HSCB Manager has put in place now provide a good basis on which the HSCB can move forward into a second successful year.

ii) Safeguarding Development Officer

The post holder came into post in October 2006, and her specific focus is on supporting the HSCB in its responsibilities to monitor and develop the quality of safeguarding practice in the borough.

The post holder has worked in conjunction with the HSCB's Training Sub-group and managers in various agencies to plan, commission, deliver and evaluate multi-agency safeguarding training.

iii) HSCB Team Support Officer

The post holder was appointed to the team in October 2006, and provides the dedicated clerical and administrative support for the HSCB and its four Subgroups.

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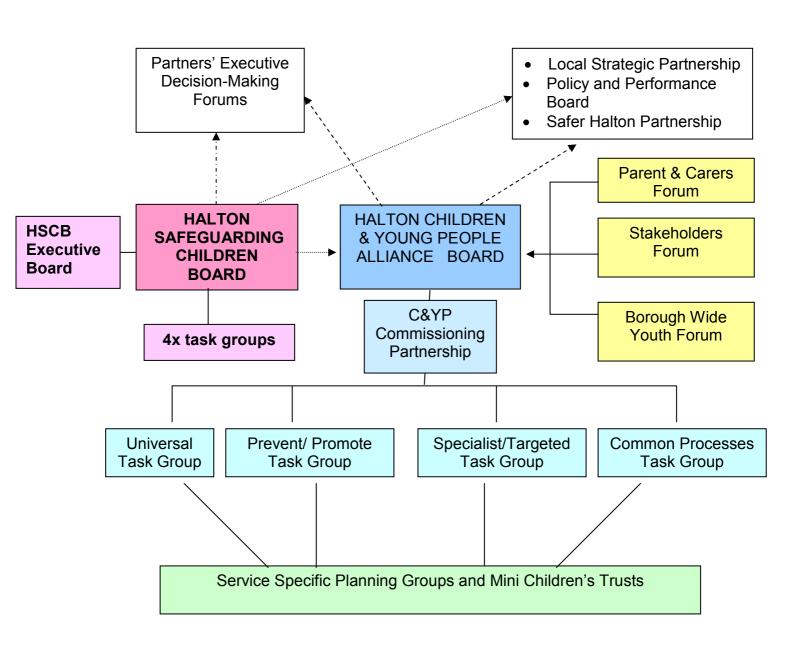
The post holder has designed and developed the various systems that are now being used to collate and analyse the data that the HSCB needs, and she is now the key officer responsible for maintaining and monitoring safeguarding information and statistics.

SECTION 4

THE HSCB'S STRATEGIC LINKS WITHIN HALTON AND IN THE REGION

4.1 The HSCB within Halton

The following diagram illustrates how the HSCB fits into the strategic planning structures of the borough:



4.2 Strategic links

The HSCB is now the key body in Halton which ensures that the various strategic plans for children and young people, and the services that are provided for them, embrace effective safeguarding practice. However, the HSCB also contributes to the wider goals of improving all five Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people.

To help achieve this, the HSCB has built links with key strategic and other planning and development structures in Halton:

- The HSCB provides quarterly update reports directly to the Halton Children and Young People Alliance Board on all significant safeguarding service developments, strategies and plans; this includes a quarterly written report on the progress of its annual Business Plan. The Chair of the HSCB, Audrey Williamson, sits on the Alliance Board.
- The Executive Board of the HSCB has assumed the function of the Partnership Board for the Halton Children in Need Mini Children's Trust.
- The HSCB is an integral part of Halton's children and young people's strategic planning arrangements, and is a key contributor to the development and implementation of the Halton Children and Young People's Plan. The HSCB has a clear work programme stemming from this Plan, with measurable objectives.
- The HSCB feeds its views on the quality and outcomes of safeguarding work in Halton into the various external inspection processes that take place – for example, the Joint Area Review (JAR), the Annual Performance Assessment by Ofsted and CSCI, and inspections undertaken by the Health Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation.
- The HSCB is responsible for ensuring that safe and effective policies and procedures are in place, in all agencies across Halton. The HSCB has also taken responsibility for ensuring that agencies are checking the suitability of people who work with children and young people, and for ensuring that those people are properly trained and supervised. To help achieve this, The HSCB feeds into the Halton Workforce Strategy.
- To further its commitment to engage with and listen to children, young people and their families, the HSCB links with the various consultative forums that have been established in the borough so that these stakeholders can contribute their views on its work. A parent representative from the Parent and Carers Forum is a member of the HSCB.
- The HSCB embraces and adopts the Halton Performance Management Framework, which measures how well the outcomes for children and young people in the borough are being achieved by all agencies. The HSCB has been particularly concerned to develop multi-agency outcome focussed performance measures that will promote continuous improvement in safeguarding work.

- 'Joint commissioning' of services involves working across agency boundaries to identify needs, specify service requirements, decide how those services are to be provided, and then make sure they are delivered effectively. The HSCB contributes to – and works within – the commissioning framework that has been established in Halton, to ensure that the commissioning of services takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The CYPD Commissioning Manager is a member of the HSCB Executive Board.
- In addition to all the above strategic links within Halton, the HSCB has begun to collaborate with other LSCBs in establishing common policies and procedures (e.g. new pan-Cheshire Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures) and other joint ways of working.
- The HSCB Manager will be a member of a Mersey Region group, to be established with other LSCB managers. This group will report to the Mersey Region Assistant Directors Group, and will enable the sharing of good practice across the Region, as well as providing opportunities for collaboration in training and awareness raising events on a regional basis.
- The transition from Children's to Adult services for young people who continue to require support from the local authority is increasingly recognised as an area which needs strengthening, and a multi-agency Transitions Strategy is being developed, to be launched later in the coming year.
- It is also recognised that some families need services from both adult mental health services and children's social care services. This requires close jointworking to ensure that the needs of all the family are addressed and that any risks are identified, and while there have been some examples of effective collaboration, further work is needed. An action plan to strengthen the links between the two services is to be presented to both the Mental Health Local Implementation Board and the HSCB.

SECTION 5

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HSCB IN 2006 - 2007

5.1 Broad areas of activity

The HSCB's programme of work during its first year of operation has involved meeting some challenging targets, and good progress has been made in each of the broad key areas of activity that were set out at the beginning of this Annual Report. These have been:

- identifying and preventing harm with regard to all children and young people in Halton
- working proactively to target particular groups who have been at particular risk, but who have not been the subject of formal child protection enquiries
- working responsively to protect those children who have suffered, or have been at risk of suffering, harm, including children abused and neglected within their families

At the beginning of the year, the HSCB agreed a Business Plan for 2006-2007, which focussed on the five Every Child Matters outcomes, but specifically the 'Staying Safe' outcome. This section of the Annual Report provides an overview of the progress that has been made in achieving the key targets in this Plan. Section 6 reports on the work of the four Sub-groups in helping to achieve these targets, and also on additional work that has been undertaken by them.

5.2 Key Performance Aims

To prioritise its work, the HSCB's Business Plan for 2006/7 set out 16 'Key Performance Aims', and progress in achieving these have been reported to the Alliance Board.

A simple 'traffic light' system has been used to indicate progress in relation to each Aim, providing a simple - but effective and accessible - tool for monitoring how the work has been going:

- Green on target with no difficulties
- Amber roughly on target with some difficulties
- Red behind schedule and off target

The most recent report to the Alliance Board in June 2006 was able to confirm that of the 16 Key Performance Aims, 14 were Green and 2 were Amber. There were no Reds. The HSCB is not complacent, but this demonstrates that the achievements so far have been extremely encouraging.

The progress that the HSCB has made in meeting each of the Key Performance Aims can be summarised as follows:

1. Producing new pan-Cheshire child protection procedures

New multi-agency procedures have been produced in partnership with our neighbouring Safeguarding Boards in Warrington and Cheshire, and the bulk of these are now in place and compliant with the revised 'Working Together 2006'. Where Halton's procedures and protocols differ from those of these partners, specific amendments have been made. The full procedures and relevant Appendices will be in place by June 2007.

2. <u>Developing thresholds and procedures for working with 'Children in Need'</u>

'Children in Need' are defined under the Children Act 1989, and are those children and young people in Halton who require services and support beyond the universal services that are already provided. These are children and young people who require service plans at Levels 3a (targeted/specialist support) and 3b (support for more complex needs) of Halton's 'Children's Planning Model'.

The HSCB has introduced multi-agency thresholds and procedures for promoting the welfare of Children in Need.

3. <u>Developing more specific policies in particular cases</u>

The HSCB has revised the current protocols, and agreed specific policies and procedures, for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in relation to:

- looked after children who are living away from home
- the conduct of child protection enquiries and associated police investigations, including where joint enquires are necessary and/or appropriate

4. Promoting awareness among adults and children

It has been important for children and adults (including those who are harming children) to know who they can contact if they have concerns about their own of others' safety and welfare. An audit of what key agencies in Halton have been doing to promote this awareness has been undertaken, and publicity and other media tools have been developed (see the report on the Training Sub-group in Section 6.4 of this report for further details).

5. Ensuring effective training around safeguarding issues

The HSCB's work to identify staff and agencies in the area who require specific training around safeguarding issues has been integrated into Halton's local Workforce Strategy. This will ensure that training provided for all staff who work with children and young people will give them the knowledge and skills to effectively safeguard them and the promote of their welfare.

6. Promoting safe recruitment and safe working practices

The HSCB, through its Policy and Procedures Sub-group, has established a set of principles for all agencies who work with children and young people to follow. These principles govern the recruitment of staff and volunteers, and the way in which they work with children and young people.

7. Ensuring the efficient management of allegations of professional abuse

The HSCB has been concerned to ensure timely and appropriate responses within agencies when allegations are made of abusive behaviour by professional carers towards children or young people. It has reviewed the existing policies and procedures, and has established systems to monitor timescales when allegations are being dealt with.

Managers from Halton's Safeguarding Unit report quarterly to the HSCB on all investigations being carried out into allegations of professional abuse, including practice issues that have arisen and my have implications for policy and procedures. These reports also contain information on child protection conference activity, including the participation of partner agencies and children and young people.

8. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of particularly vulnerable children

Certain groups of children and young people are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect, and the HSCB has decided that enhanced procedures have been necessary to safeguard them and promote their welfare. These children include those who are:

- harmed in the context of domestic abuse
- harmed as a result of the impact of substance misuse
- abused outside families by adults known to them
- living away from home
- running away from home
- abused by strangers
- in custody
- living with disabilities
- young perpetrators of abuse

Current procedures have been reviewed and implemented in respect of each of these groups of children.

9. Identifying, monitoring, and supporting private fostering arrangements

Adults who provide care to children and young people under 16 for more than 28 days, and who are not a close relative, can only do so legally on a 'private fostering' basis, and the HSCB has been concerned that the local authority is able to identify such situations. Once identified, Vulnerable Children's Services have a

responsibility to assess the suitability of carers, monitor and review the arrangements, and provide any necessary support.

Many members of the public, and some professionals, have been unaware of their responsibilities to inform the local authority when such arrangements are taking place, and the HSCB has launched an awareness-raising campaign, using various media including local press and radio.

10. Ensuring that child protection procedures are followed by all agencies

A useful tool to assess the extent to which agencies are following procedures correctly is to undertake regular, in-depth scrutiny of individual cases on a sampled basis. The Scrutiny and Performance Sub-group have undertaken this task, and their recommendations are reported to the main Board for information and any necessary action. This quality assurance function not only highlights areas of concern about practice, but also illustrates where excellent work is taking place, and, in both cases, learning is consequently enhanced for practitioners and managers.

The group have scrutinised one case, and are in the process of finalising the scrutiny of a second case. For its first case scrutiny, the HSCB recommended that the Sub-group audit a 'children in need' case involving domestic abuse. The case highlighted effective multi-agency working with the family, and individual recommendations were made to individual agencies.

The second case that was scrutinised was selected on the basis of its involvement with primary school aged children, where there are non-school attendance issues. This was in order to provide an update on practice following an earlier Serious Case Review involving non-school attendance of a primary school child. An Action Plan has been developed and its implementation is being monitored by Scrutiny and Performance Sub Group.

The Scrutiny and Performance Sub Group is in the process of Scrutinising a case to consider joint working across children and adult services following a mental health inspection. The Action Plan relating to this case scrutiny is being developed.

The cases that are scrutinised can be either referred from the main Board to the Sub-group, or are selected by the Sub-group, themselves, according to sampling criteria agreed by the HSCB.

11. Ensuring effective arrangements when children move in or out of Halton

When children for whom there may be safeguarding or welfare concerns move across local authority boundaries, it is essential that good liaison takes place between the relevant agencies. The HSCB has maintained its links across the Cheshire and Merseyside regions that will ensure that effective arrangements for collaboration will continue.

12. Promoting public awareness about safeguarding issues

Everybody in Halton can contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and the HSCB is in the process of implementing a publicity strategy to reinforce this message. This links closely to Key Performance Aim 4 above.

13. Involving children, young people, and families in the work of the HSCB

The HSCB has been keen to embrace the borough's commitment to promoting the involvement of children, young people and their families in its planning processes, and by ensuring that their views and opinions are taken into account. To this end, the HSCB has been able to consult with children via existing forums such as the 'Looked After Children Group' and the Borough Wide Youth Parliament, and has used its link with the Alliance Board to consult with the established parent and carer forums.

The issue of ongoing consultation is a standing business item on the Agenda of HSCB meetings, and this ensures that is given priority in the Board's busy work programme. In addition, Denise Standen is now a welcome parent representative on the main Board, having joined in October 2006.

14. Monitoring local arrangements under the Licensing Act 2003

The HSCB is responsible for protecting children and young people in Halton from risks associated with the illicit use of alcohol, and it has agreed a joint protocol with Cheshire Police and the Licensing Authorities to ensure efficient responses when reports of any concerns are received.

15. Ensuring that all child deaths are reported to the HSCB and reviewed

The revised 'Working Together 2006' places a responsibility on the HSCB to monitor and review all child deaths in the borough, and to identify any general public health or safety concerns. To do this, steps are being taken to establish systems whereby notifications are received, and the Screening Sub-group has been designated Halton's Child Death Review Panel. See the report on the Screening Sub-group in Section 6.2 of this report for further information.

16. Efficiently undertaking Serious Case Reviews

The HSCB commissions formal review of cases where a child has died or been seriously harmed as a result of known, or suspected, abuse or neglect. This is to examine the actions of agencies that were involved with the child, and ascertain whether there are any lessons to inform future policy, procedures or practice. The Screening Sub-group has refined the processes whereby Serious Case Reviews take place, and oversees each review that has been commissioned by the main Board.

SECTION 6

THE WORK OF THE HSCB SUB-GROUPS

This section of the Annual Report summarises the work and achievements of each of the four subgroups over the past year.

6.1 Policy and Procedures Sub-group

This Sub-group has been responsible for reviewing, amending and updating all policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the children and young people in Halton. This has included the production of multiagency policies and procedures that all agencies are bound by, as well as supporting partner agencies in the production of their own individual protocols, for agreement by the HSCB.

All decisions and recommendations arising from the Sub-group over the year have been ratified by the main Board.

The Sub-group is chaired by the Divisional Manager (Access), HBC Children and Young People, and has met on 9 occasions over the year to progress issues from the HSCB Business Plan that were delegated to it by the main Board.

The main areas of development and achievement have been:

 Contributing to, and scrutinising, the drafting of new pan-Cheshire Child Protection procedures, through membership of a steering group established with Warrington and Cheshire local authorities. These procedures have been re-written in the light of the requirements of the new Working Together, published during the year, and we now have simpler, more user-friendly procedures that all three Safeguarding Boards can subscribe to.

The Sub-group has had a significant influence on the drafting of these new procedures, and has ensured that they are consistent with the requirements of the HSCB. The key aspects of these new procedures are now operational in Halton, and the full version, with Appendices, will be in place by June 2007.

- Auditing and reviewing all other existing HSCB policies and procedures in the light of any new government guidance and other developments. This has included ensuring that the HSCB is kept informed of any similar policy revision taking place within the partnership, to ensure consistency and any necessary prioritisation of this work.
- Scrutinising, amending and approving new policies and procedures that have been drafted by individual agencies within the borough (e.g. Connexions).
 The scrutiny of individual agencies' policies is a standing item on the agenda

for each of the Sub-group's meetings, and this has created considerable demands on its individual members.

- Monitoring the development of procedures for the work of Halton's 'Local Authority Designated Officer' (LADO) – a new responsibility involving the oversight of investigations into allegations against professional carers.
- The development of a set of Safe Recruitment and Selection principles in Halton, to which all agencies in the borough who work with children will be expected to adhere. This not only fulfils a quality assurance function regarding the work of individual agencies, but provides clear and helpful direction to those agencies regarding their obligations and responsibilities around safeguarding when they are recruiting staff or volunteers.

6.2 <u>Screening Sub-group</u>

The new 'Working Together 2006' has given Local Safeguarding Children Boards two specific responsibilities: to monitor all deaths of children in their area, and to review cases where a child has died or been seriously harmed as a result of known, or suspected, abuse or neglect. In Halton, the Screening Sub-group ensures that these two functions are carried out effectively, meeting on a quarterly basis and reporting directly to the main Board.

The Sub-group is chaired by the Divisional Manager (Safeguarding and Strategy), HBC Children and Young People's Directorate. Other members include representatives from the Coroner's Office, the Police, and Public Health and the PCT. The group has worked well together, meeting 5 times and establishing good inter-agency relationships.

Much of the early business of the Sub-group has been undertaking the ground-work to enable it to meet the requirements of the HSCB. This has included:

- Establishing processes and systems so that the Sub-group receives information on all child deaths in Halton, however caused. This is proving a challenge for all Safeguarding Boards across the country, as such systems have not previously existed. However, this work is essential, as the circumstances surrounding the deaths - and any associated patterns or trends need to be analysed so that preventive strategies can be developed by the HSCB where appropriate.
- To carry out this function, the Sub-group is now established as a Child Death Review Panel, and so commissions and considers reports from relevant agencies who have information to contribute regarding unexpected child deaths in Halton. In addition to receiving written reports from these agencies, it also hears directly from representatives who attend the Panel in person.
- In addition, the HSCB have extended the brief of the Review Panel function to include children who have not died, but who have been involved in incidents that brought them close to this; these incidents have been formally designated

as "Near Misses". By including these children, the scope for learning – and the development of preventive strategies in Halton - will be significantly enhanced.

When the Sub-group's recommendations for action are agreed by the HSCB, following a child death/near miss, the Sub-group then maintains responsibility for monitoring and tracking progress on these actions.

 Procedures have also been established that will allow the Sub-group to oversee Serious Case Reviews that are commissioned by the main Board, and to monitor the implementation of any resulting action plans. The Sub-group will also ensure that any learning from these Reviews is disseminated and that local policy and practice is improved where required.

During the year, the Child Death Review Panel was chosen as one of eight across England to be part of a national Child Death Review Pilot, being conducted by the University of Warwick. The report from the researchers is awaited, but the learning from this Pilot will inform the national development of the Child Death Overview Panel process.

6.3 Scrutiny and Performance Sub-group

This Sub-group is the lead forum within the HSCB for monitoring the progress of its Business Plan, and it achieves this by monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and its HSCB partners - individually and collectively - in carrying out their legal duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Sub-group also advises these agencies on ways to improve their practice and performance.

This work includes auditing the practice of agencies and highlighting lessons to be learned; supporting agencies to evaluate their own practice; monitoring how allegations of professional abuse are being handled, including timescales.

All decisions taken, and recommendations made, by the Sub-group over the year have been ratified by the main Board.

The Sub-group is chaired by the Divisional Manager (Safeguarding and Strategy), HBC Children and Young People, and has met 7 times during the year to progress matters from the HSCB Business Plan that were delegated to it by the main Board.

The main areas of development and achievement have been:

- Overseeing the progress being made on the implementation of the HSCB's Business Action Plan.
- Reviewing quarterly information regarding the process of Child Protection Conferences within the borough. This details issues such as child/family participation, agency attendance and contributions, the submission of reports by professionals, and compliance with statutory timescales.

- Ensuring that the local authority and other agencies have systems in place to collate information on their performance against agreed local indicators. This has involved the Sub-group supporting those agencies in drawing up indicators that are relevant, outcome based, and measurable.
- In addition to supporting the development of individual agencies' performance indictors, overseeing the local work in developing over-arching HSCB Multi Agency Performance Indicators.
- Undertaking audits of work by reviewing, in detail, individual sampled cases. A
 framework has been established for this process, so that cases are sampled
 according to agreed criteria such as domestic abuse, children under school
 age, or children not attending school.
- The Sub-group, as a whole, has spent time at its meetings looking in detail at specific cases and evaluating agency actions against both those agencies' own procedures and standards, and also against those of the HSCB. Observations have then been fed back to the agencies, with comments on the quality of the interventions and with recommendations for action where appropriate. Particular attention has been paid to the timing of agency involvement with children and families, and the use of the Common Assessment Framework.
- Collating and considering self assessments that all partner agencies are completing, regarding their organisational arrangements for ensuring effective safeguarding practice. In collecting this information, the Sub-group is monitoring these agencies' compliance with HSCB's safeguarding requirements.

6.4 Training Sub-group

This group has continued the work of its preceding ACPC Training Sub-group. Its central function is to support the delivery of the HSCB's Business Plan through enhancing the skills and knowledge of those in Halton who work with, or otherwise support, children and young people.

The Sub-group has been responsible for identifying training needs across the borough, and advising the main Board - through the submission of an annual training plan and regular progress updates— on what should be commissioned. Additionally, the Sub-group monitors the effectiveness of training that is delivered, and links into Halton's Workforce Strategy Group to ensure that it is targeted in the most cost-effective and efficient way.

As well as supporting those who work with children and young people, the Subgroup now has a wider remit in also focussing on raising awareness of safeguarding issues throughout the wider community, so that adults and children, themselves, understand what to do should they have concerns. As with the other 3 Sub-groups, all the decisions and recommendations of the Training Sub-group over the year have been ratified by the main Board.

The Sub-group is chaired by the Divisional Manager (Children in Need), HBC Children & Young People, and has met on 7 occasions during the year.

The main areas of development and achievement have been:

- Establishing a ring-fenced training budget, agreed by the main Board and comprising contributions from partner agencies.
- The delivery of 20 well-regarded training courses, open to all agencies and other workers in Halton. Many of these courses are run a number of times during the year – 'Child Protection Awareness' was run on 12 occasions, for example - and are detailed in Appendix 5. In addition, the Sub-group is developing new training initiatives in a number of practice areas, including:
 - court skills (for professionals who are not normally involved in care proceedings
 - information sharing
 - better communications
 - children and young people's developmental needs

Low attendance at training courses is an ongoing problem for most agencies in the country who provide staff development programmes, but the HSCB has seen an overall improvement in this respect throughout the year. Indeed, a number of courses have been over-subscribed. Details on attendance are also set out in Appendix 5.

- Monitoring the quality of training provided by the HSCB, and levels of attendance by individual agencies. When low attendance has been identified, the Sub-group has taken steps to address this with the relevant managers.
- The development of a 'Training Pool' of 16 professionals who help deliver cascade training within their own agencies. A healthy and effective pool has been maintained and supported by the Sub-group over the year, and the group's links with the North West Inter-Agency Trainers Group has helped maximise opportunities for their ongoing development.
- The development of a Communications Strategy for the Sub-group, focussing on raising the levels of awareness throughout the Halton community around safeguarding generally. Literature is being given to every household in the borough, explaining what the HSCB does, how safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and stressing that promotion of the welfare of Halton's children touches on all aspects of their lives and is more than just a narrow concern about 'child abuse'.
- More specifically, ensuring that all agencies who work with children and young people are providing awareness raising sessions to ensure that those children and young people know who to contact if they have concerns about themselves

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or any of their peers. This has involved an audit of such provision across the borough, initially focusing on schools, Early Years services, the Youth Service, and Connexions.

