



Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**Monday, 25 February 2008 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
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
Mr Colin Chorley	Co-optee

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 to be confirmed.

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

Part I

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1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
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.	
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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.

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 25th February 2008

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: 25 February 2008

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-Committee 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 its 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 and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2008

EXB74 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 2008/2009

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing a summary of the funding available for the Schools Capital Programme 2008/2009. The report outlined the process for prioritisation for capital repairs and the proposed programme, and provided an update of the Children's Personal Social Services Capital Allocation.

The Board was advised that the main source of funding for the Schools Capital Programme was the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Capital Allocation which, for 2008/2009, was a total of £1,900,713. The detailed capital repairs programme for 2008/2009 was identified in Appendix 2 of the report.

The costs shown against each project were currently provisional; however, based on these estimated costs, it was likely that all projects could be funded in 2008/2009. Should the cost following receipt of tenders be less than the estimated costs, further projects would be brought forward from the reserve list. If the costs exceeded the total funding available once final costs had been obtained, the lowest scoring projects (lowest priority) would be deferred to 2009/2010.

Arising from this report it was noted that the GCSE results for the Authority had been published today and all those involved were congratulated on their outstanding achievement, in Halton being the most improved Council in the Country for GCSE performance.

RESOLVED: That Full Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for 2008/2009, and the Children's Personal Social Services Capital Allocation detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2008

EXB77 OUT-BOROUGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People seeking approval to withdraw two bus services that currently operated between Halton and Frodsham High School, and Helsby High School, in Cheshire.

The Board noted that the Council had provided assistance with transport for Halton resident pupils attending these schools, by operating two buses from Halton to Frodsham and Helsby, since attaining unitary status in April 1998 as, prior to this time, Runcorn was part of Cheshire County Council; as such, Frodsham and Helsby High Schools were within Runcorn parents' home authority.

During the Local Government Review process it was agreed that, in order to continue to facilitate the attendance of those children at Frodsham and Helsby schools until the end of their school career, the services would continue to operate with financial assistance being given to those already attending. In subsequent years, parents who expressed a preference for these schools had the opportunity to purchase any remaining spare seats on the services, the cost being paid by the parent to Halton Borough Council.

Members were advised that there were no longer any children receiving financial assistance from the Council to travel to these schools; however, there were a small number of remaining pupils using the service and the Authority currently subsidised the bus service at a cost of £36,400 per annum. The proposal was to withdraw the two bus services from the end of the Summer Term 2008, which would affect a total of 26 children. Transport Co-ordination had drawn up individual school travel plans for the children affected and these would be included with any correspondence to parents advising them of the cessation of the service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) approval be given to:
 - (i) withdraw the two bus services from the end of the Summer Term 2008; and
 - (ii) issue a letter to parents advising them of the withdrawal of the service.

(NB: Councillor Gerrard declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Governor at Simms Cross Primary School).

EXB78 STRATEGY FOR SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION FOR SCHOOLS IN

HALTON

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People setting out the methodology for co-ordinating the Local Authority's Support and Intervention Strategy for schools causing concern.

It was noted that, as previously reported to the Board on 1 November 2007, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 outlined in Part 4 new powers for a Local Authority to intervene and take action and provide support to schools causing concern.

The Council had now consulted with schools on the proposed Local Authority procedures for identifying and intervening in schools causing concern, with a view to a revised policy being approved by the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Strategy for Support and Intervention for Schools in Halton be approved.

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health and Community

SUBJECT: Health of Children in Care Scrutiny Topic

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present an update on the data and service developments regarding the health of Children in Care.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the contents of the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In March 2006 the Health Policy and Performance Board was presented with the findings of the health of Looked After Children Scrutiny Group. An in-depth audit of ninety Children in Care (CIC) case files was carried out resulting in an Action Plan.

The Board agreed that the Action Plan be adopted All actions had been completed and the Board noted this in November 2006 after monitoring its implementation.

The board asked to be updated on data and future developments in the service

Data Regarding Health of Children in Care

3.2 The number of children who have had a Health Assessment for the year up to 30th September 2007 is 95.1%. This is despite the “ageing Children in Care population” as does impact when the increasing older children exercise their entitlement to refuse a Health Assessment.

3.3 In recognition of the older children’s resistance to attending for a “medical” the Children in Care Nurse has developed alternative Health Assessments. These include a holistic lifestyle questionnaire. School Health Nurses can also respond and meet with young people individually to offer advice and guidance confidentially.

3.4 The percentage of children who are up-to-date with their immunisations is 94.3% we have 4 young people who are refusing their MMR vaccination.