- A new focus on raising awareness throughout the Halton community about the legal responsibilities that need to be met by any adults in the borough who look after children on a 'private fostering' basis. In addition to the distribution of publicity materials around the borough, this has involved the provision of formal training and briefing sessions for agencies (e.g. schools), as well as working with the local authority's Fostering and Adoption, and Marketing and Communications, Services to specifically focus on 'hard to reach' groups through a partnership with Warrington Council and Wire FM.
- Work on mapping the workforce in Halton who work with children, no matter in what capacity. This is to enable those workers to receive the 'Common Core' of training that ensures they have the required levels of skills and knowledge – for example, around good safeguarding practice.
- The development of quality assurance and validation processes to monitor the provision of training around safeguarding that is not commissioned by the HSCB itself.
- The development of an HSCB web-site.
- The development of an HSCB Newsletter.

SECTION 7

REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

This Section contains additional reports from some of the HSCB's partner agencies on their safeguarding work during the year.

7.1 THE 5 BOROUGHS PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

The 5 Boroughs Partnership has specifically developed work in four key areas:

- the establishment of child protection lead officers
- the establishment of Children's Champions
- supervision policies
- staff training and development

Child Protection Leads

A Trust-wide structure has been developed to enable the Trust to fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities, and this includes the establishment of two Child Protection Leads. These Leads support the work of the Named Nurse Child Protection, and take lead responsibility within an identified area for the day to day front line management of child protection issues. This includes the provision to staff of consultation, support, and supervision, in compliance with both the HSCB's and the Trust's protocols and procedures.

The Child Protection Leads participate in the management of critical incidents relating to specific children, and ensure that action points are implemented. They also directly support staff in providing reports to case conferences, courts and other forums, and contribute to the development of HSCB and in-house child protection training.

In supporting, and deputising for, the Named Nurse Child Protection, the Leads ensure that that officer is kept appraised of local and strategic safeguarding issues, and that staff training and development needs are identified and met.

The Child Protection Leads each have 3.5 hours per week ringed-fenced time to undertake their roles.

Children's Champions

Across the Trust, individual members of staff in wards and teams have been identified as Children's Champions within their clinical areas. In supporting the work of the Child Protection Leads and the Named Nurse, their main responsibility is to link with colleagues at the front line, providing hands on

support around child protection issues, and providing consultation opportunities to support their work.

Each Children's Champion is allocated 1.5 hours per week ring-fenced time to undertake their role.

Policy development

The Trust has developed a supervision policy that encompasses managers' roles regarding the safeguarding of children.

Additionally, the Trust's HR policies have been reviewed in the light of the Bichard Inquiry, and safeguarding issues are now more specifically focused within recruitment processes.

Staff training and development

All staff receive Induction Training prior to commencing employment with the Trust, and this includes a specific focus on safeguarding practice, including the use of a Safeguarding Children Communication Form that is now used across the Trust in all service areas.

The Trust has developed a Basic Awareness training package with the support of the Child Protection Development Officer in the local authority's CYPD, and the 'Essentials for Managers' training course now includes a module on managers' safeguarding responsibilities.

The Child Protection Leads and the Children's Champions receive specific training and support in addition to the regular training that all staff undertake. This includes the completion of a Safeguarding Children module at Level 3.

Challenges for the forthcoming year

Specific challenges for 2007-2008 include implementing the Trust Strategy for Safeguarding Children, and implementing the Trust Domestic Abuse Strategy.

7.2 NORTH CHESHIRE HOSPITALS

Developments in safeguarding children have included the implementation of new policies and procedures, and new initiatives in staff training.

Policy development

A new, all encompassing safeguarding policy for the hospital has been introduced that includes:

- a clear Care Pathway when a child is admitted and there are concerns
- new discharge arrangements for children about whom there are concerns

- arrangements to deal with parents who seek to take a child's discharge against medical advice
- the management of suspected abuse when there is a difference of opinion between professionals (developed with Warrington PCT)
- procedures and processes when child protection concerns are raised retrospectively (after discharge)
- arrangements for the admission of children and young people (location arrangements for 16-18yr olds in the hospital)
- a Maternity Care Pathway
- a Domestic Abuse Care Pathway linked to partner agencies (this has been running since June 2006)
- identified training levels for all staff

Staff training and development

There have been significant achievements in this area:

- Training in Domestic Abuse has been commissioned for staff involved in routine screening in antenatal care, and for when they are working with adults who disclose abuse, or when the hospital suspects that it is happening
- An e-learning package for Safeguarding Children Training has been developed that will monitor who has completed the required modules, and which will be used to facilitate additional update training for staff
- Training time has been secured for Junior doctors of 7¼ over 2 years
- A quality control audit of over 90% of Care Pathways has commenced, to identify areas that need further development and training for staff
- The following single agency training in Safeguarding Children has continued to be provided, and additional sessions have been organised to meet increased demand:
 - 7 sessions Halton (Halton Hospital site)
 - 14 sessions in collaboration with Warrington PCT (Warrington site)
 - 5 sessions Hospital trust only (Warrington Site)
- A dedicated Safeguarding Children notice board on the main corridor of the hospital has been secured, to help raise awareness and publicise developments
- A capital fund bid of £5,000 was successful for Safeguarding Children within the hospital, which has resourced the provision of training equipment and the conversion of a dedicated room
- Dedicated administration support is now in place for our safeguarding training

7.3 ST HELENS & KNOWSLEY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

This section illustrates how the Trust is making progress towards achieving the following responsibilities and duties:

- To protect children by following national child protection guidelines within its own activities and in its dealings with other organisations
- To co-operate with other health and social care organisations to ensure patients' individual needs are properly met and managed across the organisational boundaries
- To ensure that staff are fit to work with the vulnerable population

7.3.1 <u>Protect children by following national Child Protection guidelines</u> within its own activities and in its dealings with other organisations

Being able to discharge the safeguarding function of the board is not only dependent on a safe workforce, but is also dependent on the availability of robust policies and procedures which are based upon national and local guidelines. Work has been undertaken to review and revise the following key policies and procedures:

Child Protection Procedures (Recognition, Referral & Response)

These procedures underwent further review in April 2006, against the safeguarding procedure template designed in collaboration with the St Helens SCB, Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee.

What to do if you're worried Flow Charts

New flow charts have been introduced, designed to provide quick and simple guidance to staff who may be worried about the possibility of:

- child abuse
- domestic abuse
- adult patients' attendance giving rise to safeguarding concerns

These flow charts were reviewed in November 2006 to include changes in contact details for the police and social care.

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy

This protocol will be recommended for use in the A&E and Paediatric departments. It has been reviewed and localised, and incorporates the contact details of nominated Trust staff, along with those of our community colleagues, and cross references to the Trust guidelines for Securing a Crime Scene.

<u>The Management in Hospital of Known or Suspected Individuals Who May Pose</u> a Risk to Children and Adults

This protocol has been designed to assist Healthcare Workers in their assessment and management of identified individuals who present a risk, or potential risk, to children or adults within the hospital environment.

<u>Guidance for Managers and Employees for Dealing with Claims of Alleged Child</u> Abuse

This is designed to provide direction to managers when dealing with allegations of abuse, and takes into account statutory obligations included within working Together to Safeguard Children 2006, the Children Act 1989, and the Children Act 2004.

Paediatric Outpatient DNA policy

This policy should contribute to reducing the number of paediatric DNA's, as it will allow consultants the opportunity to safely discharge their responsibilities for arranging follow up appointments for those cases not seen as essential or urgent.

7.3.2 Co-operate with other Health and Social Care organisations to ensure patients' individual needs are properly met and managed across the organisational boundaries

Common Assessment Framework

Staff in A&E, paediatrics, and the maternity department are being encouraged to attend CAF training workshops. CAF awareness is also delivered as part of the Trust HCC Level 3 Training.

Ante-Natal Care Pathway

A training delivery programme is currently in place within the maternity services to ensure that midwives are aware of their responsibilities in relation to this important document.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

In an effort to ensure the mental health needs of those children and young people accessing services at the Trust, St. Helens PCT has commissioned 2 CAMHS Paediatric Liaison Specialist Posts. These posts will support the development of pathways of care to ensure the promotion of emotional well-being of all children and young people in contact with the Trust.

7.3.3 Ensure staff are fit to work with the vulnerable population

Training

Training has been offered and delivered to Trust staff against the three recommended levels identified by the Health Care Commission:

- HCC Level 1 the Acute Trust's Induction & annual mandatory safeguarding training for all staff whether they work with children or not
- **HCC Level 2** the Trust's Safeguarding half day Basic Awareness training is for all staff in regular contact with children, to be repeated every 3 years
- HCC Level 3 the Trust's full day Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children training, aimed specifically at Trust staff who regularly work in a multiagency setting with the 'child in need' or child protection procedures agenda.

The following table reflects the current position regarding the numbers of staff who have received training at level 2:

Department	Number of Staff	Staff Trained (Sept 2006)	Staff Trained (January 2007)
Accident &	161	161 (100%)	157 (97.5%)
Emergency			
Crèche	34	34 (100%)	31 (91%)
Paediatrics	109	109 (100%)	105 (96.3%)
Outpatients	43	43 (100%)	42 (100%)
Obstetrics &	206		191 (93%)
Gynaecology			
Anaesthetics	37		17 (46%)
(Registrar –			
Consultant)			

7.3.4 Serious Case Reviews

Clear guidance has been agreed with our local Children's Service Departments, outlining how cases which meet the requirement of 'Working Together 2006' should be communicated to the Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Facilities.

This guidance has been utilised successfully in 4 cases over the past 12 months, ensuring that the Trust meets the relevant deadlines.

7.4 HALTON AND ST HELENS PCT

The PCT has ensured that there has been 100% attendance, and provision of health reports from health staff, at all Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences. Consequently PCT staff have therefore contributed to the development and implementation of 100% of Child Protection Plans.

The PCT has developed a joint protocol with Halton LA in relation to Promoting the Health of Looked After Children (LAC). This is based on DfES guidance and enables both health visitors and school health nurses to perform health reviews on looked after children for the first time. The overall aim of the protocol is to ensure that the health needs of all looked after children are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity in order to promote/enhance their health and wellbeing. Health visitors and school health nurses are now actively involved in performing these LAC health reviews.

In addition, the PCT Child Protection Leads have assisted in the development of a multi-agency neglect protocol. The protocol was developed as a direct consequence of a local Part 8/Serious Case Review concerning a 13 year girl severely neglected and admitted to hospital with a HB of 4.7 requiring transfusion. One of the recommendations was that there should be clearer guidance given/available to all staff working with children and families about the presentation and manifestation of neglect. All relevant PCT staff have received a briefing on this protocol.

The PCT has continued to provide in-house Child Protection Training to all newly appointed staff and has facilitated the participation of relevant staff in attending a variety of Multi-agency LSCB Training courses.

A number of 'Master Class Record Keeping' training days took place between April and September 2006 for all staff, and specific training was subsequently provided to health visitors. The Designated Nurse Child Protection made a significant contribution to these training events, in re-emphasizing the importance of compliance with the specific recommendations from the Victoria Climbie Inquiry that relate to record keeping. In addition, the recommendations of local Serious Case Reviews were also brought to the attention of the course participants.

Overall, the above information indicates the PCT's achievements and commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in Halton, with particular emphasis on the ECM Stay Safe and Be Healthy outcomes.

7.5 CHESHIRE PROBATION

As a public protection agency we are committed to working collaboratively with other agencies to contribute to the effective protection of children from harm. Probation managers and staff not only supervise offenders who are known to present a risk to children, but they also share critical information with key agencies to develop and implement joint risk management plans. Whilst the risk to children can never be eliminated, these critical processes are proving to be effective.

In addition to those sex offenders who present a risk to children, Cheshire Probation Area also supervises offenders who are convicted for acts of domestic abuse, whilst also providing their victim with direct support. In working effectively with the perpetrators and victims of domestic violence we seek to assist the children's services in protecting children living within this family environment.

7.6 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL - HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

During 2006/07 a Training Needs Analysis was undertaken by the Training Section in respect of staff working in Adult Services, to establish the numbers who have received Child Protection training and those who still require it. The following courses were highlighted as appropriate for those staff who may have contact with children in the course of their duties:

- Child Protection Policy and Procedure
- Safeguarding Children In Need
- Neglect Safeguarding Children
- Mental Health Safeguarding Children
- Sexual Abuse Safeguarding Children
- Domestic violence Safeguarding Children
- Substance Misuse Safeguarding Children

The information gathered has enabled a planned approach to meet the learning needs of staff starting in April 2007. This approach is in addition to the on-going Training Programme delivered by the Child Protection Development Officer.

7.7 NSPCC

As part of the NSPCC's work around domestic abuse, publicity has been distributed in Halton to children and young people, raising their awareness about the issue, and providing them with information on what they can do and who they can talk to. A leaflet stresses that children should not keep abuse within their home a secret, and provides Freephone contact details.

A leaflet has also been produced targeting women who may be the victims of domestic abuse – "Wholewoman – Essential Information for Mums". It stresses the impact of domestic abuse on children, and, again, provides contact details of advice and support agencies.

7.8 HALTON DRUG ACTION TEAM

The Halton Drug Action Team is compiling a response to the Hidden Harm initiative, ensuring that it is planned and coordinated across all the agencies. The DAAT are endeavouring to pay more attention to the needs of drug using parents, and are developing appropriate service responses to ensure that their clients, where appropriate, are supported to become 'better' parents.

This entails ensuring that the needs of the children of drug using parents are identified, and responded to appropriately.

7.9 SCHOOLS

The achievements of Halton's schools have included:

- an audit of safer recruitment practice in schools
- ensuring that the Every Child Matters agenda and outcomes are incorporated in each school's curriculum and identified in School Improvement Plans
- the appointment of a Safeguarding in Education Development Officer
- the establishment of a Designated Person's Network
- developing the use of Children and Young People's Area Networks (CYPANS) to ensure that needs are appropriately met
- building effective liaison between schools and Children's Centres the development of the Crucial Crew project
- the achievement of a high level of Healthy Schools accreditation across Halton schools

7.10 DOMESTIC ABUSE PROJECT

The Domestic Abuse Project has been very active during the year, and its main achievements have included:

- the development of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) aimed at protecting individuals who are seen to be at high risk of serious or fatal injury as a result of domestic abuse. These conferences work in a similar way to Child Protection Conferences key agencies across the borough meet monthly to share information on individuals who may be in danger or whose safety needs to be monitored. MARACs then agree actions aimed at preventing or reducing victimisation. The attendance of a representative from HBC Children and Young People helps the MARAC to focus on children who may need safeguarding.
- the delivery of guidance documents to every school in Halton that provides school staff with essential tools to enable them to identify and support children and young people who may be living in households where domestic

abuse is taking place. This information provides advice and guidance on how to deal with disclosures, and gives numerous contact details to enable school staff to refer-on their concerns to appropriate agencies.

- a booklet 'Heartstrings' has also been sent out to schools. This deals with issues surrounding domestic abuse and healthy relationships, and is integrated into the curriculum by providing lesson plans for teaching staff and information for young people
- awareness raising publicity campaigns by the Domestic Abuse Forum, targeting children and young people and providing them with materials with support contact details.
- training for professionals on the effects of domestic abuse on children, and how to respond to it. This is continuing to be rolled out across the borough.
- liaison with the Relationship Centre, the Sanctuary Scheme, and the courts to identify and work with children who are affected by domestic violence.

7.11 HALTON AND WARRINGTON YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Halton and Warrington YOT is a multi- agency partnership across the two local authority areas, with partners comprising:

- the Police
- the Probation Service
- the Health services Halton and St Helens PCT; 5 Boroughs Mental Health Trust; Warrington PCT
- Cheshire and Warrington Connexions
- the Greater Merseyside and Cheshire Fire Services.

The YOT is accountable to all these agencies, and to the Youth Justice Board who oversee practice nationally and issue guidance to local areas.

The aim of the Youth Justice system is to reduce and prevent offending by young people and children aged 10- 18 years, whilst also acknowledging welfare issues and the need to safeguard children and young people from harm and promote their well-being.

The YOT is an organisation that straddles the traditional 'child welfare' based system and the criminal justice system, where protection of the public in general is an underlying feature of all processes.

Achievements

The main achievements of the Halton and Warrington YOT over the past year have included:

- an organisational restructuring in order to facilitate a more local geographically-based foot print, in line with that of other local service providers in the statutory and voluntary sectors
- all staff having access to safeguarding training via Halton and Warrington Safeguarding Boards, as well as training sponsored through the Youth Justice Board nationally
- YOT staff contributing to the design and production of the Pan-Cheshire, Halton and Warrington safeguarding procedures
- implementing a new risk-based allocation procedure in the YOT, to ensure that the highest risk young people receive the most intensive and interventions and managed appropriate are by the experienced/highest This qualified staff. risk-based assessment encompasses both risks to, and from, the child/young person. A management system has been implemented whereby the highest risk cases are overseen by management, led by the Head of Service, and - where appropriate - cases are brought to the attention of the YOT Management Board in line with Laming principles
- the involvement of the YOT, locally and County-wide, in MAPPA arrangements at both the implementation and strategic levels
- the establishment of a post across the YOT and HBC Looked after Children Team to further improve services to looked after children who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the Criminal Justice system

Challenges

Two key challenges have needed to be managed over the past year:

- the YOT is a key partner in the wider Criminal Justice/ Crime and Disorder arena, and it is essential that safeguarding issues are taken into account when policy is being developed and implemented with locally based partners. For example, the decision to 'publicise' the recipients of Anti-Social behaviour interventions needs to balance carefully the needs of the local community and the potential harm that may be inadvertently caused to the child/youth. The YOT are involved with others in identifying appropriate methods of intervention
- a key issue for the YOT is that of looked after children from outside Halton who are placed within the borough. These cases usually concern young people with the most complex needs and behavioural challenges, and they demand a disproportionate resource input from the YOT. The YOT has made representation locally, regionally and nationally regarding this issue and will continue to do so.

7.12 HALTON VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR

The Voluntary, Community and faith sector has established a forum to disseminate information within the 3rd sector in Halton. This includes the supporting and sharing of practice to ensure that commissioned services are safe and legal. All services commissioned by the Halton Children and Young People's Alliance Board are required to meet the HSCB's safeguarding standards for the protection of children, and the new reporting framework on requires evidence of the staying safe outcome. The Voluntary Sector Business Plan 2007-2008 is to address specific staying safe outcomes.

Child protection training has been made available for 3rd sector services, in addition to that required internally by specific agencies.

7.13 CHESHIRE POLICE

Cheshire Police is committed to promoting the welfare and well being of children and protecting them from harm. The development of the divisional based Public Protection Units (PPU) has further enhanced and developed the overall service provided in support of this key policing area. Located within each PPU are specialised officers, who have the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct investigations and enquiries in accordance with local and national policy. The PPU team based at Halton have investigated a wide range of incidents and offences during the past year.

The implementation of a dedicated Referral Units within the PPU has significantly improved the quality and level of service to our partner agencies. The Northern area PPU has a referral unit located at Warrington, serving both Halton and Warrington. Excellent links and processes have been developed between the unit and Local Authority Children's Services. This has ensured referrals are processed, researched and allocated in a timely manner.

Cheshire Police has been driving forward the implementation of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) throughout the force. This is recognised as an effective process to reduce incidents and Domestic Abuse and protect children from harm. The Northern area PPU has been instrumental in developing a MARAC in Halton, and Halton was the first area to hold a MARAC in April 2007.

The Northern area PPU has also developed and increased the resources dedicated to managing sex offenders who present a risk to children. This is recognised as a growing area of policing and Cheshire Police have committed increased resources to support this increasing demand.

The Northern area PPU has continued to support training relating to protecting children. Officers from the PPB have provided training to a wide range of professionals and agencies.

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The Constabulary's Strategic Public Protection Unit (SPPU), which looks after policies and procedures relating to child abuse and works closely with the are PPUs and our partners, has introduced a new force policy on child abuse investigations. The policy is based on the National Centre for Policing Excellence document 'Guidance on Investigating Child Abuse and Safeguarding Children (2005)' and focuses on protecting and safeguarding the lives of children and ensuring that they receive the same protecting in law and the same level of service from the police as adults.

The SPPU has itself been the subject of organisational change within the last twelve months and now incorporates the force Paedophile Unit. The Paedophile Unit work with area PPUs, partner agencies and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in identifying and investigating child abusers who operate at a 'county' wide, regional and national level. They also offer advice and support to areas undertaking similar work at a much more local level.

SECTION 8

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

8.1 Staying safe – the priority aims

Within the 'Staying Safe' outcome of Halton's Children and Young People's Plan, 5 key aims have been agreed by the HSCB. These are for children and young people to:

- be safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- be safe from accidental death and injury
- be safe from bullying and discrimination
- be safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- have security and stability, and be cared for

It is the responsibility of all partner agencies in Halton to consider how their work with children and young people can most effectively contribute to achieving these outcomes. It is also essential, though, for them to be able to <u>measure</u> the effectiveness of their work, and this requires agencies to be clear about 'performance indicators'.

8.2 Performance indicators

A key tool for the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding practice throughout the borough has been the development of local multi-agency performance indicators. In particular, this will allow the HSCB to monitor strategic outcomes associated with its aims and priorities, and those of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Scrutiny and Performance Sub-group have taken forward this work, engaging with all the partner agencies in Halton, and advising and supporting them where necessary in designing indicators that are relevant, outcome focussed, and measurable. The Sub-group will be reporting regularly to the HSCB on data it receives from partner agencies.

The HSCB's performance indicators relate to the above 5 aims as follows:

AIM	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence & sexual exploitation	Domestic Abuse Increase the number of victims of domestic abuse accessing support from 270 to 324 in 2007/8 Increase year on year the arrest of domestic violence perpetrators where a crime has been committee (LCJB) from 36 to 38 per month in 2007/8 To increase the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police (directly or through a third party) from 1613 to 1774 in 2007/8 Increase the number incidents of domestic abuse, which result in sanctioned detections from 269 to 282 in 2007/8 To reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse reported annually to the police (directly or through a third party) in the same period who are repeat victims from 163 to 154 in 2007/8 % of women offered support, whose partners are subject to the CDVP programme CAF Increase the number of completed CAF's by 10% during 2007/8 Private Fostering % of statutory visits to private fostering arrangements completed on time Increase by 150% the number of private fostering arrangements assessed and monitored Missing from Home 100% of young people reported missing from home offered support within 48 hrs
	80% of young people reported missing from home offered a comprehensive assessment Substance Misuse
	80% of families where substance misuse has been identified as a key issue within child protection or child in need services to be referred by Children Social Care into Halton drug and alcohol services.

DAAT to provide advice, information, consultation and training to Children's Social Care staff and other professionals working with children of substance misusing parents. The target is to provide 4 briefing sessions per year with a minimum of 15 delegates per session.

Basket of LSCB Local Performance Indicators

- % of Children 10+ 'actively' participating in CP process impacting on the effective implementation of their CP Plan to enable de-registration
- % of Parents 'actively' participating in CP process impacting on the effective implementation of the CP Plan to enable de-registration
- % of Children deregistered successfully accessing lower level support services to maintain improvement in factors that led to initial registration
- % of Conference recommendations actioned within appropriate timescales impacting on the effective implementation of the CP Plan
- % of Children registered with Domestic Violence as a factor not re-referred to Social Care within 12 month of deregistration
- % of Children registered with Substance Misuse as a factor not re-referred to Social Care within 12 months of deregistration
- % of Section 47 investigations on Children previously registered
- % of Parents finding CP Conference/Review process helpful in tackling the factors that led to initial registration
- % of Parents who felt able to express their views to conference enabling effective implementation of the CP Plan
- % of Children meeting educational targets identified within the CP planning process
- % of Children whose identified health needs are met within the CP planning process
- % of young people aged 16 to 18, subject to child protection registration in the previous 4 years, who are not in education, employment and training
- % of Connexions PA's receiving safeguarding training to increase awareness and early identification of safeguarding issues
- % of identified staff in Health and Community receiving safeguarding training to increase awareness and early identification of safeguarding issues
- % of Safeguarding Planning meetings attended by adult's services workers if appropriate
- % of Children with child protection plans who are up to date with their immunisations

	 % of Children with child protection plans who are up to date with their PDE
	% of referrals to social care with neglect as the primary factor
	% of Children registered who had been the subject of a completed CAF during the previous 12 months
	 % of S17 cases escalated to S47 or LAC after the first 6 months of allocation
	 % of S17 cases closed following referral to lower level support services
	 Number of Children of Prisoners living in Halton
	Number of Children of Phisoriers living in Flatton
Safe from	 Reduction in the number of children and young people under that age of 16 killed or seriously injured by 2010
accidental death	Reduction of 20% in the number of accidental fire related deaths
and injury	 A reduction in 10% in the number of deliberate fires outside of the home by 2010
Safe from bullying	 Increase the number of schools adopting an anti-bullying charter mark or equivalent to 100%
and discrimination	 Provide the opportunity for 100% of schools to access training for SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of
	Learning)
	• % of schools receiving satisfactory or better in Personal Development and Well being Section of their OfSTED
	Reports.
Safe from crime	HSCB will monitor and report progress re: this aim but will sub contract the work required to achieve this aim to
and anti-social	the Targeted Task Group of the Alliance Board
behaviour in and	
out of school	• Increase in numbers of children who feel safe in their communities by a reduction in number of identified persistent
	young offenders
	 Increase in number of young people feeling safe when out after dark
	Reduction in deliberate fires; fly tipping; nuisance fires and litter
	 Increase in numbers of children victims of crime being offered support
	By 2009 all children who are perpetrators anti-social behaviour receiving coordinated multi-agency support
Have security and	by 2000 an ormaton who are perpetrators and social behaviour receiving coordinated multi-agency support
stability and be	HSCB will monitor and report the progress re: this aim but will sub contract the work required to achieve this aim to
cared for	the Targeted Task Group of the Alliance Board
	The range load rack Croup of the Amarice Board
	Looked after children have more security, stability and a better experience of care by increasing the number
	of foster carers by 10% by 2009 to improve placement choice and to achieve better matches between carers
	and children
	and ormaton

- All Children in Need and looked after children are kept safe with regard to all services they receive from contracted services by 100% of all contracts meeting essential standards including safety standards and being routinely monitored
- Young people who receive a service from Children's Social Care are given more choice in plans for their future. The percentage reporting this will increase from 29.1% to 40% by 2008
- Children with Disabilities will have improved security, stability and care within their home environment by all eligible families being offered a Carers' Assessment by 2009

8.3 Child Protection activity

Investigations of suspicions that a child may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm are governed by Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Figures from April 2006 to December 2006 indicate that the CYPD undertook 183 such investigations with the police and other partner agencies.

The HSCB monitors the outcomes of these investigations, and also considers other information to inform the ongoing review of policy and procedures in the borough. Each quarter, the managers in the CYPD Safeguarding Unit report to the HSCB, providing key data on levels of child protection activity and an analysis of significant issues and trends. This information includes:

- the number of children who are on the Child Protection Register and the subject of a child protection plan, and data on new registrations and deregistrations
- the proportion of these children who are from ethnic minority families
- data on child protection conferences held, and whether the Safeguarding Unit is meeting the required timescales
- the participation of children, young people and parents/carers in conferences
- the participation by professionals in conferences
- an analysis of risk factors that are prevalent
- details on investigations into alleged abuse by professional carers, and practice issues that arise from these

Data for the 12 months to December 2006 provides a picture of the levels of activity in the borough:

Numbers of children registered

The number of children on the Child Protection Register each month <u>averaged</u> 76 throughout the year, from 35 families. 2.6% of these children were from ethnic minority families.

27 initial conferences were held to consider 58 children, and 93 review conferences took place to review the circumstances of all the children on the Register. All these conferences were held within the required timescales.

The result of these initial and review conferences was the addition of 46 children to the Register, but the removal of 84, an encouraging trend. Only 2 children were re-registered, another very encouraging indicator of the effectiveness of family support services.

All the children on the register have had an allocated social worker from CYPD.

Participation in conferences

The attendance of parents and carers at child protection conferences has long been encouraged and supported by the HSCB, and this now also applies to children and young people, themselves.

The attendance of parents/carers/family members at initial conferences has averaged 81% over the 12 months, with attendance at review conferences averaging 74%. Specific arrangements are in place to provide support to these adults, including the chair of the conference meeting with them privately beforehand.

Halton's Protocol for the Participation of Children and Young People in Child Protection Conferences and Reviews has been in effect for a year now, and involves the offer of direct support by the Barnardos Children's Rights Service to children and young people aged 11 years and above. In the period February to December 2006, of 15 young people who were the subject of conferences, 9 actively participated – an increase over the period of 14% to 60%. Seven of these chose to be supported by the Children's Rights Service. This has been an encouraging start to the implementation of the new protocol, and so the HSCB has now lowered the age-range of children who will be more actively supported.

Risk factors

Each quarterly report from the Safeguarding Unit to the HSCB identifies current risk factors that are highlighted from the conferences. These have included the mis-use within the family of drugs and alcohol, mental health issues, and domestic abuse.

8.4 Professional carers

Quarterly reports also provide detailed updates on the incidence and progress of investigations into alleged abuse by professional carers. The Safeguarding Unit briefs the HSCB on the nature of all allegations, the agencies involved, and outcomes from multi-agency strategy meetings that are held to determine the course of investigations.

This data is providing the foundation for the DfES information requirements relating to the Local Authority Designated Officer role (LADO), the new responsibility that involves an enhanced level of monitoring of investigations into allegations against professional carers.

From April 2006 to December 2006 24 allegations against professional carers were investigated. In one case the alleged perpetrator was successfully prosecuted, a second is awaiting trial, and a third case has resulted in criminal charges. The agencies involved, and the numbers of professionals investigated in each, were as follows:

Community groups – 1

- Education 8
- Foster carers 3
- Ex-foster carers 1
- Kinship carers 2
- Self-employed 1
- Residential 8

A number of issues arose from some of these investigations, and, where necessary, the HSCB has taken action to prevent further abuse taking place within the borough. For example:

Community groups

There have been concerns about how aware some local organisations are of the HSCB Child Protection Procedures, and whether they have effective procedures of their own. The Safeguarding Development Officer has made links with community centres in order to promote the need to have appropriate safeguarding measures in place. This includes those groups using community centres who work with children.

There has been specific, additional concern regarding some organisations about the lack of rigour with which CRB checks are made and references are taken up. These groups are being helped to establish the necessary protocols and procedures for the safe recruitment and monitoring of adults who work with children.

Schools

There has been evidence of concern by parents that their children's challenging behaviour has been managed inappropriately. The Safeguarding in Education Development Officer, alongside other appropriate colleagues, is discussing with schools the need for written, agreed plans of intervention to be drawn up with parents when control measures are thought to be needed for children with complex needs.

SECTION 9

HSCB BUDGET 2006-2007

The budget details for 2006/07 are outlined below. The chair of the HSCB would like to formally record her thanks and appreciation to those agencies that have contributed to the costs. She further acknowledges that other agencies have made contributions in kind – for example in the time their staff have devoted to HSCB business, and in contributing to training delivery – and for this she has been extremely grateful.

It is noted that the HSCB has benefited this year from an under-spend on last year's ACPC budget, which was carried forward. It should also be noted that there has been a significant under-spend on staffing in 2006/07, as key appointment were not made until midway through the financial year. A full year's expenditure on staffing is, therefore, projected for 2007/2008, and, in view of this and other anticipated spending, it is expected that the budget for this coming year will be over-stretched.

INCOME

(i) Contributions from partner agencies

HBC	42,550
PCT	42,550
Cheshire Police	24,000
Connexions	10,000
Cheshire Probation	3,000
CAFCASS NW	231

Sub total 122,331

(ii) Other income

Training income	5,175
ACPC funding c/f	62,270

Total income 189,776

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PROJECTED EXPENDITURE TO 31 MARCH 2007

Staffing Training	48,735 34,579
Advertising/marketing	11,398
Policy and procedures	2,323
Screening Sub-groups	833
Scrutiny & Performance Sub-group	3,250
Meetings	333

Total expenditure 101,452

SECTION 10

KEY OBJECTIVES AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2007-2008

Much has been done during this first year of the HSCB to consolidate and develop its objectives. To take this work forward, a Business Plan for next year has been agreed by the Board, some of which was developed at a Board Away Day in December 2006.

All the Key Objectives for the forthcoming year are detailed on the following pages, as delegated to the Executive Board and the Sub-groups. They highlight the breadth and scope of the HSCB's ongoing ambitions for the children and young people of Halton.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

	Objectives	Timescale	Comments on progress
1	To develop a consultation and participation strategy for the LSCB	September 2007	
2	To look at feasibility of developing a Pilot Group of young people to act as a consultation group re: safeguarding	July 2007	
3	To make links with the Borough Wide Youth Forum and conduct an Audit of the Young People's Groups that are in Halton	September 2007	
4	To ensure the effective links between HSCB and other strategic groups are maintained	Ongoing	
5	To continue to comply with the Safeguarding Elements of the Licensing Act.	Ongoing	Arrangements in place via protocol agreed with Police.
6	To explore the possibility of having a second Parent Representative on the HSCB	July 2007	
7	To establish a support mechanism for the Parent Representative on the HSCB	July 2007	
8	To widen safeguarding agenda for the Board in order to be more community owned	March 2008	
9	To be provide clarity about the remit /cohort of the HSCB and where the HSCB has a strategic or operational role as opposed to a contributory role	May 2007	
10	To arrange training for middle managers on a multi- agency basis in relation to managing staff involved in Child Protection Work	February 2008	This is being developed with the Training Sub-group
11	To ensure that there are formal links between HSCB and MAPPA and MARAC	Ongoing	
12	To review the membership and Chair arrangements of the HSCB Sub-groups	June 2007	This issue to be discussed at the June 2007 HSCB
13	To develop a process for commissioning and funding the work of the HSCB	October 2007	

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE POLICY & PROCEDURES SUB-GROUP

1	To produce multi-agency Child Protection Procedures including Appendices which comply with the revised version of Working Together (2006)	June 2007	Chapters 1-5 Implemented December 2006. Further Guidance awaited re: Ch. 5 & 6. Review of Appendices being undertaken.
2	To develop HSCB "Safe Recruitment and Working Practices – Principles" for all Agencies who recruit staff or volunteers to work with children	May 2007	
3	To develop a strategy for HSCB engagement with front line staff in order to ensure that Policy & Procedures are having an impact upon Safeguarding Children	September 2007	
4	To develop a process for ensuring that organisations working, or in contact with children have recruitment and Personnel (HR) Practice that ensures the safety and welfare of children. This to include having effective whistle blowing procedures.	Ongoing	
5	To review other agencies/organisations Child Protection Procedures to ensure that they are compliant with Working Together (2006) and Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures	Ongoing	
6	All HSCB member agencies to ensure that child protection policies are held by organisations and agencies commissioned to deliver services on their behalf to children	Ongoing	

7	 To ensure that there are Policies and Procedures to: Safeguard and promote the welfare of "vulnerable" groups of children including: - Children harmed in the context of domestic violence via links with the Domestic Abuse Forum Children harmed as a result of the impact of substance misuse Children abused outside families by adults know to them Children living away from home Children who have run away from home Children abused by strangers Children in custody Children with disabilities Young perpetrators of abuse 	March 2008	This is being developed with the Training Sub-group
8	To monitor the actions arising from the Hidden Harm Action Plan	July 2007	
9	To develop a criteria for joint visits by social workers and health visitors	September 2007	
10	To confirm the arrangements and procedures in relation to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) function	June 2007	The procedure is currently being developed and to be presented to HSCB Executive Board and HSCB. The Senior Conference and Reviewing Manager to fulfil the LADO role

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE SCREENING SUB-GROUP

1	To monitor and review Child Deaths and Near Misses and report on a quarterly basis to HSCB	Reporting requirement is ongoing	Process for undertaking Child Death Reviews and Near Misses is established
2	To undertake serious case reviews of cases where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected, a child has died or been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant people have worked together to safeguard children	Ongoing	
3	The Halton Child Death Overview Panel to collaborate with neighbouring authorities in sharing learning from Child Death Reviews.	Ongoing	

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE SCRUTINY & PERFORMANCE SUB-GROUP

1	Establish HSCB Multi-Agency Outcome Focussed Performance Indicators linked to the 'Stay Safe' outcome	April 2007	The Business Manager from Halton CYPD is leading a multi-agency pilot group. This involves each HSCB member agency identifying 2 performance indicators.
2	Establish arrangements for monitoring allegations against professional carers. These to be in line with DfES requirements. This links with the LADO procedure.	April 2007	Links have been established with the DfES Allegations Management Adviser Network
3	To Audit LSCB Members Agencies compliance with Section 11 Children Act 2004 Duty to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	June 2007	HSCB Agencies and Schools are completing the self assessment audit tool.
4	To evaluate multi-agency working by performing joint audits of case files	Ongoing	The Group has completed one audit and is in the process of completing second audit.
5	To monitor performance in relation to HSCB Performance Indicators and report on a quarterly basis to HSCB	Quarterly report to HSCB	
6	To monitor the progress of the Children and Young Peoples Plan Action Plans relating to the "Stay Safe" outcome and report on a quarterly basis to the HSCB	Quarterly report to HSCB	
7	To monitor performance in relation to child protection activity including CPCC attendance, quoracy and child/parent/carer participation in the process and to report on a quarterly basis to HSCB	Quarterly report to HSCB	

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE TRAINING SUB-GROUP

1	To establish links with Faith and Community Groups	February 2008	
2	To continue to raise awareness about Private Fostering	Ongoing	
3	To develop an inter agency safeguarding children programme based upon three levels including raising awareness and cascade training for community groups	April 2007	
4	To develop an accredited Training Programme for parents re: Safeguarding	February 2008	
5	To implement an anti-bullying action plan including a programme for awareness raising and training. And to link other relevant strategic bodies.	January 2008	
6	To develop training in relation to Communicating with Children with Disabilities	August 2007	
7	To implement the Virtual Collage Child Protection Training Package.	June 2007	A pilot group to be established to be led by Steve Withington. Child Protection Development Officer.
8	To distribute the "Safe Parenting" Handbook.	June 2007	
9	To raise awareness about Parental Substance Misuse and the impact upon children via HSCB Conference	November 2007	
10	To develop an HSCB "Kite Mark" to evidence that Agencies/Organisations working with children is complying with safeguarding requirements. This includes their working practices, safe recruitment and any training being delivered	July 2007	
11	To develop the HSCB Website	September 2007	
12	To establish a HSCB quarterly newsletter	May 2007	
13	Promote public awareness about how everybody can contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	Ongoing	
14	To establish links with Halton's workforce strategy in order to feed into the priority areas and in order to evaluate the quality of training to ensure that it is being	Ongoing	

	targeted at enprepriete staff	
	targeted at appropriate staff	
15	To engage with Agencies who are taking on new roles	December 2007
	including non traditional social work roles who are not	
	already under the HSCB Banner	
16	Each HSCB member agency to produce an agency	Ongoing `
	safeguarding training plan.	
17	To consider a pilot buddying scheme for social workers,	February 2008
	health visitors and teachers	
18	To deliver Eyewitness Theatre Group training re:	November 2007
	engaging with resistant people on a multi-agency basis	
	to frontline staff including health visitors, teachers and	
	social workers.	
19	To establish multi agency training for front line	February 2008
19	1	1 Ebituary 2000
	managers, focusing on managing staff involved in child	
	protection work.	
20	To develop safe recruitment training	September 2007
21	To develop competency based training for groups e.g.	November 2007
	dancing troupes	
22	To promote the inter-agency training evaluation tool	September 2007
23	To explore the possibility of having a regional event in	February 2008
	collaboration with neighbouring LSCBs, focussed around	
	the sexual exploitation of children	
L	1	I I

24	To deliver training in relation to: - Safeguarding and promote the welfare of "vulnerable" groups of children including: - - Children harmed in the context of domestic violence via links with the Domestic Abuse Forum - Children harmed as a result of the impact of substance misuse - Children abused outside families by adults know to them - Children living away from home - Children who have run away from home - Children abused by strangers - Children in custody - Children with disabilities - Young perpetrators of abuse	March 2008	This is being developed with the Training Sub-group
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

MEMBERSHIP

HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

A Williamson
 K O'Dwyer
 Operational Director, HBC Health & Community (Chair)
 Operational Director, HBC Children & Young People

R Gill - Group Solicitor, Halton Legal Services
C Dickinson - Headteacher, Cavendish School

H Mullaney - Headteacher, The Heath Specialist Technology College

Dr S Kumar - General Practitioner

S Hinchliffe - Executive Lead for Child Protection, Whiston Hospital
N Wild - Consultant Paediatrician, Warrington General Hospital
Jonathan Smith or - Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority

Dr Eugenia Nawane

Janet McDonald - Director of Child & Family Health - Halton & St. Helen's Primary Care Trust

B Gyawali

- Designated Doctor Child Protection, Halton & St. Helen's PCT

- Senior Nurse Child Protection, Halton & St. Helen's PCT

- Director of Adult Services, 5 Boroughs Partnership

- Detective Chief Inspector, Strategic PPU, Cheshire Police

- Detective Offici Hispector, Strategic FFO, Official

G Finchett - Superintendent, Runcorn Police

K Cawley - Magistrate

J Davidson - Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Cheshire Probation Service

G Jones - Head of Service, Youth Offending Team

S Eastwood - Halton Drug Action Team and Safer Halton Partnership

D McKee - Service Manager, CAFCASS
D Sproson - Area Manager, Connexions
P Wilcox - Assistant Director, Barnardos

Yvonne Jama - Children's Services Manager, NSPCC

Ann Towey - HSCB Manager

Paula St. Aubyn - Senior Independent Conference & Reviewing Manager

Nigel Moorhouse - Divisional Manager (Children in Need), HBC Children & Young People

(Chair of Training Sub)

Ria Bannigan - Divisional Manager (Safeguarding and Strategy), HBC Safeguarding and

Strategy (Chair of Scrutiny and Screening Subs)

J Potter - Divisional Manager (Vulnerable Pupils), HBC Children & Young People

(Chair of Policy & Procedures Sub)

Denise Standen - Parent rep For further - Halton Colleges

consideration

HSCB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kath O'Dwyer - Operational Director, HBC Children & Young People (Chair)

Ann Towey - Halton Safeguarding Children Board Manager

Nigel Moorhouse - Divisional Manager (Children in Need), HBC Children & Young People

(Chair of Training Sub)

Ria Bannigan - Divisional Manager (Safeguarding and Strategy), HBC Safeguarding and

Strategy (Chair of Scrutiny and Screening Subs)

Jonathan Potter - Divisional Manager (Vulnerable Pupils), HBC Children & Young People

(Chair of Policy & Procedures Sub)

Gary Finchett - Superintendent, Runcorn Police

Lorraine Crane - Commissioning Manager - HBC Children & Young People

Janet McDonald - Director of Child & Family Health - Halton & St. Helen's Primary Care Trust

HSCB SUB-GROUPS

Policy and Procedures Sub Group

Jonathan Potter - Chair

Charlie Whelan - Senior Nurse Child Protection, Halton & St. Helen's PCT

Paula St. Aubyn - Independent Conference & Reviewing Manager

Sharon Sandel - Policy Officer

Kate McPoland - Service Development Officer

Loraine Peers - Principal Manager Child Care Team 1

Nigel Wenham - Cheshire Police Ann Towey - HSCB Manager

Sally Clarke - Domestic Violence Co-ordinator

Screening Sub Group

Ria Bannigan - Chair

Ann Towey - HSCB Manager Christine Hurst - Coroners Office

Martin Cleworth
 Roslyn Polding
 Buprio
 Detective Chief Inspector – Cheshire Police
 Halton & St. Helens PCT – Public Health
 Lead Consultant Paediatrician Halton PCT

Bhattacharyya

Ian Hart - Child Health Surveillance Manager

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Scrutiny & Performance Sub Group

Ria Bannigan - Chair

Ann Towey - HSCB Manager

Jonathan Potter - Divisional Manager - CYPD

Bina Gyawali - Halton PCT

Carol Hill - Independent Conference & Reviewing Manager

Nigel Wenham - Cheshire Police

Training Sub Group

Nigel Moorhouse - Chair

Sian Kavanagh - ARCH Initiatives

Marie Fairbrother - Nurse Specialist, Child Protection, Halton PCT

Steve Withington
Sharon Taylor
Martyn Platts
Celia Dickinson

- Multi Agency Trainer, CYPD
- Safeguarding Development Officer
- Communications and Marketing
- Head Teacher, Cavendish School

Susan Graham - Senior CP Lead, Education - Domestic Violence Co-ordinator

Karen Vanner - Advisor, HBC

Brian Hully - Cheshire Police, Training Manager

Christine Johnson - Safeguarding in Education Development Officer Andrea Farrell

Geraldine Derby - Divisional Manager, CYPD

Ann Towey - HSCB Manager

Appendix 2

HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Overall Vision

"A community committed to realising high aspirations, where all children, young people and families are valued and respected and where inclusion and diversity are promoted".

We have a particular responsibility to ensure that the well being of our children and young people is safeguarded. In order to do this agencies are committed to support families in bringing up children. To achieve this, in Halton we will:

- Develop a clear analysis of need across the borough
- Listen to and involve all in planning and improving services
- Provide high quality services that are responsive to need, inclusive and accessible to all
- Ensure that all children and young people receive their entitlement of services

2. Safeguarding Vision

"All children and young people in Halton will grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families. Where children are harmed or at risk of harm, all agencies will actively co-operate to promote their welfare".

3. Cohort

Those children who reside in Halton aged 0-19 yrs who have **complex needs & compromised parenting**; and who require a multi-agency response.

Focus - Interpersonal harm rather than environmental or population impact.

4. Overall Aims

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective coordination in every local area. For this reason, the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the

welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. As part of the Halton Children & Young People's Strategic Planning arrangements and the Halton Children & Young Peoples Plan, the Halton SCB has responsibility to ensure coherence and co-ordination between plans and service delivery to children and young people in order to fulfil the duty upon all agencies and providers to safeguard and promote children's welfare (CA 2004) and to help them to achieve the 5 outcomes defined in the Children Act 2004:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being.

Stay Safe

Safe from maltreatment neglect, violence and sexual exploitation

Halton Safeguarding Children Board

5. Core Objectives

The central objectives of a Local Safeguarding Children Board established under section 13 of the Children Act 2004 are:-

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established;
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

6. **Definitions**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care which is

undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

The work of LSCBs is part of the wider context of children's trust arrangements that aim to improve the overall wellbeing (i.e. the five Every Child Matters outcomes) of all children in the local area.

Whilst the work of LSCBs contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children, it has a particular focus on aspects of the 'staying safe' outcome.

The LSCB's work to ensure the effectiveness of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by member organisations will be a peer review process based on self evaluation, performance indicators, and joint audit. Its aim ist o promote high standards of safeguarding work and to foster a culture of continuous improvement. It will also identify and act on identified weaknesses in services and to avoid unnecessary duplication of work the LSCB should ensure that its monitoring role complements and contributes to the work of both the children's trust and the inspectorates.

Where it is found that a Board partner is not performing effectively in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and the LSCB is not convinced that any plabnned action to improve performance will be adequate, the LSCB chair or a member or employee designated by the chair should explain these concerns to those individuals and organisations that need to be aware of the failing and may be able to take action. For example, to the most senior individual(s) in the partner organisation, to the relevant inspectorate, and, if necessary, to the relevant Government Department.