- 3.5 The percentage of children who have had a dental check for the year up to 30th September 2007 is 92.7%. We have 8 young people who are refusing to go to a dentist.

Service Developments

3.6 Health Development Group

A multi agency Health Development Group was formed to progress the actions arising from the Audit of the Looked After Children case files. All actions identified have been completed. The Group, however, continues to meet and take forward developments in the service.

3.7 Assessments of Children's Emotional and mental Wellbeing

All newly admitted Children since July 2007 have a Baseline Assessment of their emotional and mental wellbeing. The method used is a Strength and Difficulties questionnaire. This is a process where the emotional needs of the children will be assessed, considered and recorded at a formal meeting with the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service. Needs can be prioritised and we can also scope the level of unmet need.

The expected outcomes are to contribute towards promoting resilience through improved identification of issues for children. Also to prevent further mental health difficulties by enabling targeted services to be delivered when such needs are identified.

3.8 Training for Foster Carers

The Children in Care Nurse has facilitated workshops with foster carers. This was entitled "Sex, Storks and Gooseberry Bushes – Talking About Sex and Relationships with Children and Young People". It included a presentation from the Teenage Pregnancy Unit and had a focus on improving the health and well being of young people leaving care.

A nutritionist has delivered a workshop with residential workers regarding healthy eating.

A training officer specifically for carers is now in post and will be devising a training programme to develop the skills of carers.

3.9 Fast Track Dental Service

Through collaborative working with the Manager of the Dental Service in Halton, there is now a fast track dental scheme for Children in Care. If any child is not registered with a dentist or carers are having difficulty registering, the child concerned will be prioritised and allocated a dentist.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Children in Care are amongst the most vulnerable groups in our community. Promoting and improving their health will 'contribute to 'narrowing the gap' between their outcomes and those of all children.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.2 A Healthy Halton

Through health assessments, advice and guidance, dental checks and immunisations, we can support our children in care to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. Thus increasing their opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Improving the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children is central to the Governments Integration Agenda and ongoing monitoring will ensure that the Council and Health Partners are addressing the requirements of this legislation.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Equality and Diversity issues are fully addressed in the implementation.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children Act 2004	Christine Taylor's office, Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor
Every Child Matters, Change for Children	Christine Taylor's office, Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor
Promoting the Health of Looked After Children	Christine Taylor's office, Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor
Healthy Care Programme Handbook	Christine Taylor's office, Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor

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

DATE: 25th February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: 14-19 Implementation Plan

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on national 14-19 education reforms
- 1.2 To provide information on progress towards the local implementation of the reforms.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The Board considers the national reforms and progress to date in implementing 14-19 reforms locally.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2006 a transformational set of education reforms were legislated through the Education and Inspections Act.

New features of the reforms include:

- The introduction of a new curriculum with a legal entitlement to access for all young people from 2013.
- The promotion of provision through an area wide prospectus.
- A requirement that the provision is delivered through partnership and collaboration to ensure that the full breadth of the offer is available locally.

- 3.2 There is a strong emphasis on functional English, Maths and Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTs) throughout the phase. 17 new diplomas will be introduced at 3 levels. The level 2 diploma will be equivalent to 7 GCSEs at A* to C and level 3 diploma 3.5 A levels at A* to C.
- 3.3 For 14-16 year old under achievers a new Entry to Employment (E2E) route and foundation tier will be available.
- 3.4 The new curriculum is designed to offer learners a broader range of options from age 14 with a pathway through to age 19.

- 3.5 There is a strong 14-19 partnership in Halton with wide representation including all Secondary and Special Schools, Riverside College, Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council, Connexions, Work Based Learning Providers, Diocese and the Local Authority.
- 3.6 A 14-19 vision, strategy and action plan is in place and the following progress has been made:
- The Halton on line prospectus was launched in November 2007 www.i-choosehalton.org.uk.
 - Construction and the Built Environment will be the first diploma to be offered from September 2008 with Creative and Media, Information Technology, Society, Health and Development, Business Administration available from 2009.
 - Collaborative Diploma development groups with representation from curriculum specialists from schools, Riverside College, and Work Based Learning providers have been established.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Machinery of Government

A number of key announcement's have implications for the planning and funding of local 14-19 education provision in future:

- Funding for all 16-18 provision with the exception of Apprenticeships will be routed through Local Authorities from 2010/11. All post 16 providers will be required to plan the same way.
 - Some additional funding will be available to support diploma delivery although schools will be required to contribute from savings made from learners not studying at the home school.
 - A local 14-19 education plan must be in place. Local plans must analyse collaboration and plan for delivery addressing oversupply, poor provision and curriculum gaps through a commissioning process. Plans must include wide ranging policies to address those Not Engaged in Education and Training (NEET), Information Advice and Guidance, Curriculum planning, Transport etc.
 - The legal participation age will raise from 16 to 18 from 2015.
- 4.2 The Children's services network and local government unit are providing a good practice seminar on key issues for councils and councillors on Friday 14th March 2008, information attached.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