The roles and responsibilities of the board in light of the above are to:

- To undertake strategic planning of services relevant to the children's safeguarding agenda.
- To hold all partner agencies to account for their safeguarding practice
- To ensure services are co-ordinated.
- To consider national objectives and Government targets.
- To gather, update and report information regarding unmet need in order to inform the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People in Halton
- To monitor and contribute to the work of the Mini-Children's Trust Partnership boards, which fall within the remit of the task group, including receiving reports

- on the progress against strategies and the management of associated pooled budgets.
- To participate with other groups within the children and young people's strategic planning structure to ensure the needs and views of children and young people and their families are taken into account in the planning process.
- To make regular reports to the Alliance Board, which will include performance information.
- To produce an Annual Business Plan, with clear indication of tasks, leads, timescales and performance measures incorporating the 5 outcomes

8. Key areas of activity

The scope of LSCB role includes safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in 3 broad areas of activity:

- a) <u>Identify and prevent</u> maltreatment, or impairment of health or development, and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care. For example:
 - mechanisms to identify abuse and neglect wherever they may occur;
 - work to increase understanding of safeguarding children issues in the professional and wider community, promoting the message that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility
 - work to ensure that organisations working, or in contact with children, operate recruitment and HR practices that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - monitoring the effectiveness of organisations' implementation of their duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004;
 - ensuring children know who they can contact when they have concerns about their own or others' safety and welfare;
 - ensuring that adults (including those who are harming children) know who they can contact if they have a concern about a child or young person.
- **b) Proactive work** that aims to target particular groups.

For example:

 developing / evaluating thresholds and procedures for work with children and families where a child has been identifies as 'in need' under the Children Act 1989, but where the child is not suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

- work to safeguard and promote the welfare of groups of children who are
 potentially more vulnerable than the general population, for example children
 living away from home, children who have run away from home, children in
 custody or disabled children.
- **Responsive work** to protect children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering harm, including children abused and neglected within families, including those harmed:
 - in the context of domestic Violence
 - as a consequence of the impact of substance misuse;
 - children abused outside families by adults known to them;
 - children abused and neglected by professional carers, within institutional settings, or anywhere else where children are cared for away from home;
 - · children abused by strangers;
 - children abused by other young people;
 - young perpetrators of abuse;
 - children abused through prostitution.

Whilst the LSCB has a role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services. The LSCB does not have a power to direct other organisations.

9. Other Functions:

a) Policies and procedures function

Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention. This includes concerns under both s17 and s47 of the Children Act 1989. It may mean for example:

- setting out thresholds for referrals to children's social care of children who may be in need, and processes for robust multi-agency assessment of children in need
- agreeing inter-agency procedures for s47 enquiries and developing local protocols on key issues of concern such as children abused through prostitution; children living with domestic violence, substance abuse, or parental mental illness; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; children missing from school; children who may have been trafficked, and safeguarding looked after children who are away from home.
- setting out how s47 enquiries and associated police investigations should be conducted, and in particular, in what circumstances joint enquiries are necessary and/or appropriate.

Clear thresholds and processes and a common understanding of them across the local partners may help to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals and to prove the effectiveness of joint work, leading to a more efficient use of resources.

Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children

It is the responsibility of the LSCB to ensure that single agency and multi-agency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare is provided in order to meet local needs. This covers both the training provided by single agencies to their own staff, and multi-agency training where staff from more than one agency train together.

Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children

For example by establishing effective policies and procedures, based on national guidance, for checking the suitability of people applying for work with children and ensuring that the children's workforce is properly supervised, with any concerns acted on appropriately.

Investigation of allegations concerning persons working with children

By establishing effective polices and procedures based on national guidance, to ensure at allegations are dealt with properly and quickly.

Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered

By ensuring the co-ordination and effective implementation of measures designed to strengthen private fostering notification arrangements. The LSCB may also

want to consider how they raise awareness in the community of the requirements and issues around private fostering.

Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities (i.e. Local Authorities) and their Board partners

By establishing procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who move between Local Authority areas. This might include harmonising procedures, where appropriate, to bring coherence to liaison with an organisation (such as a police force) which spans more than one LSCB area. This could be relevant to geographically mobile families such as asylum seeking children; traveller children; children in migrant families; and children of families in temporary accommodation

Other policies and procedures

- i) The LSCB should consider the need for other local protocols including:
 - quick and straightforward means of resolving professional differences of view in a specific case, for example, on whether a child protection conference should be convened;
 - attendance at child protection conferences, including quora;
 - involving children and family members in child protection conferences, the role of advocates, criteria for excluding parents in exceptional circumstances;
 - a decision-making process for the need for a child protection plan based upon the views of the agencies present at the child protection conference;
 - and handling complaints from families about the functioning of child protection conferences.

b). Communicating and raising awareness function

Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging them to do so.

For example, by contributing to a public campaign to raise awareness in the wider community, including faith and minority communities, and among statutory and independent agencies, including employers, about how everybody can contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. By listening to and consulting children and young people and ensuring that their views and opinions are taken into account in planning and delivering safeguarding and promoting welfare services.

c). Monitoring and evaluation function

Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and board partners individually collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve

The LSCB has a key role in achieving high standards in safeguarding and promoting welfare, not just through co-ordinating but by evaluation and continuous improvement.

For example, by asking individual organisations to self evaluate under an agreed framework of benchmarks or indicators and then sharing results with the It might also in involve leading multi-agency arrangements to contribute to self evaluation reports.

To evaluate multi-agency working they could perform joint audits of case files, looking at the involvement of the different agencies, and identifying the quality of practice and lessons to be learned in terms of both multi-agency and multi-disciplinary practice.

The LSCB should have a particular focus on ensuring that those key people and organisations that have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 or section 175 or 157 of the Education Act 2002 are fulfilling their statutory obligations about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The function also includes advising the Local Authority and Board partners on ways to improve. The LSCB might do this by making recommendations (such as the organisations to develop new procedures, by spreading best practice, by bringing together expertise in different bodies, or by supporting capacity building and training. Where there are concerns about the work of partners and these cannot be addressed locally, the LSCB should raise these concerns with others.

d). Function of participating in planning and commissioning

Participating in the local planning and commissioning of children's services to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account.

For example, by contributing to the Children and Young People's plan, and ensuring in discussion with the children's trust partnership that all planning and commissioning of services for children within the Local Authority area take account of the need to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

Where it is agreed locally that the LSCB is the 'responsible authority' matters relating to the protection of children from harm' under the Licensing Act 003, it must be notified of all licence variations and new applications for the sale and supply of alcohol and public entertainment.

e). Function in relation to Child Deaths

Collecting and analysing information about the deaths of all children their area with a view to identifying:

- any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority including any case giving rise to the need for a serious case review;
- ii) any general public health or safety concerns arising from deaths of children
- iii) Putting in place procedures for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by the authority, their Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death of a child.
- iv) Undertaking reviews of cases where a child has died or has been seriously harmed where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and advising on lessons that can be learned

10. Agency Membership

Chair – Independent

Children's Social Care

Education

Police

Probation

Youth Offending Team

Strategic Health Authority

Halton Primary Care Trust

St Helens & Knowsley Hospital Trust

5 Borough Trust

North Cheshire Hospital Trust

Connexions

CAFCASS

Parent Rep

Schools

Colleges

Voluntary Sector

GP

Legal Rep

Safer Halton Partnership Rep

Courts Rep

NSPCC

There will be an agreed deputy representative from each organisation, who will be kept informed about developments and can attend meetings in place of the main representative where necessary.

Members can be co-opted to the task group on a time-limited, task-centred basis. Any temporary or permanent changes in the membership or structure of the task group to be agreed by the Children & Young Peoples Alliance Board.

11. Governance Principles

Focusing on the organisation's purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users

The Alliance and Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Plans, associated Strategies and the Halton Performance Management Framework will fulfil this requirement.

All significant safeguarding service developments, strategies and plans will be ratified by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and will be reported to the Children and Young People's Alliance Board. The outcomes to be achieved for children and families will be the foundation of all agreed service developments, strategies and plans.

> Performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles

In Halton the Director of Children's Services has the lead role in establishing and maintaining inter-agency governance arrangements; the Lead Member for Children's Services has responsibility for ensuring that sound governance arrangements and a clear framework of accountability are in place, and has a leadership role in engaging local communities within the local authority and across partner agencies. The Halton Children and Young People Alliance Board is responsible for monitoring compliance with governance arrangements and offering strategic leadership and direction to drive through change.

In respect of Safeguarding, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board will be chaired by an Independent Operational Director who will have lead responsibility for ensuring that a clear framework of accountability for agencies is in place and that there are clear reporting arrangements for ensuring compliance with agency responsibilities.

If agencies are perceived as failing in their duty to deliver services appropriately, or not evidencing their co-operation to improve the well-being of children and young people, the chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board will seek to agree appropriate levels of practice and engagement with the agency. If the situation is not resolved at this stage or no improvement is forthcoming, the issue will then be referred to the Chair of the Alliance Board, who will refer the matter to the Chief Executive of the agency concerned.

Examples of situations where agencies will be seen as failing in their duties include:

- Consistent non-attendance at meetings.
- Evidence that the agency is practicing outside of agreed processes.
- Spending outside of agreed boundaries.

- Strategies being developed outside of agreed processes (e.g. not being taken to LSCB for agreement)
- Failure to contribute to the arrangements for improving well-being and safeguarding arrangements by the provision of resources.

Promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour

Members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board have collective responsibility and accountability for its decisions. Members should strive to make decisions that further the aims of the Board in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Halton rather than the interests of their own agency.

Members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are expected to work in partnership in line with the *Nolan principles* for the conduct of people in public life:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

> Taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk

The Local Safeguarding Children Board will be the forum within which decisions in respect of safeguarding are taken. These decisions will be recorded and the minutes available for professional scrutiny. The Board will be supported by professional officers and will receive regular performance management and professional information which will indicate whether any of the Boards strategies, policies or performance areas are at risk.

Developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective

Agencies will be represented on the Local Safeguarding Children Board by a senior manager with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to undertake the functions of a Board member. The Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan will be developed jointly by agency Board members and will be reviewed annually at a Board business planning day which will evaluate the performance of individual agency Board members and the Board as a whole. The dynamic nature of children's services assures a regular turnover in persons undertaking Board membership functions.

Engaging stakeholders and making accountability real

The Local Safeguarding Children Board is the forum within which agencies are engaged with the safeguarding process. The new integrated inspection

framework, led by Ofsted, will inspect how Children's Services work together and the development and outcomes delivered by Children's Trust arrangements in each area and will be significant in assessing the engagement of all stakeholders.

In addition forums have been established for parents, children and young people and institutional stakeholders. These forums will receive information on key issues and consultations and will contribute views on the planning, implementation and development of services.

The range of public information leaflets on safeguarding processes also increase the accountability of agency members to the public in the execution of their professional responsibilities.

12. Reporting requirements

The Children and Young Peoples Directorate Quality and Data Division receive information from all partner agencies which is then incorporated into the Children and Young Peoples database. The database can be interrogated to provide a wide range of information on individual children which assists in the early multi agency assessment of need and provides comprehensive performance information on child in need issues which is reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Young People's Alliance Board on a quarterly basis.

13. The Halton Performance Management Framework

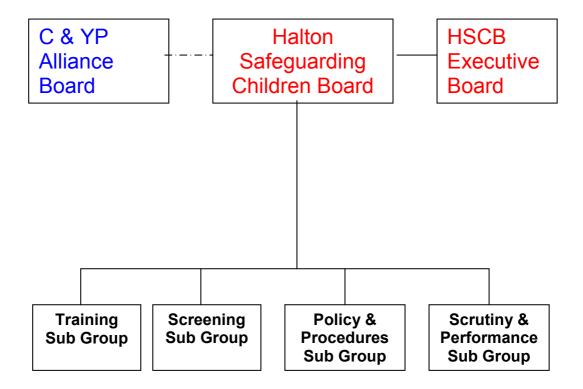
To measure how well the outcomes for children and young people in Halton are being achieved, all partners have adopted a unified Performance Management Framework.

The Framework embraces all existing performance measures for improving outcomes for children and young people in Halton. Further joint and local performance measures will be developed by the Children and Young People Alliance and by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and joint measures for child in need services embracing safeguarding and the promotion of welfare will be included within this.

Each service provider will complete a quarterly data monitoring form which is submitted to the Children and Young People Directorate. Performance against national and local indicators will then be collated both by the Children and Young Peoples Directorate Quality and Data Division and by the Children's Services Quality Assurance Unit and will be reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Young People's Alliance Board.

Detailed quarterly performance management reports from will be prepared for the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which detail performance against outputs and outcomes during the previous quarter and report on issues which arise from this performance. In addition, a more detailed annual business performance report will be produced.

14. Structure



15. Meetings

Frequency

The LSCB will meet bi-monthly, and at other times as may be required.

Notice/agendas

Meeting dates to be agreed in advance. Agenda items and supporting documents to be forwarded to chair at least 10 working days before the meeting. Agendas to be circulated 7 working days before the meeting.

Attendance/ substitutes

All members will endeavour to attend all meetings, or to send an agreed substitute with delegated responsibilities to participate in the decision making process. Where neither the member nor substitute member are able to attend, apologies to be sent to the Chair in advance of the meeting. All members to

prepare for meetings by reading through agenda and papers and preparing written reports as appropriate.

Administration responsibilities

The LSCB will be provided with administrative support from the Safeguarding/QAU Unit within the Children & Young Peoples Directorate of the council, including minuting and the circulation of agendas and papers.

In respect of the LSCB Sub groups, the Chair of group will be required to secure administrative support, including minuting and the circulation of agendas and papers.

Decision making

Decisions will be reached by consensus. If this is not possible there will be a vote. The Chair will have the casting vote in the case of a tie. The minutes of meetings will clearly record decisions made and responsibilities for undertaking agreed tasks.

16. Accountability

The Chair or an agreed substitute will represent the task group on the Children's Alliance Board. The Safeguarding Board will make quarterly written reports to the Halton Children's Alliance Board.

17. Conduct

Members of the Safeguarding Board are required to conduct themselves in a proper and professional manner during meetings and carrying out the work of the group. Where any conflict of interest arises, the affected member should declare the same to the Chair of the meeting.

18. Changes to Terms of Reference

Any changes to the Terms of Reference will be agreed by the LSCB and tabled at the Halton Children's Alliance Board.

APPENDIX 3

HALTON LSCB EXECUTIVE BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Core Objective

The aim of the Halton LSCB Executive Board is to ensure the delivery of the LSCB work plan by ensuring effective and timely decision-making. The Executive Board also fulfils the function of the Children in Need Mini Children's Trust Partnership Board.

Core Membership

The LSCB Executive Committee membership is as follows: -

- Police
- PCT
- Children and Young People's Services (HBC)
- Chairs of LSCB Sub Groups
- HBC CYPD Commissioning Manager
- LSCB Manager

The Executive Board may invite or consult other agencies and organisations as required.

The Operational Director from the Local Authority chairs the Executive Board.

Frequency of Meetings

The Executive Board to meet on a monthly basis in the first period and bi-monthly in the longer term. The minutes of the Executive Board are circulated to all LSCB Members for information.

Functions

- 1. To plan the agenda for LSCB meetings
- 2. To monitor and activate the work that is undertaken by the LSCB between meetings

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- 3. To link with other strategic partnerships in relation to safeguarding children
- 4. To co-ordinate LSCB Sub Group activity and to consider reports from the Sub Groups
- 5. To agree and monitor the expenditure of the LSCB Annual Budget and ensure the efficient use of LSCB resources
- 6. To Commission the LSCB Annual Report and Business Plan
- 7. To ensure the strategic direction of the LSCB by monitoring outcomes and targets agreed by the LSCB
- 8. To be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the LSCB
- 9. To provide an update report to each LSCB Meeting
- 10. To identify national and local initiatives requiring a response from the LSCB

Appendix 4

<u>HSCB SUB-GROUPS - TERMS OF REFERENCE</u>

POLICY AND PROCEDURES SUB-GROUP

Aim

The Policy and Procedures Group is a sub group of the Halton Safeguarding Children's Board. The terms of reference of the group are set out below. As in all of the HSCB's activities the Policy and Procedures group will ensure that they promote equality of opportunity and meet the diverse needs of all children in their area in accord with the Core Objectives of the HSCB outlined in Section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004.

Key Objectives

- 1. The Policy and Procedures Group will be responsible for developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in the area covered by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
- 2. Policies and Procedures will include guidance on the responsibility of all partner agencies and the actions to be taken when there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare. They should include guidance on the thresholds for intervention under Section 17 and Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- 3. The procedures and policy group will continue to review, amend and update all policies and procedures on a regular basis.
- 4. The policy and procedures group should ensure that the views and needs of children are clearly promoted within all policy and guidance documents.
- 5. The policy and procedures group will offer advice and guidance to all partner agencies to help them to produce their own local protocols and ensure that these comply with the HSCB policies and procedures.
- 6. To produce multi-agency child protection procedures, which comply with the revised version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' when, published. This involves linkage with the group that is producing pan-cheshire CP procedures

- 7. To review the current thresholds for working with "children in need" as defined under the Children Act 1989
- 8. To consider and develop current draft multi-agency procedures for working with "children in need"
- 9. To review the existing protocol in relation to children abused through prostitution or trafficked
- 10. To develop procedure for Safeguarding looked after children who are living away from home
- 11.To establish procedure re: conduct of S47 enquires and associated police investigations including circumstances where joint enquires are necessary and/or appropriate.
- 12. To develop HSCB "Safe Recruitment and Working Practices" Procedure that can be followed by agencies who recruit staff or volunteers to work with children. (Sub Group can involve HR reps in this particular task.)
- 13. To review existing procedures and develop HSCB procedure to promote the welfare of the following groups of children: -
 - Those harmed in the context of domestic violence (To link with Domestic Violence Forum)
 - Those harmed as a result of the impact of substance misuse
 - Those abused outside families by adults known to them
 - Those living away from home
 - Young Runaways (To link with Mersey Region Protocol & Halton Young Runaways Project)
 - Children abused by strangers
 - Children in custody (Link with Youth Justice Forum)
 - Young perpetrators of abuse (Link with YOT)
- 14. To establish and monitor procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who move between LA areas by establishing harmonised procedures with pan Cheshire Local Authorities. (i.e. groups of children whose needs are not addressed within Pan Cheshire CP Procedures).

SCREENING SUB GROUP

<u>Aim</u>

The Screening Sub Group will ensure the effective delivery of two specific functions within the responsibilities of the HSCB:

- Child Deaths Function
- Serious Case Review Function

Key Objectives

- 1. To set up a system for collecting and analysing information about the deaths of all children in the area.
- To develop a Guide for Managers who are completing Individual Agency Reports in relation to serious case reviews in order to ensure consistency of format
- 3. To standardise the documentation including evaluating whether "Chronolator" would be a useful tool. This to be included in the Guide
- 4. Ensure that the Board discharges its responsibilities in respect of all child deaths in accordance with the revised version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- 5. Put in place procedures for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by the authority, Board partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death of a child.
- 6. Undertake reviews of cases where a child has died or has been seriously harmed where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and will advise on lessons that can be learned.
- 7. Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of partner organisations in deciding on the need for and undertaking a Serious Case Review will be set out in local procedural guidance.
- 8. Commission organisational and management reviews, appoint an independent person to complete an overview report, receive the overview report and subsequently propose recommendations and an action plan to the HSCB to consider.

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- 9. Monitor the implementation of Serious Case Review action plans ensuring learning is disseminated, lessons acted on and local policy and practice improved.
- 10. Collect and analyse information about the deaths of all children the area with a view to identifying:
 - i. any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority including any case giving rise to the need for a serious case review;
 - ii. any general public health or safety concerns arising from deaths of children

SCRUTINY & PERFORMANCE SUB GROUP

Aim

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the LA and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise then on ways to improve

Key Objectives

- 1. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the HSCB to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise on ways to improve practice and performance.
- 2. Identify local performance indicators to assist the Board in monitoring outcomes associated with its priorities
- 3. Contribute to the development of the HSCB annual business plan and assist the HSCB in contributing to the Children and Young Peoples Plan
- 4. In order to evaluate multi-agency working, joint audits of case files will be undertaken, looking at the involvement of the different agencies, and identifying the quality of practice and lessons to be learned in terms of both multi-agency and multi-disciplinary practice. Findings and recommendations to be reported to HSCB in order to support the development of quality services. Where necessary specific task groups will be established to undertake audits.
- 5. To set up a system for monitoring timescales for dealing with allegations of abuse concerning persons working with children to ensure that these incidents are dealt with properly and quickly.
- 6. To implement and deliver the peer review process of self evaluation within an agreed framework of benchmarks or indicators with all results being reported to the Board.
- 7. To be the link between HSCB and the local Forums that have been established for children, young people and their families in order to consult them and allow them to contribute views on the functions and working of the HSCB
- 8. To act on behalf of HSCB in matters relating to the protection of harm under the Licensing Act 2003
- 9. To raise any problematic issues or themes with HSCB
- 10. To implement and deliver the peer review process of self evaluation within an agreed framework of benchmarks or indicators with all results being

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reported to the Board.

11. The Group to be notified through the liaison arrangements that have been established with the Independent Conference Manager (ICM).

TRAINING SUB GROUP

<u>Aim</u>

To contribute to the delivery of the Board's priorities by identifying and delivering relevant training

Key Objectives

- 1. To identify the appropriate level and range of training that the Board should deliver or commission.
- 2. To identify additional/specialist training that Board may decide to deliver or commission in support of its overall aim and objectives.
- 3. The record, monitor and report on the volume, profile and effectiveness of the training delivered under the direction of the Board.
- 4. To advise the Board on the best means of funding and delivering training.
- 5. To consider a range of mechanisms for the delivery of training, briefing and other professional development opportunities, and to implement them as appropriate
- 6. Complete and deliver an annual training plan that also reviews the previous year.
- 7. Prepare an annual training budget that identifies all contributions (cash and in kind) from all agencies.
- 8. To develop awareness raising training that is targeted at children and adults in the community and informs them about whom they can contact if they have concerns about themselves or others.
- 9. To ensure that staff who work with children and adults in variety of settings to be trained with a view to cascading this within their Centres/Units
- 10. To identify the priority areas for the training persons who work with children.
- 11. To establish link with Halton's Workforce Strategy Group in order to feed into the priority areas and in order to evaluate the quality of training to ensure that it is being targeted at appropriate staff.
- 12. To contribute to a public campaign to raise awareness in the wider community (including faith and minority communities) and among statutory and independent agencies (including employers) about how everybody can contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. (This is to include raising awareness about the identification and notification of children who are living in private fostering arrangements).

APPENDIX 5

HSCB TRAINING ACTIVITY

This Appendix includes a matrix indicating the courses that have been run and the attendance (to February) at each one from the partner agencies.

The second document is a supplementary report from Steve Withington, Child Protection Development Officer in CYPD, on additional training events that he has delivered over the year.

	I	1	1					1						1		-	1				1			1	
Month	Course Type	Total	Addaction	ARCH	Connexions	Catholic Children's Society	Education (School)	Education Department	Education (College)	Health (5 Boroughs)	Health (PCT)	Health (Hospital Trust)	HITS	Independent Nursery	Independent/Private	Kings Cross Project	Police	Probation	Relationships Centre	Social Services	Sure Start	HBC other	Womens Aid	Young Addaction	YOT
April	CPPP	10									1			5	2					2					
May	PROF	10		3																6	1				
May	CPPP	19					2			1	5			4	3					3	1				
May	DOMV	20		1						4		2		1	3				1	6			2		
June	NEGL	11		1										1	3					4				2	2
June	RASH	35		2						1	6	1			3		3			14	5				
June	SEXA	8		1								2			2					3					
June	SUBM	7										1		1	1					2	2				
June	CPPP	19			1		5			2	1	2		2		2	2			2					
June	MENH	14		1			1	1		1	2				2					3	3				
July	FABI	12		2						1				2						6	1				
July	MADM	15					1			1	1			2	1					7	1	1			
July	DOMV	12								2	1			2						5	1				1
July	CPPP	19		2			1	1			3	2		3	6										1
July	YPSH	21		1							2		2	1	4					7	2			2	2
	CPPP	20								1	5			1			2			6					
Oct	SCIN	18		3	1		1	2			2			2	1					2	1				1
	NEGL	23	1	3	1		3	1			2	4	2	1	1					4					
Oct	SEXA	25		3	1		1	4			2									13					1
Nov	PROF	16					1				3			1						8	3				
Nov	CPPP	28	1	2			6	2	1		4		1	1	3					5	1				1

Month	Course Type	Total	Addaction	ARCH	Connexions	Catholic Children's Society	Education (School)	Education Department	Education (College)	Health (5 Boroughs)	Health (PCT)	Health (Hospital Trust)	HITS	Independent Nursery	Independent/Private	Kings Cross Project	Police	Probation	Relationships Centre	Social Services	Sure Start	HBC other	Womens Aid	Young Addaction	YOT
Nov	PRIV	18						1			5									12					
Nov	DOMV	16	1	1				2		1	3		1							5					2
Dec	CPPP	25	3			1		5		3	1			2		3				5					2
Dec	MENH	18		2			7		1	2	1		1							1	2				1
Dec	NEGL	14					3	1		1	2			1						4					2
Jan	PROF	16					2	3					1	1			2			4	2		1		
Jan	SEXA	17					6			1	2			1						5					2
Jan	CPPP	22				1	3	2		2	1	2		3	2		1			5					
Jan	PRIV	8																		6	2				
Jan	SUBM	22					3		1	2			1							10	1				4
Feb	MADM	13					1			4	1			1			1			4					2
Feb	SCIN	13		1		1	5									1	1			2					2
Feb	CPPP	16					3	1			2			2			3		2	3					
Feb	NEGL	13				1	2							1		1	2			4					1
Total	attended	593	10	31	4	4	57	26	3	30	58	17	9	42	37	7	17	0	3	178	29	1	3	4	23

MARCH - CURRENT BOOKINGS:-

March	FASD	40?													
March	DOMV	27?													
March	CPPP	24?													
March	SCWD	18?		•			•								

Course Code – Key: **CPPP**= Child Protection Process and Procedures, **INTAB**= Sex Offenders and the Internet, **PROF**= Professionals Who Abuse, **SCWD**= Safeguarding Children With Disabilities, **DOMV**= DomesticAbuse – Safeguarding Children, **MENH**= Mental Health – Safeguarding Children; **NEGL**= Neglect – Safeguarding Children; **SEXA**= Sexual Abuse – Safeguarding Children, **SUMB**= Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Children, **YPSH** = Young People Who Sexually Harm, **RASH**= Assessing Adults Who Pose a Risk of Sexual Harm to Children, **PRIV**= Private Fostering; **FASD**= Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

REPORT TO HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

TRAINING ACTIVITY 2006/07

In addition to the above table of attendance, Steve Withington has presented the following:

Section 47 training

Monday 8th May and Tuesday 9th May 2006 Corporate Training Centre, Widnes 12 Children's Services staff.

Child Protection Awareness training

Friday 12th May 2006. From 9.30 am-11.30 am Kingsway Learning Centre 7 Sure Start Volunteers

Child Protection Process and Procedures training

Monday 15th May 2006. From 9.30 am-1.00 pm DfES building, Runcorn 13 DfES workers

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 25th May 2006. From 1.30 pm-4.00 pm Corporate Training Centre, Widnes 10 Trainee Police Officers (With Janette Pearce-legal)

Risk Assessment of Sex Offenders (Joe Sullivan)

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June 2006 Halton Stadium 10 Social Workers/Practice Managers

Keeping Safe-A Way Forward

Tuesday 4th July 2006 Halton Stadium 35 Community Support Workers, Teachers and Education Support Workers

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 3rd August 2006. From 1.30 pm-4.00 pm Corporate Training Centre, Widnes 7 Trainee Police Officers (With Ruth Gill-legal)

Child Protection Awareness

Wednesday 9th August 2006. From 2.00 pm-4.00 pm Halton Haven (Hospice) 14 staff members

Looked After Children-Education Conference

Friday 6th October 2006 Facilitated workshop on Child Protection three times with CAMHS workers.

Achieving Best Evidence

Thursday 9th October. From10 am-12 noon Delivered "Disability" session as presenter was sick 10 police officers and social workers

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 9th October. From 1.30-4.00 pm 8 trainee police officers with Ruth Gill

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 19th October 2006. From 6.30 pm-9.30 pm Old Police Station, Widnes 14 Early Years staff

Section 47 training

Monday 13th November and Tuesday 14th November 2006 Corporate Training Centre, Widnes 15 Children's Services staff.

Child Protection Awareness

Friday 17th October. From 9.30 am-11.30 am Kingsway Children's Centre 9 Sure Start New Steps volunteers

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 19th October 2006 6.30-9.30 pm Old Police Station, Runcorn 16 Early Years workers

Section 47 training

Monday and Tuesday 13th and 14th November 2006 Corporate Training Centre 15 Children's Services staff

Child Protection Awareness

Friday 17th November 2006 Kingsway LC 10 New Steps Volunteers (Sure Start)

Child Protection Awareness (with S Taylor)

Wednesday 29th November St John Fisher School, Widnes 22 Early Years workers

Child Protection Awareness

Thursday 30th November 2006 6.30-9.00 pm Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall 25 Foster Carers

Child Protection Awareness

Wednesday 20th December 2006 1.15-4.00 pm Corporate Training Centre 6 Police trainees

Planned: 2 days Training the Trainers

26th March 2007 Full day with Voluntary group managers

.....

Additional activities

Additionally, there has been involvement in arranging and organising the HSCB launch and preparing Aftathought Theatre for their presentation on Monday 12th June 2006.

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance

Board

DATE: 4^h June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Private Fostering Annual Report, 2006-2007

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Private Fostering Annual Report 2006-2007 and action plans.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

2.1 The contents of the Annual Report and Actions Plans are noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering 2005 require the Local Authority to provide a Private Fostering Annual Report to the Director of Children's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (Appendix 1). The report should address how the welfare of children living in private fostering arrangements is safeguarded and what strategies (Appendices 2 & 3) are in place to increase the number of private fostering arrangements notified to the Local Authority.
- 3.2 The Director of Children's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are responsible for ensuring that there are robust processes, policies and strategies in place across agencies to ensure privately fostered children are identified and safeguarded. Halton Borough Council Children and Young People Directorate is committed to ensuring its duties and functions in relation to private fostering are carried out in accordance with the requirements of legislation and guidance outlined in the following:
 - Children Act 1989
 - o Children Act 2004
 - The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005
 - National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering 2005

3.3 These legislative changes in respect of Private Fostering were introduced as a direct result of the tragic death of Victoria Climbie who was a privately fostered child. It should be noted that a privately fostered child is not Looked After by the Local Authority, but is the result of a private arrangement between the parents or person with parental responsibility and the Carers. A privately fostered child if defined by the Children Act 1989 as:-

A child who is under the age of sixteen and who is cared for, and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

- o a parent of his
- a person who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him, or
- o a relative of his."

A close relative as defined in the Children Act 1989 is "a grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle (whether of the full blood, half blood or by marriage/partnership) or step parent". Any relative caring for a child outside of these relationships would be entering into a private foster care arrangement.

A child who is privately fostered will only be deemed to be so until they reach the age of 16 years. In the case of a disabled child the upper age limit is 18 years.

The private foster carer(s) must be deemed to be a suitable person by the Local Authority.

- 3.4 Nationally there were 980 private fostering arrangements notified during 2005-2006 and Local Authorities have a duty to assess and monitor these placements to ensure that the child's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. In Halton during 2006/2007 3 new private fostering arrangements were notified and 6 were carried forward from previous years. Seven of these nine arrangements came to an end during the year so that currently there are 2 known private fostering arrangements in Halton.
- 3.5 Both the national and the local figures are considered to be an under representation of the actual number of private fostering arrangements and the annual report and action plans attached outline the private fostering activity in Halton during 2006-2007 and the actions to be taken to raise awareness among professionals and the general public.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Not Applicable

7.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Equality ad Diversity issues are addressed in the action plan for 2007-2008.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Document</u>
The Children
(Private Arrangements for Fostering)
Regulations 2005
National Minimum Standards for
Private Fostering 2005

<u>Place of Inspection</u>
Nigel Moorhouse's Office
4th Floor Grosvenor House
Division

Contact Officer
Nigel Moorhouse
Divisional Manager



Children and Young People Directorate

PRIVATE FOSTERING

ANNUAL REPORT

1ST APRIL 2006 – 31ST MARCH 2007

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APPENDIX 1

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Overview of year 2006/2007	3
3.	Private Fostering Activity	5
4.	Future Developments	5

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This annual report provides a review of the Private Fostering activity during the year 2006-2007 and reports on the progress of the planned service developments.
- 1.2 It also outlines the planned developments for the year 2007-2008

2. Overview of the Year 20065/7

- 2.1.1 The Private Fostering Regulations came into force on the 1st July 2005 and were intended to strengthen and enhance the Children Act 1989 notification scheme. Also published were new minimum standards for Private Fostering. These minimum standards are intended to focus local authorities attention on Private Fostering by requiring them to take a more proactive approach to identifying arrangements in their area.
- 2.1.2 In July 2006 the Commission for Social Care Inspection, inspected our Private Fostering service and concluded that the service had responded well to the Private Fostering Regulations and National Minimum Standards. No recommendations or requirements of the service were made. A further inspection will be carried out by the new inspection body, Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) in July this year, as part of a wider inspection of our fostering service.
- 2.1.3 The Directorate has reviewed and updated the Private Fostering statement of purpose, procedures and policies in order to ensure compliance with the regulations and standards.
- 2.1.4 A Private Fostering marketing plan was agreed, which led to a programme of awareness raising, training and marketing of Private Fostering during the year.
- 2.1.5 Halton Safeguarding Children Board commissioned WireFM to conduct a 12-month advertising campaign, which runs until September 2007. The local press has carried a series of articles and adverts on Private Fostering, with posters and leaflets being distributed to all schools, Council and Primary Care Trust buildings. There has also been regular mail shots to a wide range of agencies. Halton Safeguarding Board has also commissioned Private Fostering training for all agencies working with children, young people and families. Information

about Private Fostering is also on the Council website. The 22 local authorities in the northwest have produced a leaflet entitled 'Looking After Someone's Child', which provides a very useful overview of Private Fostering and all other arrangements under that heading.

2.2 Operational Developments in Private Fostering

- 2.2.1 The Fostering service has maintained a post within the team which has lead responsibility for Private Fostering. This ensures priority is given to Private Fostering within the wider fostering service. There have however, been difficulties in recruitment within the service which has impacted upon this role.
- 2.2.2 All directorate staff involved in Private Fostering have had briefings on Private Fostering and managers have been tasked with raising the profile of Private Fostering, not only within their team, but also with partner agencies and the wider public.
- 2.2.3 Monitoring is undertaken to measure the impact of Private Fostering marketing, to find out which methods are more successful. This information will then be used to inform the Private Fostering Marketing Plan, which is currently being revised.
- 2.2.4 Information regarding definitions and advice about Private Fostering has again been distributed to Health services and Schools.
- 2.2.5 The frequency and quality of statutory visits carried out by social workers is now monitored and has been incorporated into the electronic integrated children's system
- 2.2.6 Whilst is not a requirement of the national minimum standards, all Private Foster carer assessment are presented to Halton's Fostering Panel for their consideration. Once a private fostering arrangement has been validated each arrangement is independently reviewed.
- 2.2.7 Private Fostering is part of the monthly performance monitoring arrangements, which are presented to the Vulnerable Children's Departmental Management Team. This includes numbers of families involved in private fostering and the level of compliance with statutory visits.

3. Private Fostering Activity 2006-2007

3.3.1 In England during the period April 05 to March 06, 980 children were reported to be cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements. During the year April 2006 to March 2007, three new Private Fostering arrangements were notified to the Council and six were carried forward from previous years. Seven of these nine arrangements came to an end during the year so that currently there are two Private Fostering arrangements, which have been presented to panel and are still being monitored. Whilst Private Fostering activity has increased this year, one of the challenges of this activity is that very few notifications result in the need for a Private Fostering assessment, as the child or young person often returns home or moves before the assessment can be started or completed. Sometimes significant concerns about the welfare of the child are identified during the initial screening process, which can lead to the Council commencing court proceedings.

3.3.2 Children	Social Care	Activity	over the v	vear.

Care First	Date of	Team	Arrangement	Arrangement
ID	Birth		Start	end
481019	17/04/1990	CC3	18/02/2005	17/04/2006
482984	16/12/1991	CC3	12/05/2005	06/05/2006
483893	05/08/1990	CC3	06/07/2005	07/06/2006
481968	26/04/2005	CC1	27/04/2005	6/06/2006
146334	21/04/1990	YPT	11/01/2006	21/04/2006
499429	27/12/1990	CC2	13/09/2006	27/12/2006
483609	28/03/1991	CC1	21/12/06	28/03/2007
494981	14/10/2005	CC2	28/08/2006	Ongoing
482496	09/02/2005	CC1	15/04/05	Ongoing

4. Future Planned Developments

4.1 Publicity and Marketing

- 4.1.1 The Private Fostering Marketing Plan 2007-2008 will detail the range of activity designed to raise the number of Private Fostering arrangements reported to the Council. This will include:
 - Continuing with the WireFM campaign
 - > Press articles and advertising
 - Posters and leaflets
 - Crucial Crew

Regular mail shots

4.2 Operational Activity

- 4.2.1 Performance monitoring will be enhanced to capture the critical milestones in Private Fostering, e.g., the number of notifications, number/percentage that are assessed, and number/percentage that are monitored after being presented to the fostering panel. The time taken to refer an arrangement for assessment following notification will also be monitored, as will the timing and frequency of reviews. Finally, a target has been set to increase the number of Private Fostering notifications during 2007-2008 by 150%.
- 4.2.2 All new staff and fostering panel members will receive Private Fostering training and Halton Safeguarding Children Board will continue to commission training for key agencies.
- 4.2.3 Further awareness raising activity will be undertaken to ensure the focus on Private Fostering is maintained.

NM/4.5.07

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

PRIVATE FOSTERING ACTION PLAN - COMPLETED DURING 2006-07

Recommendation	Action	Lead Responsibility	By When	Progress
1. Requirement on Local Authorities to provide a Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering.	Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering to be produced.	Kate Banbury	30.4.06	Completed
2. Revise Private Fostering procedures.	New Procedures	Kate Banbury	30.4.06	Completed
3. Promote awareness in the Halton area for the requirements of notification of Private Fostering arrangements.	Update information already in existence on Council website and in information leaflets.	Collette Luty/ John Gibbons		
	Provide publicity in local press and other relevant publications/newsletters.	Jenny Mc	31.5.06	Completed
	Produce posters to be displayed in public places.	Jenny Mc	31.5.06	Completed
	Consider radio advertising.	Jenny Mc	30.6.06	Complete
	Raise at Halton's LCSB.	Ann T		Completed
	Raise profile of Private Fostering at all multi-agency safeguarding training.	Steve W	All 2006	Completed

APPENDIX 2

Recommendation	Action	Lead Responsibility	By When	Progress
4. Requirement to provide training for all staff.	Arrange formal briefing session for all staff and Fostering Panel Members.	Kate Banbury	30.6.06	Completed, regular training now available to include new staff and panel members.
5. Development of format for assessments of carers.	·	Collette Luty	22.4.22	Complete
	Circulate proforma.	Collette Luty	30.4.06	
6. Provision of advice to private foster cares and parents of privately fostered children.	Ensure that each private foster carer has a named Social Worker in the Adoption and Fostering Service.	Collette Luty	Ongoing	Completed
	Ensure provision of advice and support to parents of privately fostered children.	•	Ongoing	All Teams have been briefed at team meetings. All children /young people in Private Fostering arrangements have an allocated sw.
7. Local Authorities to review their processes for handling disqualifications, prohibitions and subsequent appeals.	Review current criteria and system to ensure compliance with new regulations.	Kate Banbury	30.4.06	Completed
8. Provision of accurate records for each privately fostered child in relation to each visit.	Devise Proforma Visiting Form to include requirement that each child seen alone on each occasion.		31.5.06	Proforma developed and now incorporated into ICS (e-form).
9. Provision of records about numbers of privately fostered children and private foster carers in the Halton area, including new	Develop a system for collating this information.	John Pearce, QAU	30.4.06	Monthly Performance Monitoring in place.

APPENDIX 2

notifications.				
Recommendation	Action	Lead Responsibility	By When	Progress
10. Provision of records about number and nature of enquiries received about private fostering.	Develop a system for collating this information.	John Pearce, QAU	30.4.06	Completed
11. Provision of information to monitor compliance of Statutory Visits within timescales.	Develop a system for collating this information.	John Pearce, QAU	30.4.06	Completed
12. Provision of quarterly reports to DMT.	Develop a system for collating this information.	John Pearce, QAU/Collette Luty	Ongoing	Completed
13. Provision of annual report to Director of Children's Services.	Prepare an annual report.	Sharon Sandell (John P, Jenny Mc)	Annually 30.6.06	Completed
14. Provision of an annual report to LCSB.	Present an annual report to LCSB.	Nigel Moorhouse	Annually 30.6.06	Completed
15. Audit of Private Fostering Files Carers and children (inc Reviews).	Audit.	Kate Banbury/ Sharon Sandell	31.5.06	Completed
16. Development of multi-agency training on Private Fostering.	Deliver training.	LCSB Training Sub Group	August 2006	Completed

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

PRIVATE FOSTERING ACTION PLAN - 2007-08

Recommendation	Action	Lead Responsibility	By When	Progress
1. Requirement to have up to- date Private Fostering Statement of Purpose, policy and procedure	Revise and update Private Fostering Statement of Purpose, policies and procedures	Nigel Moorhouse/Lead Private Fostering Officer	July 2007	
2. Promote awareness of the public and all professionals working with children and families	marketing	Jenny Mcguire, Markeing Officer	April 07 – March 08	
3. Provide training to all staff/agencies	HSCB to commission multi- agency Private Fostering training	Steve Withington/Sharon Taylor	April 07- March 08	
4 . Raise awareness of Private Fostering within faith communities and hard to reach groups, including children	Undertake bespoke awareness raising events	Sharon Taylor	31.3.08	
5. Provision of information to manage and monitor performance	Enhance performance monitoring of Private Fostering to include the number of notifications which result in an assessment, time taken to assess arrangement and presented to fostering panel, timing of reviews and frequency of visits.	HBC Planning & Performance division.	August 007	
6. Audit the files audit of children and Private Foster carers	Carry out regular file audits	HBC Planning & Performance division	Monthly	

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REPORT TO: Children & Young People PPB

DATE: 4 June, 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for 2006/07

WARDS: Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 4th quarter year-end performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for:
 - Student Services & Lifelong Learning
 - School Support & Advisory Services
 - Children's Services (Social Care)
- 2. RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board
 - 1) Receive the 4^{thd} quarter year-end performance management reports;
 - 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and
 - 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The departmental service plans provide a clear statement on what the services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. The service plans are central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.
- 3.2 The quarterly reports are on the Information Bulletin to reduce the amount of paperwork sent out with the agendas and to allow Members access to the reports as soon as they have become available.
 It also provides Members with an opportunity to give advance notice of any questions, points or requests for further information that will be raised to ensure the appropriate Officers are available at the PPB meeting.

- 4. POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS
- 4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.
- 5. RISK ANALYSIS
- 5.1 Not applicable.
- 6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES
- 6.1 Not applicable.
- 7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTIONS 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document Place of Inspection Contact Officer

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People

SERVICE: School Support & Advisory Service

PERIOD: Quarter 4 to year-end 31 March 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the School Support & Advisory Service Department fourth quarter period up to 31 March 2007.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 6

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 School Improvement Partners

Halton is progressing well with the introduction of School Improvement Partners (SIPS) for all schools. Currently, all secondary and special schools have SIPS. By September 2007 all primary schools will have an allocated SIP.

SIPS are accredited educational professionals who are serving Headteachers, or recently retired. Link Advisers who have undertaken the on-line training can be accredited also, and in Halton most of the Link Advisers have been successful in achieving SIP accredited status.

SIPS provide professional support and challenge to a number of schools maintained by one or more authorities by:

- Acting as a critical professional friend to the schools, helping their leadership to evaluate their school's performance, identify priorities for improvement and plan effective change;
- Help build the schools' capacity to improve pupils' achievement and to realise other key outcomes for pupils that bear on achievement;
- Contribute to whole school improvement in the schools, including effective contribution to the ECM outcomes;
- Providing challenge and support for senior leadership team in the schools; and

 Provide information to governing bodies on their schools performance and development.

The SIP is formally accountable to the Local Authority.

Currently 3 High Schools in the Borough have 'external' SIPS ie. Former Headteachers from outside of Halton.

2.2 Hard to Shift Schools

Five Primary Schools have been categorised as 'Hard to Shift' by the National Strategies. This is as a result of them performing below floor targets at Key Stage 2 for 3 years in succession. The 5 schools are:

Simms Cross Hallwood Park Palacefields Oakfield Woodside

Additional funding has been secured for each school through to 2008. The 5 schools are required to draw up a Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) identifying the targeted interventions required to enable the pupils in their schools to make the necessary progress. To assist them in doing this the Local Authority commissioned external inspectors to audit the quality of teaching and learning in each of the schools. Local Authority advisers are assisting the schools in drawing up their individual RAP. Monitoring of progress against actions identified will be undertaken by the LA on a half-termly basis. The LA is considering whether it's revised powers of intervention may be required if any of the school's demonstrate an inability to progress. (see 2.3 below)

2.3 Schools Causing Concern

New legislation covering action on Schools Causing Concern came into force on 1st April 2007. It places greater emphasis upon preventing failure and on a faster more decisive turn round of those schools that do get into difficulty. The Local Authority is required to consider how to secure immediate and sustainable improvement in schools getting into difficulty, and act quickly. The Act enables Local Authorities to respond more quickly through revisions to the warning notice system. It also increases the range of circumstances in which a warning notice can be issued i.e. for 'coasting' schools.

The new Act gives Local Authorities a greater range of options to support schools including a new power to require a school causing concern to work with a partner. It also re-enacts a number of important existing provisions, such as the power to replace the governing body with an Interim Executive Board (IEB). The Act's provision therefore underpin the expectation that where a school in special measures is

making inadequate progress after a year, the Local Authority must consider radical action for the school with a presumption otherwise of closure.

Revision to Statutory Guidance is currently awaited. The Local Authority will therefore amend and consult upon revised procedures .

2.4 14-19 – Diploma Gateway Result:

The 14-19 Partnership has been successful in its bid to deliver 3 new Diplomas across schools and other learning settings from 2008 onwards. The results for the Borough are:

Construction and the Built Environment:

Conditions to be met within 3 months, and then delivery from September 2008

Society, Health & Development:

Conditions to be met within 12 months, and then delivery from September 2009.

Creative & Media:

Conditions to be met within 12 months, then delivery from 2009.

In addition a bid was made to deliver IT Diploma however resubmission is needed and we are confident of success following receipt of more detailed national guidance. The Partnership is on track to broaden the curriculum offer to young people from 2008 onwards. Introduction of the Diplomas locally is part of a wider strategy to engage young people in learning through wider vocational opportunities.

14-19 team is now fully in place and a progress check with GONW scheduled in May. NEET Strategy Group established has been established as part of the 14-19 Strategy.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Green Paper

In March the Government published a Green Paper "Raising Expectations staying in education and training post 16". The paper sets out a central proposal to consult on the following:

- That from 2013 young people should remain in education or training until their 18th birthday;
- That this education could be in a school, college, work-based learning provider, or as part of a job; and
- That it should be full-time, or part-time if the young person is in full-time employment.

A commitment is given to ensure that every young person has access to an education or training programme, which they are interested in and which gives them skills to help them excel in their future. In addition to the general qualifications of GCSE's and A Level's, it is anticipated that the introduction of Diplomas will increase choice for young people.