6.1.1 14-19 is a priority in the Children and Young Peoples plan and there is a 14-19 Strategy and Action plan 2008-2011. The 14-19 Partnership are working towards the completion of an outline Education Plan for 2008-2013 from March 2008.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.2.1 The 14-19 reforms are intended to address issues raised in the Leitch Report on 2020 skills. The report identified that our skills are "not world class" and that "in 10 years time 75% of jobs will require a level 2 qualification".

6.2.2 Half of reported recruitment difficulties are due to skill shortages in:

- Communication
- Customer handling
- Team working
- Problem solving
- Higher level technical skills

6.2.3 Diplomas are designed to meet employment and skills demand. In the North West significant growth in the following sectors from the first five diplomas to be launched have been identified:

- Health - 79,000 vacancies will need filling by 2010.
- IT - 12% jobs currently vacant with 90% organisations reporting vacancies.
- Built environment -sector demand for professional and technical staff, 88,000 jobs to be filled by 2010.
- Engineering - 40% of employers do not expect to be able to meet their recruitment needs in 4 years time.
- Creative industries - There are 18,000 creative industry business units employing 99,000, a further 55,000 are self employed. 18% growth realising 27,000 vacancies to 2010 predicted.

6.2.4 A Higher diploma (level 2) is equivalent to 7 GCSEs at A* to C. An Advance level diploma is equivalent to 3.5 A levels.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to fully implement the reforms locally could result in learners

being forced to access provision out of the borough with a subsequent loss of investment for local provision.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children and Young People's Plan	Grosvenor House	Lorraine Butcher
14-19 Strategy and Implementation Plan	Grosvenor House	Simon Clough

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Performance and Policy Board

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Children's Trust Arrangements

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the arrangements for establishing a Children's Trust in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The Board notes the progress towards the establishment of a Children's Trust.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The establishment of Children's Trust arrangements in each Local Authority Area is a requirement of the Children Act 2004, and the accompanying *Statutory Guidance on Inter-agency Co-operation to Improve the Well-being of Children: Children's Trusts*.

3.2 Each Local Authority must have a Children's Trust in place by April 2008. Whilst the Government expects that Children's Trusts will be led by the Local Authority, the need for an inclusive partnership driven model is vital to the success of meeting outcomes for children, young people and families.

3.3 The Children and Young People's Alliance Board was established in September 2005 as part of a new strategic planning structure which aimed to progress the Every Child Matters agenda and integration through partnership working. At the same time arrangements were made for the establishment of a number of children's mini-trusts which would pilot various aspects of the integration agenda, with a view to using the learning from the mini-trusts to inform future Children's Trust arrangements.

4.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 There have been a number of developments since the original strategic planning structure was agreed:

- The first Children and Young People's Plan was published in March 2006, and contained a number of performance targets which were allocated to relevant task groups.
- The Plan was reviewed in June 2007, with reported performance against the original targets and agreed priorities and reviewed targets for 2007-2009.
- Five mini-trusts have been established and are at various stages of development. The mini-trusts have assumed responsibility for some of the tasks initially allocated to the task groups.
- The theme 'Children and Young People' was adopted as one of the priorities for the Halton Strategic Partnership in the 2006-11 Community Strategy. The Children and Young People's Commissioning Partnership was established at this time in order to progress joint commissioning arrangements and function as the Specialist Strategic Partnership for children and young people.

4.2 The Alliance Board agreed in September 2007 to review the function and structure of the strategic planning arrangements in order to rationalise in line with the above developments and drive the progress of Children's Trust Arrangements.

4.3 An away day was held on 3rd December, and it was clear from discussions that there will need to be a change in the status and functioning of the Alliance Board if it is to drive the development of Children's Trust Arrangements.

4.4 The Alliance Board agreed that the current structure of strategic planning arrangements and accountability be reviewed, and a report be presented at the February meeting of the Alliance Board on the following:

- Recommendations regarding the strategic planning structure/ Children's Trust.
- Recommended action plan based on the away day.
- Draft business plan for the Alliance Board (Children's Trust).