3.2 Joint Area Review/Children and Young People Plan

Preparation is now underway for the Joint Area Review which will be held in Halton during March/April -08. A JAR Steering Group has been established to monitor the action plan to ensure the foundations are in place for a successful inspection well in advance of the Review. JAR is a multi-agency inspection so all agencies working with children in Halton will be involved in the preparation process. The review of the Children and Young People Plan is due for completion by 14th June and will be a key document for the JAR as well as acting as the Directorate's self assessment for the 2006-07 Annual Performance Assessment.

As part of the review of the Children and Young People Plan a revised set of priorities has been developed for the Alliance Board. The revised priorities have been established based on the needs analysis and consultation carried out to inform the Plan as well as a review of our performance against the previous Plan priorities.

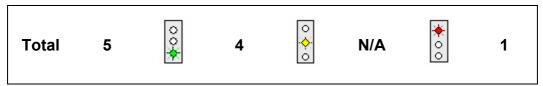
3.3 Organisational Development Team

A temporary Organisational Development Team is to be established in June/July, which will bring together a range of staff to co-ordinate key aspects of organisational and cultural change need to equip the directorate for the future. The team will also take the lead on co-ordinating the JAR process.

3.4 Building Schools for the Future

Consultation on the options for secondary school organisation is now scheduled to commence in June 2007. In June and July elected members, school staff, governors, parents, unions and other key stakeholders will be consulted on the proposed options with a view to producing statutory proposals in Autumn 2007. The proposed options are intended to be transformational, provide diversity of provision, address under performance and place schools at the heart of community regeneration.

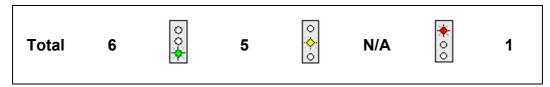
4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Milestones against four of the five key objectives within the plan have been achieved. Key Objective 5 has had some slippage on timescales as the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project has changed focus from surplus places to transformational learning. Halton's plans for BSF have now been approved nationally with the formal consultation process

due to start in May. Detail on each of the objectives/milestones is included in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

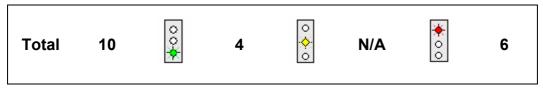


Milestones against five other objectives within the plan have been achieved. The remaining objectives relates to the % of schools with a nominated EVC governor with performance at 94.1% not meeting the target for the year of 100%. Further work is being undertaken with schools to achieve 100% as soon as possible. Detail on each of the objectives/milestones is included in Appendix 2.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

As reported previously the Local Authority is proceeding to review how it undertakes its School Improvement function as a result of the New Relationship with Schools, introduction of School Improvement Partners and implementation of Every Child Matters. A consultation within the School Improvement Service, Schools, Union representatives and other colleagues is likely to commence in the early summer.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

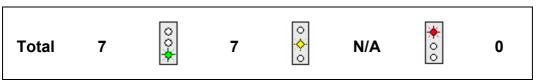


Key performance Indicators are only reported annually following the end of the academic years so there has been no update since the Quarter 2 report.

Four of the ten performance indicators exceeded target. Six have not met target, although in 3 cases (BVPI 40, 41 & 181d), the target was only very narrowly missed.

For information, Appendix 3 contains the graphs that were published in the quarter 2 report.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS





Targets for all seven other performance indicators have been achieved and further details on each indicator is available in Appendix 4

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For details of progress against LPSA targets, please refer to Appendix 5

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2006-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

None of the Key Service Objectives for this service were assessed as having associated High Risk, there is no progress to report.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2005/06 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report.

There are no High priority equality actions for this service.

10.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 2- Progress against Other Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 3- Progress against Key Performance Indicators

Appendix 4- Progress against Other Performance Indicators

Appendix 5- Progress against LPSA targets

Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
01	To raise standards at Key Stage 1	All schools set challenging targets (December 2006) Auditing of Attainment in place to inform target setting (Oct 2006)	00 →	Currently no requirement to set targets at KS1, although encouraged to set 'in-house' targets as a matter of good practice. Continued focus on writing and there has been a positive impact of the 'Big Write' (creative writing project) in schools.
02	To raise standards at Key Stage 2	Review 'The Single Contract' to ensure effective deployment of Consultants (Oct 2006)	oo *	Single contracts has been trialled in 3 schools and the format is still under review.
		All schools set challenging targets (December 2006)		All Schools have set challenging targets.
		Auditing of Attainment in place to inform target setting (Oct 2006)		Audit of Schools has been completed, however it shows that the LA is not on track to meet it's Level 4+ target in English and Maths.
03	To raise standards at Key Stage 3	Review 'The Single Contract' to ensure effective deployment of Consultants All schools set challenging targets (October 2007)	oo <u></u> *	Single contract has been reviewed at regular intervals with all our schools and progress is being made in each area. Consultants are effectively deployed and the schools value their input. Further positive work has been undertaken through centralised training.
		Auditing of Attainment in place to inform target setting (Oct 2006)		All schools have set challenging targets and at this point in time we are in line to meet or exceed LA targets.

APPENDIX ONE – PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
School Support & Advisory Service

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
03 continued				In English there was a decline last year, but if predictions prove to be accurate there could be an increase of 10% on last year's results. Maths at Level 5 shows a very slight increase from last year and missing this year's target by 0.2%. The Maths consultant has worked with a number of schools in order to look at interventions and share good practice.
04	To raise standards at Key Stage 4	Review 'The Single Contract' to ensure effective deployment of Consultants All schools set challenging targets (October 2006)	○○	Single contract has been reviewed at regular intervals with all our schools and progress is being made in each area. Consultants are effectively deployed and the schools value their input. Further positive work has been undertaken through centralised training.
		Auditing of Attainment in place to inform target setting (Oct 2006)		All schools have been set challenging targets and at this point in time we are in line to meet or exceed LA targets. Particular focus has been centred around the 5 A*-C with English and Maths and training for the Study Plus intervention work will take place next term.
				Attainment was audited in October and challenging targets were set for 2008, using also available data from FFT (Fischer Family Trust)

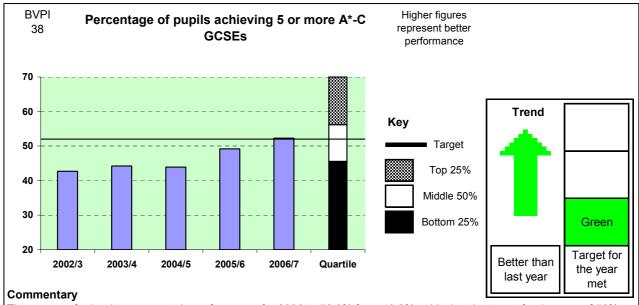
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
04 continued				 Current progress is very good and, if predictions are accurate, not only will LA targets be achieved (56.4%) but there will be a significant rise from last year. The picture across all eight secondary schools is also improving. The setting of challenging targets may result in some schools not achieving their high targets. The changes in the KS4 curriculum are having an impact upon the attainment of 5 A* - C. Concern over the number of students attaining 5A*-C with English and Maths. No LA target set for 2007 but 2004 31.3% 2005 32.7% 2006 33.2% Projected figure for 2007 is 42% if schools predictions are accurate.
05	To reduce the number of schools with more than 25% surplus places	Informal and formal consultations (December 2006) Completed reports for rationalisation considered by SOC and Executive Board (March 2007)	* 00	There has been some slippage in timescales due to national issues, however Halton's plans have now been approved. Formal consultation with all schools on the secondary re-organisation proposals are scheduled to commence in June/July 2007 with notices published in September 2007.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
06	To promote healthy life style through implementation of the School Sports Coordinator programme	Review of Yr 1 phase 2 development completed and Yr 2 plan agreed (July 2006) Reviewed CPD plan in place (May 2006)	○ ○	Year 1 Plan completed. Focus agreed for Year 2. New plans in place for CPD – secondary on a regional delivery basis. 85% of targets achieved. Physical Education School Sport & Club Links (PESSCL) target exceeded by 5% CPD delivery – 400+ secondary staff received training across NW consortium; primary over 350 Halton staff received training
07	To promote safe learning environments	100% schools have trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) in place (March 2007) 100% schools have nominated EVC Governor (March 2007)	★ ○ ○	100% of schools have a trained EVC Co-ordinator. 64 schools out of 68 have a nominated EVC Governor equating to 94.11% of schools. Work will continue to encourage those remaining schools to nominate an EVC governor as soon as possible
08	To provide opportunities for children and young people to make a positive contribution	50% school settings nominate pupils for awards to recognise the active participation in the community (January 2007)	○ *	Target has been met with 54% of schools nominating pupils for awards to recognise active participation in the community.
09	To promote economic well-being	To increase the number of businesses engaged in EBP activities to 600	o o *	Despite staffing shortages the commitment of organisations to supporting Work Related Learning in

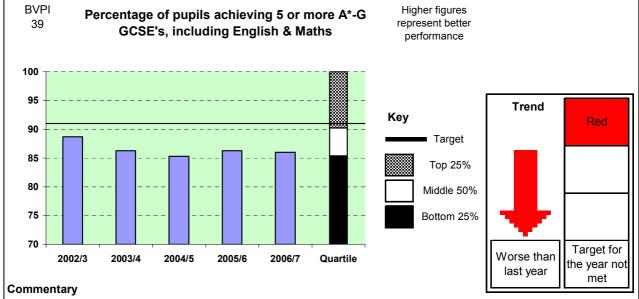
APPENDIX TWO – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
School Support & Advisory Service

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		(March 2007) To complete audit of attainment, (Oct. 2006) agree challenging targets with schools (December 2006) and publish Directory of Training opportunities for teachers and Governors (January 2007)		our schools has been more than sustained. The challenge in 2007-08 as 14-19 diplomas come on stream will be to grow the Halton business component from a base of 530 to around 610, an increase of some 15%, and the overall engagement figure from 795 to 875, that is a 10% increase. Recruitment is underway to enable Halton Education Business Partnership to deliver on this challenge. Directory of training opportunities for teachers and governors has been published.
10	To deploy resources effectively and efficiently	To review the amended funding formula (December 2006)	© 0 0 	A sub group of the School Forum has been established and commenced the review of the special schools funding formula. The School Forum has agreed to the establishment of a second group to look at reviewing other SEN funding and deprivation funding. Work is expected to be completed by November 2007
11	To develop the pupil database to meet the ECM agenda	To ensure E-caf is in place (January 2007) To ensure the database includes relevant LAC data (January 2007)	oo *	ECAF 6 month trial pilot project began in February 2007 – the project will be reviewed in April 2007 to agree the planning required to enable full ECAF adoption. The CYP Database records the LAC identifier against all relevant individual's records.

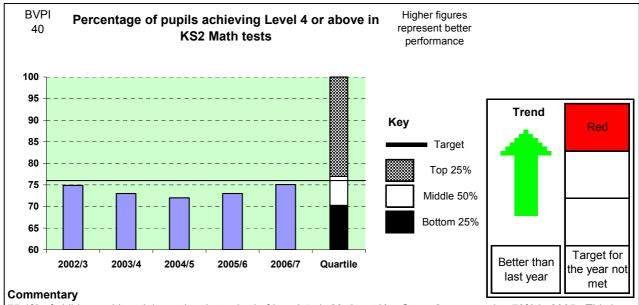
APPENDIX TWO – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
School Support & Advisory Service



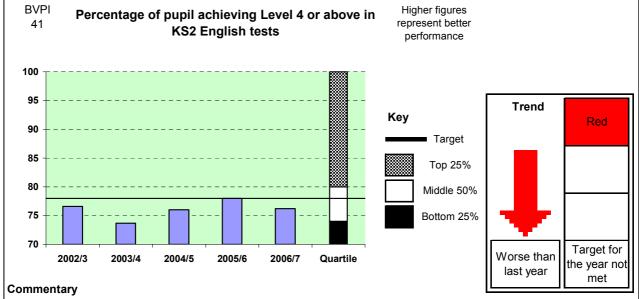
There was a further improvement in performance for 2006 to 52.3% from 49.2% achieving the target for the year of 52%. The picture across the 8 secondary schools was mixed with two schools achieving major increases from 29% to 50.5% and 48% to 66.7%. However there are still concerns with performance in some schools with 4 schools not achieving their targets, one by 18.8%. Schools have been supported to develop alternative assessment arrangements with students taking some GNVQ qualifications rather than straight GCSE's, which proved particularly successful in one school.



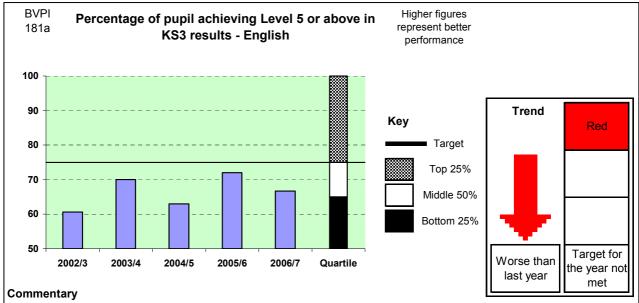
There has been a slight dip in performance of 0.3% equivalent to 4 pupils not gaining 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G including English and Maths. The picture across 8 secondary schools was mixed with 4 schools achieveing 91% or more. The lowest performance was 80.2%. Schools, have been supported to develop alternative assessment arrangements with students taking some GNVQ qualifiactions than straight GCSE's.



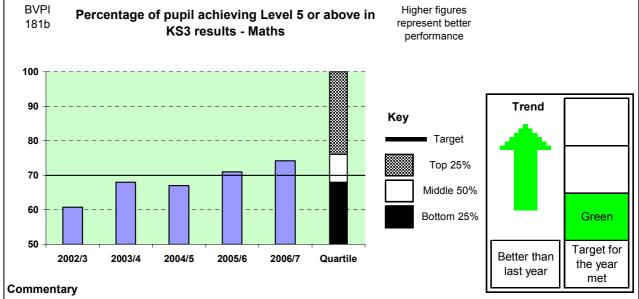
75.1% of children achieved the national standard of Level 4+ in Maths at Key Stage 2 compared to 73% in 2005. This is slightly below the target for the year of 76% but shows good progress which was also reflected at the higher standard of Level 5+ for which there was and increase of 5.1%. There were significant variations between the high performing schools and those performing poorly with 3 schools achieving 32% or less at Level 4+. The Advisory Service are working with schools causing concern to identify strategies to improve performance.



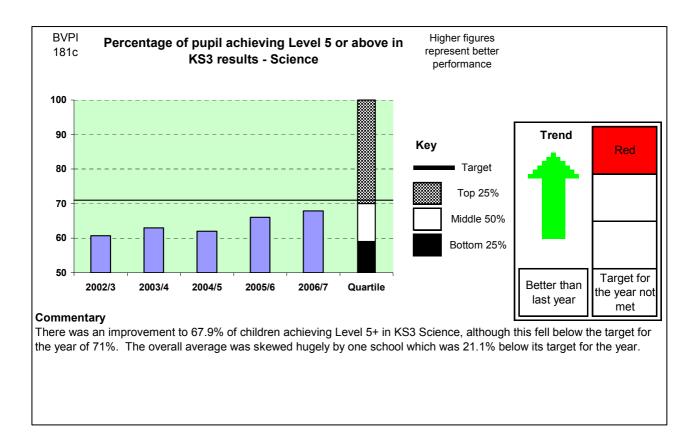
There was a slight dip in performance of children achieving Level 4+ in KS2 English to 76.2% for 2006 against a target for the year of 78%. There were significant variations between schools with individual school performance ranging from 31% to 100% of pupils achieving Level 4+. The Advisory Services are working with schools causing concern to identify strategies to improve performance.

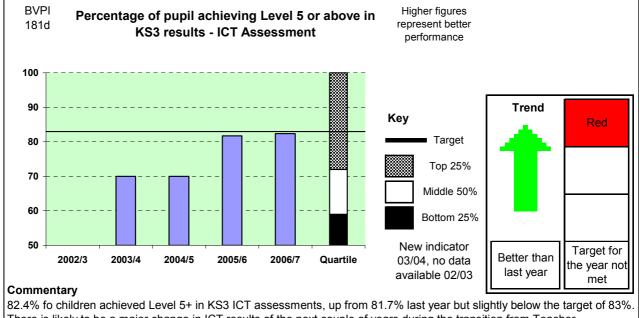


66.7% of children achieved Level 5+ in English compared to 71.3% in 2005 and a target for the year of 75%. Although there was a national decline in KS3 English, Halton's drop of 4.6% was greater than the national figure. This figure is a particular concern as we have an LPSA target for % of children achieving 5 A* to C including English and Maths for 2008 and this will be the cohort providing the LPSA outturn. A number of actions are being identified by the Advisory Service to tackle this issue and schools will be challenged on their conversion rates when that data is available.

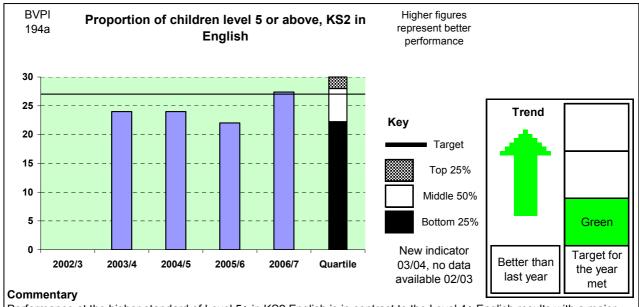


Performance for this indicator reflected the overall theme of improvements in Maths with an increase from 71% in 2005 to 74.2% for 2006 well in excess of the target for the year of 70%. Although the average performance in Halton improved significantly there were major variations across the 8 schools with 4 schools exceeding their target and 4 not achieving their target, with margins of up to 13.2%. Actions are being identified by the Advisory Service for individual schools to challenge poor performance and share good practice.

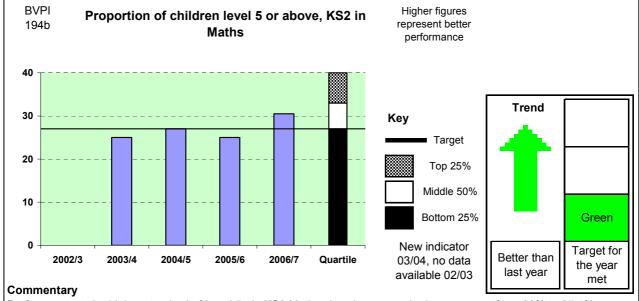




82.4% fo children achieved Level 5+ in KS3 ICT assessments, up from 81.7% last year but slightly below the target of 83% There is likely to be a major change in ICT results of the next couple of years during the transition from Teacher Assessments to online tests, with the evidence from the pilot sites showing significantly lower levels of performance when using the online test.



Performance at the higher standard of Level 5+ in KS2 English is in contrast to the Level 4+ English results with a major improvement from 22% to 27.4% exceeding the target for the year. There was a focus during the last academic year on improving Level 5+ results and this has proved a success, although the gap between the highest performing children and the rest appears to be increasing.



Performance at the higher standard of Level 5+ in KS2 Maths also shows a major improvement from 22% to 27.4% exceeding the target for the year. There was a focus during the last academic year on improving Level 5+ results and this has proved a success. The gap between the highest performing children and the rest for Maths also appears to be increasing but not to the extent as in English.

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	Service Delivery					
LI 01	Number of Primary aged pupils participating in public performances	2150	2500	2721	00♦	There were 1,311 primary aged pupils participating in public music events and 1,408 participating in events linked to the Arts SLA. This gives a combined total of 2,721 exceeding the target for the year
LI 02	% Accredited as having met the requirements for the Healthy Schools Standard Phase 2	83	60	97%	oo <u>*</u>	Target has been achieved. Please note the National Healthy School Status is operating in our schools. We have met national targets there too.
LI 03	% Of schools which have attended the Halton Gifted and Talented training	36.7	30	31.7	00*	Target has been achieved
LI 05	Number of Governor development sessions attended	939	820	885	00	Target has been achieved
LI 06	% Of schools/settings nominating pupils for awards to recognise active participation in the community	53	52	54	o o ♦	Target has been achieved
LI 07	% Of secondary schools addressing the elements of the Work Related Learning Framework					Target has been achieved
	(a) All 9 elements	25	75	75	00 *	
	(b) 5 to 8 elements	75	25	25		

LPSA Ref	Definition	LPSA Target (Stretch)	Interim Target (Annual)	Progress (Traffic lights)	Commentary
9	Improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4. The % of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C or DfES agreed equivalents, including English & Maths.	40.5%	-	○ ◇ • ○	Actual attainment was 33% in 2005-06. Ongoing dialogue is in place with Headteachers of all High Schools, and resources have been targeted to identified pupils and subject departments in each school. Monitoring is ongoing. Current predictions indicate that the LA may achieve this target in 2007.

The traffic	The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:					
		<u>Objective</u>	Performance Indicators (Excl. LPSA)	LPSA Indicators Only		
Green	ol bo w a _l	ndicates that the bjective has een achieved within the ppropriate meframe.				
<u>Amber</u>	∘ N	I/A	N/A	Indicates that it is either <u>unclear</u> at this stage or too early to state whether the target is on course to be achieved.		
Red	th <u>no</u>	ndicates that that ne objective has ot been chieved within ne appropriate meframe.	annual 06/07 target has	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.		

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People

SERVICE: Student Services & Lifelong Learning

PERIOD: Quarter 4 to year-end 31 March 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Student Services & Lifelong Learning Department fourth quarter period up to 31 March 2007.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 5

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Improved Attendance

Whilst the final annual data on school attendance is collected from schools at the end of May, our continuous monitoring of school attendance is showing us that we can expect some very significant improvements in attendance across the borough this academic year. We will only know the full extent of these improvements once the DfES data collection is complete but all the indications are that both secondary and primary attendance will be near to the national norms.

Restructuring and added capacity of the Education Welfare Service has enabled the targeting of punitive strategies as well as capacity building within schools in the formation of an Attendance Partnership. Through the Partnership key leads at school level are now proactively sharing positive strategies and seeking advice from the service on further improvements.

2.2 Youth Service

Youth Matters-Next Steps confirmed proposals to transfer funding and responsibility of Connexions to Local Authorities working within Children's Trust Arrangements. As part of this a Greater Merseyside Transition group has been formed to:

- Agree a transition plan
- Assess risks and liabilities
- Assess options for future Connexions service delivery
- Consult with Key stakeholders
- Report progress to Government North West and DfES

The work of this group is well underway with April 2008 set as the date for in depth implementation to take place.

2.3 Prime Ministers Delivery Unit (PMDU)

There was a successful visit by PMDU during the quarter looking at pupil behaviour. They recognised the high quality of work being undertaken in the 2 high schools visited and particularly at the KS3 PRU. Also acknowledged the quality of leadership and direction provided by the Local Authority.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 English as an Additional Language

In the last two years there has been a rapid growth in the number of pupils admitted to Halton schools who do not speak English as their first language. Halton, in common with our neighbouring authorities, has not historically had significant numbers of learners with EAL and adapting to this has placed considerable strains on the LA and schools.

Plans are now in place to develop a small EAL service to provide expertise and support to schools so that we can support learners whose language needs limit there access to the curriculum.

3.2 Joint Area Review/Children and Young People Plan

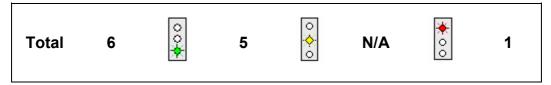
Preparation is now underway for the Joint Area Review which will be held in Halton during March/April -08. A JAR Steering Group has been established to monitor the action plan to ensure the foundations are in place for a successful inspection well in advance of the Review. JAR is a multi-agency inspection so all agencies working with children in Halton will be involved in the preparation process. The review of the Children and Young People Plan is due for completion by 14th June and will be a key document for the JAR as well as acting as the Directorate's self assessment for the 2006-07 Annual Performance Assessment.

As part of the review of the Children and Young People Plan a revised set of priorities has been developed for the Alliance Board. The revised priorities have been established based on the needs analysis and consultation carried out to inform the Plan as well as a review of our performance against the previous Plan priorities.

3.3 Organisational Development Team

A temporary Organisational Development Team is to be established in June/July, which will bring together a range of staff to co-ordinate key aspects of organisational and cultural change need to equip the directorate for the future. The team will also take the lead on co-ordinating the JAR process.

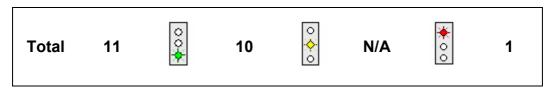
4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Key milestones for the year have been achieved against five of the six key objectives in the plan. The objective that has not been met relates to young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Detailed analysis has been carried out to identify the causes and specific groups that led to a slight increase in number of NEET during the year. The number of young people choosing to leave provision has been identified as a key issue and an operational group has been set up to develop a partnership approach towards improving retention.

Detail on each of the objectives/milestones is included in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Milestones for the year have been achieved against ten of the eleven other objectives in the plan. The objective that has not been met relates to an audit of School Safeguarding policies and access to the National College of School Leadership training to ensure recruitment and retention of staff is Bichard compliant. The audit of policies is in progress and the training has been developed and delivered in house.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

Transition of Sure Start Local Programmes to Children's Centres

The transition of the five local programmes has been completed with all staff currently employed under the former Sure Start programmes now operating within children's centres. Staff formally employed through NCH have been TUPEd across to HBC, and the final TUPE arrangements for two staff formally employed through the PCT are due to be completed by June 2007. The strategies for the development of Children's Centres and

Extended Schools have been merged as part of the wider Children and Young People Area Networks (CYPANs), and cover the provision of services to children, families and young people aged 0-19 years. Five CYPAN Managers have been in post since January 2007. Recruitment of all new staff posts, to be employed as part of the new arrangements for CYPAN developments, is currently taking place and due to be finalised by June 2007. The focus of the work within the CYPAN areas is on the improvement of outcomes for children, families and young people with a particular emphasis on access to services for the most excluded and vulnerable groups.

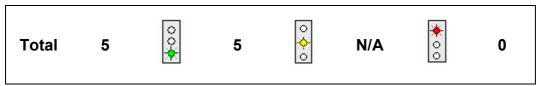
SEN team

Following the review of what was formerly Learning Support Service, the SEN Team was formed in January 2007. It's key role is to support and challenge school's to improve their capacity to support pupils with a wider range of special educational needs. Formerly the previous service focussed predominantly upon improving literacy skills of pupils with SEN. The team will focus upon the SEN policy and practice of schools and seek to support them in improving their skills, knowledge and understanding of pupils with SEN, rather than in providing 1:1 support for individual pupils. A new Head of Service is due to take up post at the beginning of the Summer Term 2007.

Integrated Youth Service

The gathering of pace regarding the Youth Matters agenda has resulted in a number of policy and guidance documents being released. These include a framework for the development of Integrated Youth Support. Within Halton the Youth Matters Steering group has agreed a smaller change team to enable proposals and ideas to be developed. This multi agency team will interrogate the guidance and launch a number of consultation events with key stakeholders to ensure that Halton's vision of Integrated Youth Support is influenced by the voice of young people. The change team has recently developed an action plan with a key milestone being the presenting of future proposals to the key strategic boards in Halton. This will take place in September/October of 2007.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Targets for all five key performance indicators have been achieved and further details on each indicator are available in Appendix 5.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Targets for seven of the eight other performance indicators have been achieved with only 1 indicator relating to NEET not achieved (see comments in Section 4). Further details on each indicator are available in Appendix 4.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no current LPSA targets for this service.

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2006-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

None of the Key Service Objectives for this service were assessed as having associated High Risk, there is no progress to report.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2005/06 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report.

There are no High priority equality actions for this service, there is no progress to report.

10.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 2- Progress against Other Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 3- Progress against Key Performance Indicators

Appendix 4- Progress against Other Performance Indicators

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Appendix 5- Explanation of traffic light symbols

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
01	To improve levels of school attendance, particularly in secondary schools	Implement Priority Action Plan across 70% of identified activities. Progress evident.	○○ *	Priority action plan fully delivered and provisional data suggests that there are significant improvements in secondary attendance
02	To improve behaviour in schools	Implement Priority Action Plan. Progress evident	○○	The implementation of this plan is now linked to a network of behaviour leaders in schools. The staffing to fully support this plan has only been in place since January
03	To reduce the number of children/young people requiring a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and, in particular, requiring to be taught in segregated provision i.e. Special Schools	Implement Priority Action Plan. Progress evident	00★	Children requiring a statement is currently 2.65%. This year 35 pupils are now receiving earlier intervention through support at School Action Plus Enhanced, which is reducing the reliance on statements of SEN. Improved outcomes for pupils have been demonstrated through an increase in the number of statements that have ceased due to needs now being met through the resources available to schools at School Action and School Action Plus levels. The percentage children taught in segregated provision is currently 1.54% (It should be noted that this % is based
				on a falling population figure). Although there has not been a significant decrease in the number of pupils in special schools, the number of

APPENDIX ONE – PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
Student Services & Lifelong Learning

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				new statemented pupils being placed in special schools has decreased significantly with only 2 pupils being placed this year. There are also increasing opportunities for pupils in special schools accessing mainstream provision and also Post 16 provision at Halton College.
04	To improve the engagement of young people	Implement Priority Action Plan. Progress evident	oo ★	The service led on the Hear by Right Pilots, which were completed this last quarter. The resulting report is to be delivered to the Common Processes Task Group on 20 th April, and then the C+YP Alliance Board. The pilot organisations were Bankfield Schl, St Basils Schl, PCT YP sexual health clinics, Brookvale Children's Centre, Connexions Service, Youth Service, YMCA and Total People Training Provider. The results will enable a development plan to be produced to ensure the successful roll out of these standards for the involvement of children & young people in services for them within the Alliance. The UKYP election took place on 31 st January and the new MYP for Halton was announced on 1 st February. 6330 young people aged 11 to 18 voted in the election, an increase of 21% on last year. (This is set against a C+YP Plan target of a 10% increase by 2009)

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
05	To reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Implement Priority Action Plan. Progress evident	io date	The 16 to 18 NEET figure at the end of March 2007 was 13.33% compared with 12.84% in March 2006. In real terms there has been an increase of 13 young people. One of the major contributing factors to the current rise in NEET figures is the continued drop out of young people from the provision and their subsequent 'churn' through the system. We are sharing the data on why young people are leaving EET and which providers they are leaving, through the 14 to 19 operational Group to look for a partnership approach to increasing retention. In addition, the 14 to 19 Partnership has now established a
06	Secure sufficient childcare and Early Education Places	Complete Childcare audit/needs analysis (by April 06)	○○	NEET sub group chaired by Connexions to produce a multi-agency strategy and action plan to reduce NEET in the borough. A draft Sufficiency Assessment for the level of childcare and early education is being completed in line with the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006. Initial indications suggest that on the 0- 4 year old childcare market there is a sufficient level of provision across Runcorn and Widnes. The assessment indicates that there may be excess demand in the 5-11 year old after school childcare market. The consultation process with

APPENDIX ONE – PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
Student Services & Lifelong Learning

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				parents/carers and children re the "real" demand for childcare is due to take place by September 2007. The Transformation Fund has been used in Halton to train staff and develop quality in the Private and Voluntary sector. 15 out of 21 Full Day Care settings have received funding in order to train the leader of the early years education to Early Years Professional Status. DfES have commented on Halton's excellent success rate in rolling this programme out.

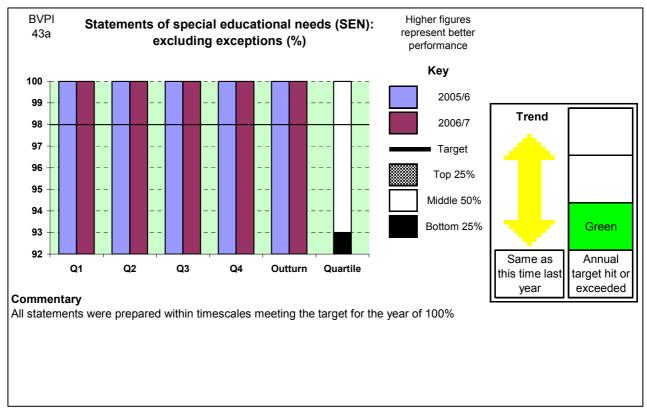
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
07	To evaluate 5 Sure Start Programmes operating across Halton	To have integrated all Sure Start programmes into the Children Centre provision in Halton Borough Council	oo 	All Sure Start programmes have now been integrated into Children Centre provision within the wider Children and Young People's area Networks. The transition of all staff, including staff to be TUPEd from PCT to HBC will be completed by June 2007.
08	To open 9 Children's Centres by 2006	To open remaining three Children's Centres with formal designation	00*	All 9 Children's Centres are operational.
09	To ensure value for money in meeting SEN	To complete the re- organisation of the Learning Support Service and the establishment of a new SEN Service to monitor the use of delegated SEN resources to schools (by Dec 06)	00*	The SEN Service is now fully staffed. New Head of Service has been appointed, due to start after Easter. The SEN service has undertaken it's role to monitor the use of delegated resources to schools.
10	Ensure people have access to the full range of information they may need as a parent	Complete pilot of CIS Kiosk at Kingsway (by Apr 06)	<u>∞∞</u> *	The pilot has been completed successfully and plans are being developed to roll out to all Children's Centre's
11	Extend the core Children's Centres and Extended Schools offer across the age range (0-19)	15% of schools offer core services by September 2006	oo *	The target for schools delivering the extended school core- offer has been exceeded with 18% of schools able to offer access to the core services. The Children's Centre and extended school strategies have been merged and the provision of

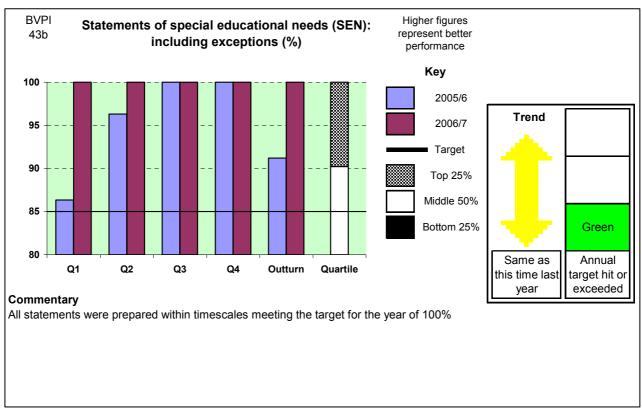
APPENDIX TWO – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
Student Services & Lifelong Learning

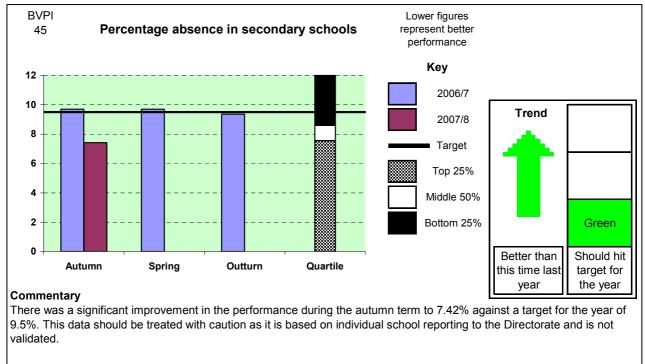
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone		Commentary
				services for 0-19years is being developed on a borough wide basis.
12	Increase access and reach to local Children's Centres for all children under 5 years old	9 designated Children's Centres covering overall reach of 4324 (by Sep/Oct 06).	o o *	Access to Children's Centres has been increased to a borough wide basis. The target reach through 9 children's centres has exceeded the overall reach for 2006.
13	To improve pastoral support planning across all schools and settings to target improvements in behaviour	Training and guidance provided to schools to ensure pupils who need them have pastoral support plans in place (ongoing)	00*	This work is now complete. Training delivered by Educational Psychology Service
14	To ensure that Halton Schools are fully compliant with current Child Protection Guidance	Training and guidance provided by the Safeguarding Development Officer to school staff and governors. All designated persons trained by June 06.	00*	100% is an aspiration as staff, turn over will always mean that we are short of this target. Safeguarding Officer in place. 90% of designated persons have received training
15	To ensure that every school has a named Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who will visit the school on an agreed frequency of visits	100% of schools have a named EWO. 90% of all agreed EWO/School meetings take place.	oo *	This target is always at risk due to staff absence but is currently being met. 100% of schools have named EWO
16	Reduce incidences of exclusions through the development of an Authority wide Behaviour for Learning Team	Network of behaviour leads established and accessing training. Behaviour for Learning Team established (by April 06)	oo *	The focus of support for school has moved from creating a behaviour for learning team to developing outreach from the Pupil Referral Unit's. A network of behaviour leaders is now established and is

APPENDIX TWO – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES/ MILESTONES
Student Services & Lifelong Learning

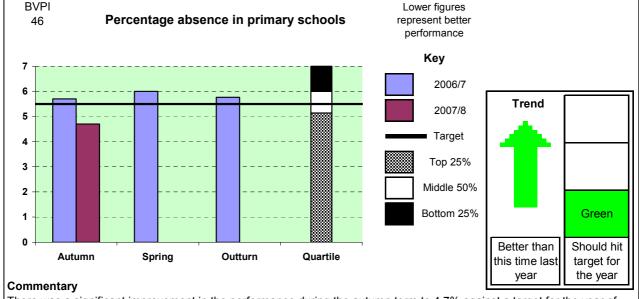
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
17	To ensure that Halton schools are fully compliant with current safeguarding guidance and that recruitment and selection of staff is Bichard compliant.	Complete Audit of School Child Protection Policies by July 06. Audit of access to National College of School Leadership (NCSL) Selection training by July 06.	to date	meeting regularly. Primary Behaviour Consultant in place in addition to existing secondary consultant Access to the National College of School Leadership training on-line has proved to be a national problem. A new 'none on-line' version has been developed because the on-line version has been difficult to access. We continue to support and now deliver this. The Safeguarding in Education Officer is still undertaking
				audit of school policies. School and governor access to NCSL training continues to be problematic



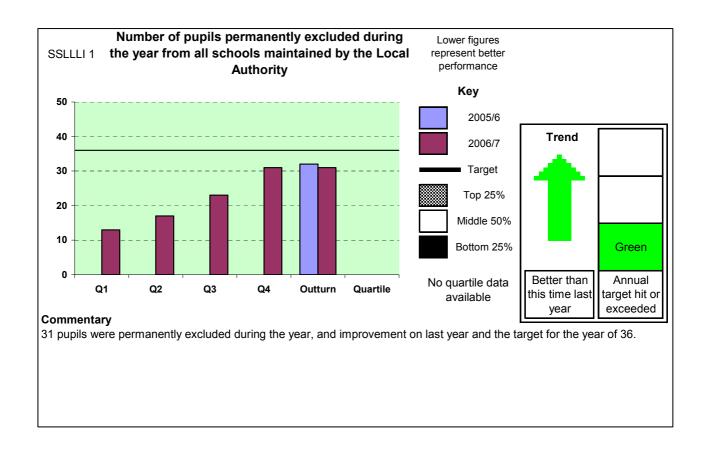




BVPI Lower figures



There was a significant improvement in the performance during the autumn term to 4.7% against a target for the year of 5.5%. This data should be treated with caution as it is based on individual school reporting to the Directorate and is not validated.



Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	Service Delivery					
BV221	Participation in and outcomes from Youth Work (a) Recorded outcomes	41%	60%	67%	oo ,	This is an excellent result where the Youth Service has exceeded the national BVPIs for Youth Services especially as the associated level of funding to achieve this result is £100 per young person aged 13 to 19 and the Youth Service in-hand budget is only £89.
	(b) Accredited outcomes	31%	30%	37%	00	
LI 02	Reduction in the % of children placed in Special Schools (0-15 population)	1.76	1.5	1.54	00*	Mainstream schools are using skills to accommodate children who have complex special needs.
LI 03	Reduction in the % of pupils with Statements of SEN (0-19 population)	3.06	3.0	2.65	00*	There has been a significant reduction in the % of pupils with statements to 2.65 well below the target for the year of 3.0. There has been a multi-faceted approach, and there is now a widened expertise on the STAMP Panel. The criteria for SEN is been applied more rigorously by means of fewer statements being issued and removing any existing statements where schools can meets the needs of children instead of issuing a Statement. This has been a combined effort from SEN Assessment Team, Educational Psychologists and new SEN Service.

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary				
Service Quality										
BV222	Quality of early years & childcare leadership. % Of leaders of an integrated early education and childcare settings funded or part funded by the LA, (a) with a qualification at Level 4 or above (b) which have input from staff with graduate or post graduate, training in teaching or child development	14% 100%	38% 100%	51% 100%	oo <u>*</u>	There are currently 26 students from a total of 51 early years and childcare settings who are undertaking a level 4 or 5 qualification. Halton have been very successful with the roll out of the Transformation Fund and this has been acknowledged by the DfES. There are a further 14 students from the sector estimated to enrol on a level 4 or 5 qualification in 07/08. Halton now have 6.5 QTS who work half time in Children's Centres and half time offering QTS support to all the Private and Voluntary Early Years and Childcare groups in Halton.				
	Fair Access									
LI 04	To reduce the numbers of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment and training by 2% by 2010	12.84	7.96	13.33	* ○○	16 to 18 year old NEET percentage has risen from last year to 13.33%. In numerical terms this is a rise of 13 young people and the percentage figures do seem to be being exaggerated by slight fluctuations due to the small cohort size. (See Key Milestone 5 for further details).				
LI 05	To reduce the numbers of 16-18 year olds who are not in contact with the Connexions Service year on year	5.66%	8.9%	5.53%	oo .	Target has been achieved				

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People

SERVICE: Children's Services (Social Care)

PERIOD: Quarter 4 to year-end 31 March 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Children's Services (Social Care) Department fourth quarter period up to 31 March 2007.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 7

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Halton was visited by a member of the Integrated Working Team of the Children, Young People and Families Directorate of the DfES. He met with a group of multi-agency practitioners and attended a meeting of the CAF sub-group. The representative made very positive comments about the progress made in Halton, and the enthusiastic way in which practitioners from across agencies are working together. Information from the visit will be shared with colleagues and used to complement the Children's Workforce Development Council's work in gathering information about local progress.

2.2 Safeguarding

Safe Parenting handbook has been produced and distributed widely in the community. The handbook covers a number of practical guides to support parents covering a range of topics agreed through a consultation process.

A 'basket' of local performance measures has been agreed by the HSCB Executive Board covering services linked to safeguarding, provided by a number of agencies. Performance against these measures will be monitored from 1st April with quarterly reviews reported to the Safeguarding Board.

2.3 Recruitment and Retention

Front line teams are encountering major recruitment and retention issues, particularly of qualified social workers. This is starting to have an impact on the quality of services and a reliance on agency staff to provide core services. The Directorate's Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been reviewed and a number of initiatives developed. These include a social work intake scheme, for which 3 third year social work degree students have been recruited, and the use of traineeships.

2.4 Integrated Children's System

A total of 17 electronic forms have gone live during quarter and the project is progressing well. The project requires a major culture shift and redesign of some business process to move from manual recording to direct input by operational staff to an electronic system. The process is being managed through the ICS Stakeholders group with 'champions' identified in each team. DfES are carrying out 'readiness assessments' with each authority looking at progress and have allocated Phase 1B funding to Halton.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Care Leavers Accommodation

Partnership arrangements are being developed with Halton Housing Trust, Supporting People and other stakeholders to improve the quality and choice of accommodation available for Care Leavers in Halton. It has been recognised that there is a real lack of accommodation other than in hostels for this particularly vulnerable group and they have been identified as a priority for the Directorate's 16+ Accommodation Strategy.

3.2 Joint Area Review/Children and Young People Plan

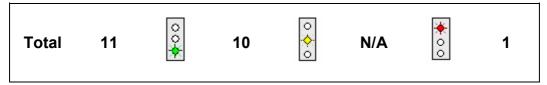
Preparation is now underway for the Joint Area Review which will be held in Halton during March/April -08. A JAR Steering Group has been established to monitor the action plan to ensure the foundations are in place for a successful inspection well in advance of the Review. JAR is a multi-agency inspection so all agencies working with children in Halton will be involved in the preparation process. The review of the Children and Young People Plan is due for completion by 14th June and will be a key document for the JAR as well as acting as the Directorate's self assessment for the 2006-07 Annual Performance Assessment.

As part of the review of the Children and Young People Plan a revised set of priorities has been developed for the Alliance Board. The revised priorities have been established based on the needs analysis and consultation carried out to inform the Plan as well as a review of our performance against the previous Plan priorities.

3.3 Organisational Development Team

A temporary Organisational Development Team is to be established in June/July, which will bring together a range of staff to co-ordinate key aspects of organisational and cultural change need to equip the directorate for the future. The team will also take the lead on co-ordinating the JAR process.

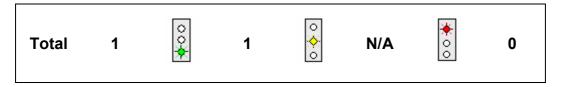
4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Key milestones for the year have been achieved against ten of the eleven key objectives in the plan. The objective that has not been met relates to Teenage Pregnancy. This remains a priority for the directorate and significant progress has been made in the development and commissioning of new services. The benefits of the review of the service carried out in 2005 have not been seen in the data yet as the most recently reported national data is for 2005 calendar year. Local data is now being collected via the PCT, which indicates significant improvements since 2005.

Detail on each of the objectives/milestones is included in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Milestone for the other objective has been achieved, further information is included in Appendix 2.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

Support services to front line teams have been reviewed to develop a more flexible and efficient service. The review has created a new Business Support Team merging existing clerical roles and centralising staff who will now be allocated to complete specific tasks. This has enabled efficiency targets to be met and provides greater flexibility to embrace new ways of working made possible by the use of new technology.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total 11 6 N/A	5	
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End of year performance shows targets achieved against 6 of the 10 key performance indicators and not achieved for 5. Proportion of Care Leavers in Education, Employment, and Training has been flagged as an area of concern throughout the year due to a particularly challenging cohort. The numbers involved are very small and can easily be skewed year on year.

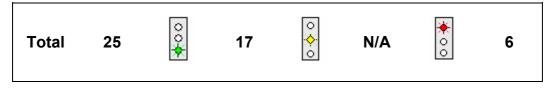
Both indicators relating to long-term stability have fallen below target, although PAF D35 has now been removed from the national set of indicators and will not be reported this year. The other stability indicator is an LPSA target for Halton and as such is subject to a very challenging stretch target. There was improved performance over the year to 75.3% from 73.8% for last year, however this did not reach the interim target of 77%. A number of actions have been implemented as part of the LPSA and are being monitored by a multi-disciplinary group. It is hoped robust monitoring and the impact of these actions will enable us to achieve the stretch target of 81.5% by March 2008.

PAF C21, Children on Child Protection Register for two or more years did not achieve the target for the year by a considerable margin. Children are only counted in the cohort for this indicator at the point they are de-registered from the CPR and the numbers involved are very small so the indicator can be subject to significant changes. At the end of Quarter 3 it was forecast that no children would fall into this category, however a sibling group of seven were de-registered during February just over the two year registration period and a further child de-registered in March. This moved us from a position forecasting 0% to an actual of 11.1% well in excess of the target for the year of 3.5%.

The target for PAF B7 was marginally missed and has attracted a red light, although performance is in the top PAF band, therefore the PAF traffic light is green.

Further details of performance against all key indicators are available in Appendix 3.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



End of year performance shows targets achieved against 18 of the 23 performance indicators and not achieved for 5. Only one indicator from a priority area did not achieve it's target and that was the Teenage Pregnancy indicator (see comments in Section 4).