4.5 The Alliance Board structures have brought significant benefits in terms of developing clear structures that are widely known and have allowed for more integrated working, as well as giving a clear platform for meeting the targets within the Children & Young People's Plan. However, modifications to this structure could aid and improve working within the Children's Trust from April onwards. These changes would re-energise the task groups that sit below the Alliance Board and acknowledge the role of the Alliance Board as the Children's Trust within the structures; the Commissioning Partnership acting as the key driver within these arrangements. (See Appendix 1 for structure).

4.6 At the same time as the structure of the Halton Children's Trust is

being agreed, the further integration of services with the Council's CYPD is planned. The two processes are complementary, with the Children's Trust as the key strategic body and CYPD as the central delivery mechanism for integrated services using common processes.

4.7 Three areas of integration are under development:

- New partnership arrangements with Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust – specifically the creation of new working arrangements with health visitors, midwives, therapists and school nursing within CYPD.
- The establishment of a Preventative Services Department within CYPD; from the previous Community Services Department, further integrating Social Care and Health services within Children's Centre/Extended Schools at levels 1, 2 and 3a of the Halton 'Levels of Need'. This will merge with an expanded Preventative Services Mini Trust.
- Integrating a broader range of services within the Specialist Services Department Child Care Teams, at levels 3a, 3b and 4 of the levels of need.

4.8 All of these integration processes will develop the principle of 'Teams Around The Child'.

4.9 The role of the Third Sector at all levels of the commissioning and integration process is critical to its success.

The result of this work on Children's Trust Arrangements in Halton will be:

- A clearer focus/purpose for the Children's Trust structure.
- Confirming the central role of the Children's Trust Commissioning Partnership as the means of delivering the outcomes of the Children & Young People's Plan/LAA.
- The next stage of service integration by creating new partnership arrangements with Halton and St Helens PCT, with the Children's Trust assuming governance responsibilities. This will be subject to a separate report.
- Aligning strategic responsibilities with Halton Safeguarding Children Board in terms of the respective accountabilities for 'staying safe' by the HSCB and Children's Trust (Alliance Board)

4.10 The deployment of services within CYPD will be on the basis of three 'footprints': Borough wide, Runcorn/Widnes, Locality. All services will work towards 'Teams Around the Child'.

4.11 Each integrated service area will be deployed according to need. For example, 'Adoption Services' will need to be Borough wide; Building Schools for the Future will be on a Runcorn/Widnes basis; and Children's Centre/Extended Schools will be by locality. Locality

working will be the principal model for preventative services.

- 4.12** A diagram of the proposed new structure for the strategic planning arrangements is attached (Appendix 1) with the model of how integration works at a range of levels as Appendix 2.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The establishment of Children's Trust arrangements in Halton by evolving the Alliance Board into the new partnership arrangement will ensure that the priority of children and young people is delivered in a co-ordinated way across all stakeholders in the Borough.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The proposals will ensure that services to children and young people are integrated, providing a one stop service.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The proposals will enhance services that enable young people to enter employment, education and training.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The alignment of NHS services with those of the Council will have significant health gains for children and young people.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Both Children's Trust arrangements at a strategic level and the new working arrangements between the Council and PCT will ensure that services are aligned with a range of community safety activity and the work of the Youth Offending Team.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The integration of services creates cohesion across organisations and will align a range of capital and revenue.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1** The alignment of NHS Services with those of the Council will be underpinned by the following principles: This will ensure that there is absolute clarity of the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of both

Council and PCT.

- 6.2 NHS staff will not be Tupted or Seconded to the Council there will be no change to the terms or conditions of any NHS employee affected by these arrangements.
- 6.3 There will remain a clear line of accountability to the Primary Care Trust for all NHS services involved in the new working arrangement. The PCT Operational Director of Children, Families and Maternity Services; commissioning will have ultimate accountability for all Children's NHS staff working within the arrangement.
- 6.4 All NHS staff that are part of the working arrangement will be professionally accountable to the Executive Nurse, Halton & St Helens PCT. They will provide health guidance, support and supervision to the Assistant Director from the PCT.
- 6.5 The PCT will identify a named individual (Assistant Director, Child & Family Health, Halton) to become part of CYPD's Senior Management Team. This post will have direct Line Management responsibility for all PCT staff in the new working arrangement. This post will report directly to the Council's Strategic Director of Children's Services for day to day management services; and the Operational Director, Children, Families & Maternity Services for NHS accountability purposes. The latter accountabilities in the areas of for example; risk management, health and safety, clinical governance and medicines management.
- 6.6 The Alliance Board (Children's Trust Arrangement) will act as the Governance Body for the Primary Care Trust and Council. This will cement the Children's Trust arrangements that have to be in place by April 2008.