Two of the twenty-five indicators have not been assigned traffic lights. PAF E45 is derived from the Children in Need census which has not been undertaken in accordance with DfES policy, and CSAPASS(LAC)21 which has been removed from the APA framework.

Further details of performance against all other indicators are available in Appendix 4.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For details of progress against LPSA targets, please refer to Appendix 5

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2006-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

None of the Key Service Objectives for this service were assessed as having associated High Risk, there is no progress to report.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2005/06 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against any actions identified during that assessment with associated High priority, is to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

For details of progress against High Priority Equality Actions for this service, please refer to Appendix 6.

10.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 2- Progress against Other Objectives/ Milestones

Appendix 3- Progress against Key Performance Indicators

Appendix 4- Progress against Other Performance Indicators

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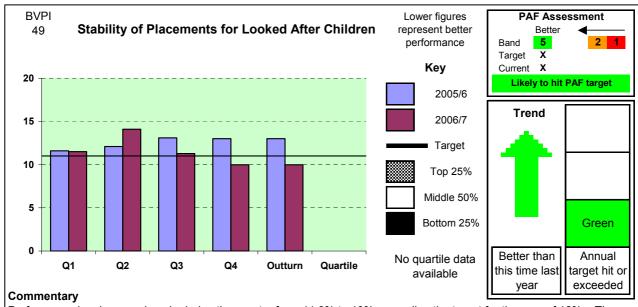
Appendix 5- Progress against LPSA targets
Appendix 6- Progress against High Priority Equality Actions
Appendix 7- Explanation of traffic light symbols

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS1/ SA3	To provide a range of support services for children and families	Child in Need Strategy and Preventative Strategy in place by 31.03.07	○ ○	Children and young peoples plan guidance states that local children and young people plan's supersede the local preventative Strategy. Therefore the Preventative Services Mini trust will be using results based accountability to drive the direction of the strategy.
		Preventative mini trust established with pooled budget and joint commissioning arrangements by 31.03.07.		The Preventative Services Mini Trust has aligned teenage pregnancy, children fund and young peoples substance misuse grants. We are currently reviewing the feasibility of registering a section 31-pooled budget, however without a PCT partnership match contribution this may prove difficult
CS2/SA5	To improve outcomes for looked after children	Implement Priority 1 Action Plan by 31.03.07.	oo 	All actions have now been addressed.
CS3	To maintain a fully staffed, trained and motivated workforce	Recruitment & retention strategy implemented by 31.03.07	oo. *	Revised strategy has been implemented, however it is subject to ongoing review due to the current recruitment and retention difficulties for front line teams
CS4	To provide a range of local placement options for looked after children	Placement Strategy implemented by 31.03.07	oo <u></u>	Implemented. Revised Recruitment Strategy for Foster Carers now developed for 2007/08

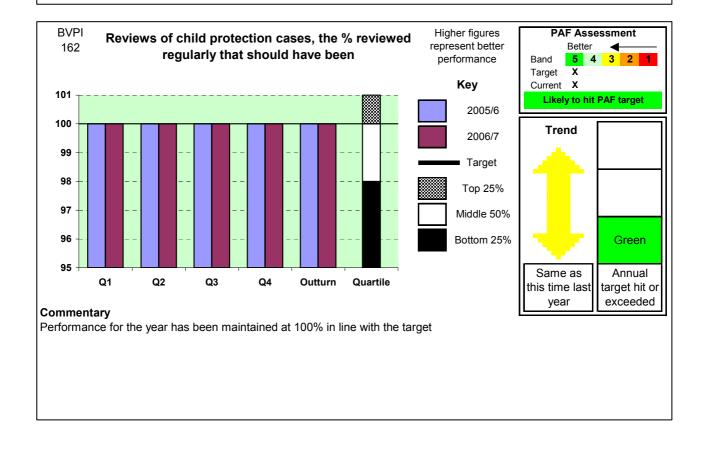
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS5	To provide responsive child and adolescent mental health services to looked after children and children in need	CAMHS strategy implemented by 31.03.07 CAMHS mini trust established by 31.03.07	○	The emotional and mental well being partnership is now well established with the comprehensive CAMHS Strategy at final draft stage, awaiting full approval. CAHMS mini-trust was established in Q2. In March, a full CAMHS mapping was undertaken giving Halton a score of 12.
CS6	To provide an integrated support service to looked after children	Integrated service in place for the delivery of education, health and social care by 31.03.07. LAC mini trust established by 31.03.07	○	Co-located services in place within Permanence Team LAC mini trust established and working towards a programme of
CS7	To reduce the conception rate amongst women under 18 years.	Preventative mini-trust implements Strategy outlined in Children and Young People Plan and Priority 6 Action Plan.	* ○ ○	integrated activity Teenage pregnancy continues to be a priority for Halton. Significant investment has been made locally into the strategy. Data is now being collected at a level from the PCT. However confidentiality and confidence levels remain a concern. Quarter 1 2006 is showing significant reductions in live birth data, which can be linked to frontline investment.

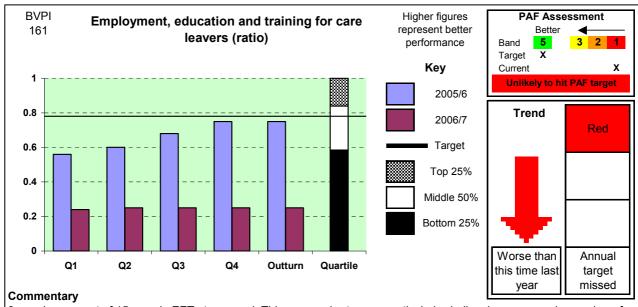
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS8/ SA5	All Directorates to exercise their corporate parenting responsibilities	Strategy document in place by 31.03.07	00ᢤ	Draft strategy in place and circulated to all lead officers for consultation
CS9/ SA4	To provide co-ordinated and integrated services to children with disabilities	Disability Strategy implemented by 31.03.07	oo ≱	Multi agency strategy for CWD has been agreed at Executive Board and the strategy will be monitored through the Children Disability Partnership Board.
		Children with Disabilities mini- trust established by 31.03.07		Children with Disability trust established joint disability manager in place between Halton Borough Council and Halton and St Helens PCT, Children's Disability pooled budget (Section 31-Health Act 1999) expanded 1 ST April-07 to 1.7 million.
CS 10/ SA5	To provide a range of support and accommodation services for young people over 16 yrs and for care leavers	Strategy document in place by 31.03.07	o o *	Draft strategy in place and subject to consultation and development with partner agencies
CS 11	To implement the legislation on Children's Services	Most structures and integrated service delivery programmes in place by 31.03.07	o	New directorate structure was implemented on the 1 st September. Alliance Board structure and subgroups have been established as well as the Safeguarding Board.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2005/06 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS 12	To monitor the department's performance and quality assure all aspects of service delivery	Implement quality assurance programme prescribed for Children's Social Care by 31.03.07	°°,	A robust quality assurance programme has been implemented across Children's Social Care

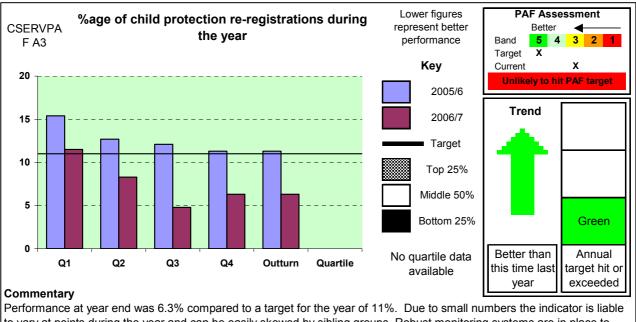


Performance has improved again during the quarter from 11.3% to 10% exceeding the target for the year of 12%. The actual number of children with 3 or more placements during the year was 16. The indicator can be skewed very easily due to the small numbers involved and the small increase in the number of LAC has a significant impact.

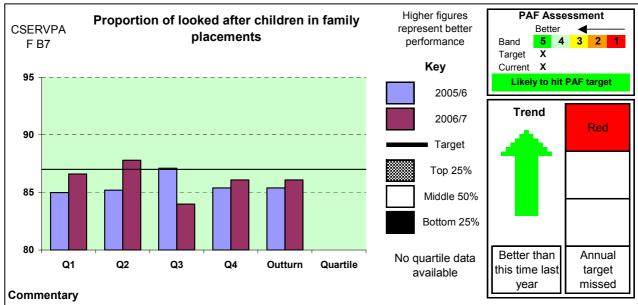




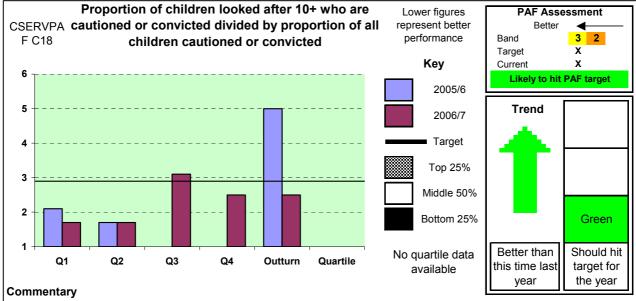
3 care leavers out of 15 were in EET at year end. This years cohort was a particularly challenging group and a number of actions were taken to try and improve performance in this area. A successful LAC conference was held in October to raise the profile of the Corporate Parenting Agenda across a variety of agencies and partners.



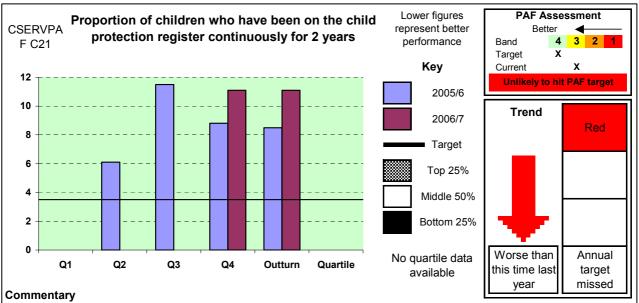
Performance at year end was 6.3% compared to a target for the year of 11%. Due to small numbers the indicator is liable to vary at points during the year and can be easily skewed by sibling groups. Robust monitoring systems are in place to ensure all re-registrations are appropriate.



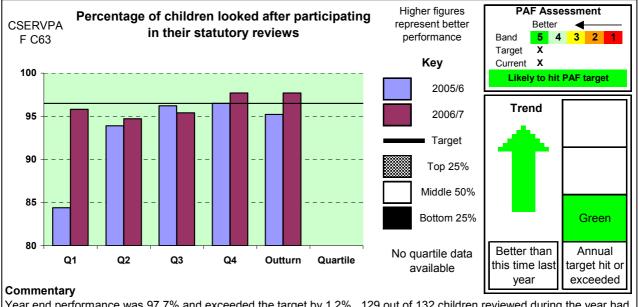
Performance for Q4 was 86.1% with 130 children in foster placements or placed for adoption. The target of 87% was dependent on increasing capacity of local foster placements and minimising numbers of children moving into residential care. However it is still excellent performance, an increase on last year and maintains our position in the top PAF Banding



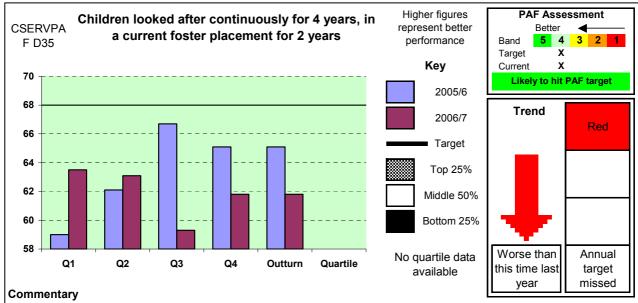
There were no looked after children aged 10+ (LAC for 12 month) cautioned or convicted during Jan-Mar 07 so the cumulative position for the year to date remains at 1.7 . This indicator is based on OC2 data for which the reporting year is October to September, so the Q2 figure is in effect an actual outturn for the year and will place us in the top available PAF banding. The indicator is currently worked out as a ratio of all children living in Cheshire police force area, however this is due to change for the next APA, to be a ratio against children offending in the YOT area of Halton & Warrington. This change should have a positive impact on our performance and will mean we are far closer to comparing like with like.



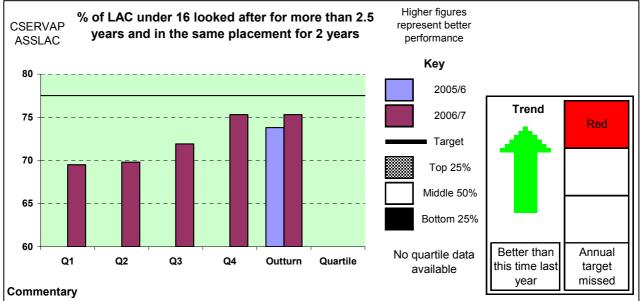
There has been a significant decline in performance during the quarter to 11.1% at year end against a target of 3.5%. Eight children were de-registered during the February and had been on the CPR continuously for 2 years at the point of deregistration. 7 of the 8 children were siblings and this one family had a huge impact due to the small numbers involved. Alerts are provided to team managers and social workers to ensure robust monitoring of all children on the CPR for more than a year.



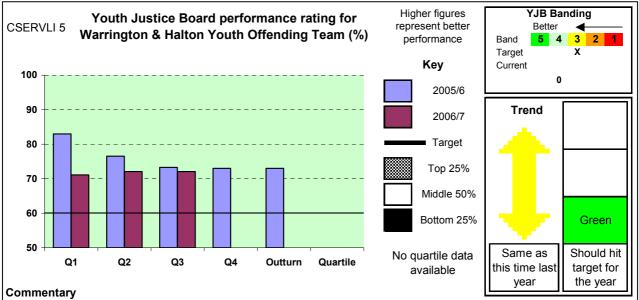
Year end performance was 97.7% and exceeded the target by 1.2%. 129 out of 132 children reviewed during the year had participated in all of their statutory reviews. There were difficulties engaging 3 children in kinship placements. The child's role in their statutory review is reinforced by the Independent Reviewing Managers.



Performance increased from 59.3% to 61.8% against a target of 68%. This indicator is to be deleted at the end of the year with the focus onto the National PSA target on placement stability (see APA SS LAC 24). Disruption meetings are held when a long-term placement breaks down to identify issues leading to end of placement and this information is fed back into service planning.



This is an LPSA target and a number of actions are being developed to ensure that the LPSA target is achieved. There are a number of factors that impact on the indicator and further investigation is required to identify the reasons for the performance. An LPSA monitoring group is developing an action plan to improve performance against this indicator to try and ensure we are able to meet the challenging stretch target of 81.5% by 2008. Actual performance for the year should have included children placed for adoption regardless of how long placed - Q1 69.5%, Q2 69.8%, Q3 71.9%, Q4 75.3%. The graph has been amended accordingly.



The indicator covers the Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Team (YOT). The target is set annually by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB award a quarterly banded rating on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Q3 performance remains at band 4 (measured across a 'basket' of 14 Key Indicators covering all aspects of YOT provision), and is exceeding the target of band 3 (thresholds for band 3 are 60.1% to 70%). The YJB compile the indicator based on a return made by the YOT at quarter-end. The YJB notify the team of the rating approximately two months after quarter end, consequently this indicator will always be reported one quarter in arrears.

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	PAF band Target	band band Progress		Commentary
DAE	Service Delivery Indicators								Target has been achieved Court of 10
PAF A2/ BVPI 50/	Proportion of young people leaving care with at least 1 GCSE grade A-G or GNVQ Key Threshold >25%	50%	57%	60%	oo *	4	4	oo. *	Target has been achieved, 6 out of 10 young people leaving care achieved 1 GCSE grade A-G
PAF C23/ BVPI 163/	Proportion of Children looked after for more than 6 months adopted Key Threshold >3%	4.9%	9.5%	9.1%	* 00	5	5		13 children were adopted during the year compared to 7 last year. This is a significant improvement in performance from 4.9% to 9.1%
BVPI 197	The percentage change in number of conceptions amongst 15-17 year olds.	-7.0%	-12.6%	18%	*00	N/A –	not a PAF	indicator	Teenage pregnancy data released the 22 nd Feb 2007 for calendar year 2005 stated a 18% increase in the overall conception rate from the 1998 baseline, therefore Halton's traffic light status will b reviewed from 'amber /red' to 'red'. This is to be confirmed by the teenage pregnanc unit.
PAF C19/	Of children looked after for 12 months or more (i) % with dental checks in year (ii) % with health assessment in year	92.8%	93.5%	95.2%	00*	5	5	00*	Target for the year has been exceeded. The development by the LAC Nurse of alternative assessment for older LAC who had previously refused has been successful and helped improve performance.
PAF C24/ SA5	Proportion of children looked after for at least 12 months who have missed 25 days of schooling for any reason	16.5%	12%	10%	oo *	3	3	oo 	Target has been exceeded. 10 children out of 100 school age children missed at least 25 days of school a significant improvement on last year.
PAF C64	Proportion of core assessments completed within 35 days	88.8%	91%	97.8%	oo *	5	5	oo *	Target exceeded by 6.8%. 100% of LAC core assessments and 97.0% of CP core assessments were completed within timescale.

APPENDIX FOUR – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Children's Services (Social Care)

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	PAF band Target	PAF band Actual	PAF Progress	Commentary
PAF C68	Percentage of LAC cases which should have been reviewed during year that were reviewed	100%	100%	100%	oo *	5	5	o o ★	Target achieved, all LAC cases that should have been reviewed, were reviewed.
PAF C69	Distance children newly looked after are placed from home	14.3%	10%	5.8%	oo *		Not band	ded	Target exceeded. 2 children newly accommodated are placed more than 20 miles from home.
CS LPI 4	Percentage of Looked after Children with pathway plans at 16	98%	100%	95%	*00	N/A –	not a PAF	indicator	15%of pathway plans are within timescale for completion at age 16 and 5% (one young person) is outside timescales, delayed by application to discharge Care Order.
CS APA SS (LAC) 5	Percentage of children looked after with a named social worker	100%	100%	100%	oo <u></u> *	N/A – not a PAF indicator			All Halton Looked After Children have a named social worker.
CS APA SS13	Percentage of children on the child protection register without a named social worker	0%	0%	0%	oo *	N/A – not a PAF indicator			All Halton children on the child protection register have a named social worker.
CS APA SS6	Proportion of referrals that are repeat referral within 12 months	9%	8.5%	11.9%	* ○ 0	N/A – not a PAF indicator			Performance for Year End was 11.9%. Of 999 referrals received during the year, 119 were a re-referral. Further work is being carried out to identify reasons for rereferral.
CS APA SS9	Proportion of initial assessments completed within 7 working days	81.8%	83.5%	90.4%	oo *	N/A – not a PAF indicator			There was a further improvement in performance to 90.4% exceeding the target for the year by 6.9%

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	PAF band Target	PAF band Actual	PAF Progress	Commentary
	Service Quality Indicators								
CS APA SM1 3	Percentage of residential child care workers who have achieved Level 3 in the NVQ 'Caring for Children and Young People'	63%	70%	72%	00*	N/A –	not a PAF	indicator	This is estimated performance and actual performance will be added as soon as possible
CS APA SM1 4	Percentage of social workers and residential managers who have achieved PQ1 Child Care	44.7%	60%	48%	* ○ ○	N/A – not a PAF indicator			This is estimated performance and actual performance will be added as soon as possible
CS APA CH 143 SS7	% of referrals leading to initial assessment	89.2%	92%	93.6%	♦ 00	N/A – not a PAF indicator			Target has been achieved. 999 Referrals received and 935 initial assessments wer completed during the year.
CS APA SS (LAC) 18	% of LAC adopted in the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of their Best interests decision	85.7%	90%	92.3%	⋄	N/A – not a PAF indicator			13 children were adopted during the year of which 12 children were placed for adoption within 12 months of their Best Interests decision.
CS APA E&A (LAC) 3	% of LAC in year 11 eligible for GCSE that sat at least 1 GCSE equivalent exam	61.5%	65%	50%	*00	N/A – not a PAF indicator			10 Halton Looked After Children were eligible for GCSE exams, out of the 10, 5 sat at least one exam
CS APA E&A (LAC) 5	% of young people leaving care 16+ with 5 or more GCSE A-C	6.3%	7.5%	20%	00 *	N/A – not a PAF indicator			Target has been achieved, 2 young people out of 10 achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A-C

APPENDIX FOUR – PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Children's Services (Social Care)

Ref	Indicator	Actual 05 / 06	Target 06 / 07	Quarter 4	Progress	PAF band Target	PAF band Actual	PAF Progress	Commentary
	Fair Access Indicators								
PAF E45	Ethnicity of Children in need (CiN Census)	63%	70%	N/A	Refer to comment		N/A		The Children in Need Census has been postponed and we are awaiting guidance from DfES for this indicator
CS APA SS19	Ratio of Children on CPR from ethnic minorities compared to local child population	0.70	0.80	2.05	00*			indicator	3 siblings on the CPR were from an ethnic minority (3.7%).
CS APA SS (LAC) 21	Ratio of LAC from ethnic minorities compared to local child population	89.2%	92%	0.67	Refer to comment	N/A – not a PAF indicator			This indicator has been removed from the Annual Performance Dataset so we no longer report it as a ratio. 2 Looked After Children were from an ethnic minority (1.2%)
CS APA SS (LAC) 14	% of children looked after in foster placements with relatives or friends	18.7	19.5	24.5	00*	N/A – not a PAF indicator			37 young people were placed with relatives or friends compared to 29 at the end of last year. This is in line with national guidance to promote the use of kinship carers and keep children within th family environment if appropriate.
CS LPI 2	Percentage of Children over 10 participating in Child Protection conferences and reviews through attendance or written consultation	61.5%	65%	89.2%	00*	N/A – not a PAF indicator			Target has been achieved. A project has been developed in conjunction with Barnardo's Children's Rights Services to support participation at conferences and reviews
CS LPI 3	Percentage of parents and family attending Child Protection conferences and reviews.	72.3%	77.5%	82.1%	oo 	N/A —	not a PAF	indicator	There has been an improvement in performance following the implementation of a robust plan to ensure increased participation by parents in the child protection process.

LPSA Ref	Definition	LPSA Target (Stretch)	Interim Target (Annual)	Progress (Traffic lights)	Commentary
11	Improved opportunities and levels of participation in education training and employment by children in the care of Halton Council: 1.The percentage school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months	92.6% May 08	-	oo 	Performance was up from 82.1% in Q2 to 92.4% in Q4. Q4 Data was available for 82 children with 11 young people achieving 100% attendance and 66 young people achieving more than 75% attendance
	2. The percentage of children in the care of Halton Council who are under 16 years old and have been looked after for more than 2.5 years, that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years (LAC 24)	81.5% 07/08	-	⋄	Performance for Q4 was 75.3% This is an LPSA target and a number of actions are being developed to ensure that the LPSA target is achieved. There are a number of factors that impact on the indicator and further investigation is required to identify the reasons for the performance. An LPSA monitoring group is developing an action plan to improve performance against this indicator to try and ensure we are able to meet the challenging stretch target of 81.5% by 2008.

Equality Action Plan Ref.	HIGH Priority Actions	Target / Deadline	Progress (Traffic lights)	Commentary
Residential Procedures	Commission training following revision of the procedural guidance to reinforce best practice regarding equality issues (Divisional Manager – LAC)	31/03/07	∞	Training is now provided.
Guidance on Implementation of Adoption Support Services Regulations	Policies on support to adults to be developed and Equality Impact Assessments completed (Practice Manager – Fostering & Adoption)	31/03/07	•	Completed

The traffic	The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:									
		<u>Objective</u>	Performance Indicators (Excl. LPSA)	LPSA Indicators Only						
Green	oo *	Indicates that the objective has been achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	06/07 target <u>has been</u>							
<u>Amber</u>	○◇○	N/A	N/A	Indicates that it is either <u>unclear</u> at this stage or too early to state whether the target is on course to be achieved.						
Red	*	Indicates that that the objective has not been achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	annual 06/07 target has	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.						