7.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

- 7.1 The alignment of NHS services and the Council will enable both Authorities to have a common approach to equality and diversity and factors that can narrow the gap in terms of future opportunities for vulnerable children. Services will be aligned across Levels of Need and targeted on disadvantaged groups.

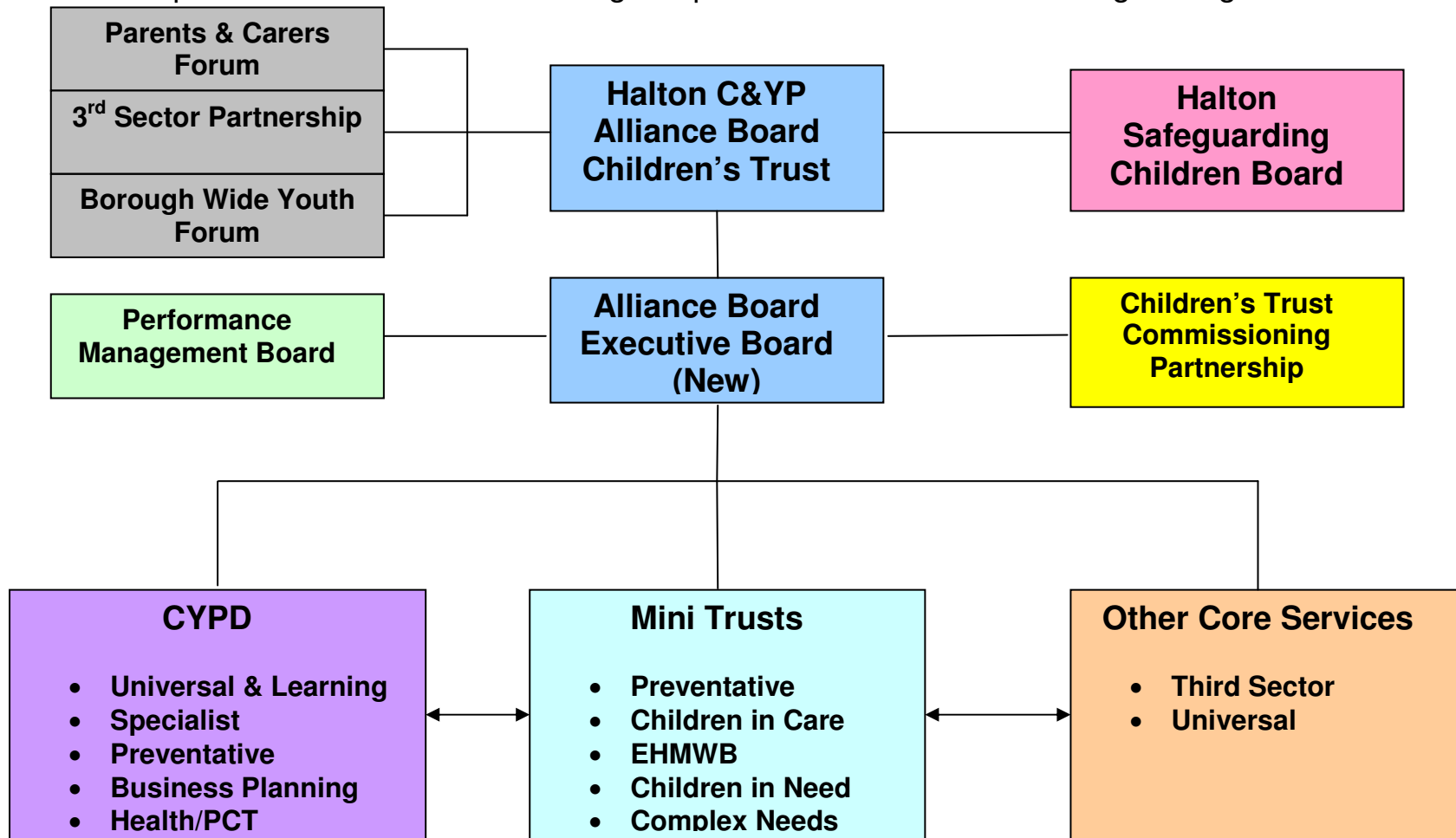
8.0 CONCLUSION:

- 8.1 The incorporation of health services for the well and vulnerable child on the basis described above, within the C&YP Directorate is the logical next step in creating an integrated service for Children & Young People in Halton. The benefits will be significant in terms of cementing genuinely multi-disciplinary "Teams Around the Child" that can offer a one-stop service for all levels of need.

- 8.2** Subject to the approval of this stage of the process, further detailed work will take place with front line staff across organisations about how we can better align and join up services across the Levels of Need.

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Halton Children & Young People’s Children’s Trust Planning Arrangements

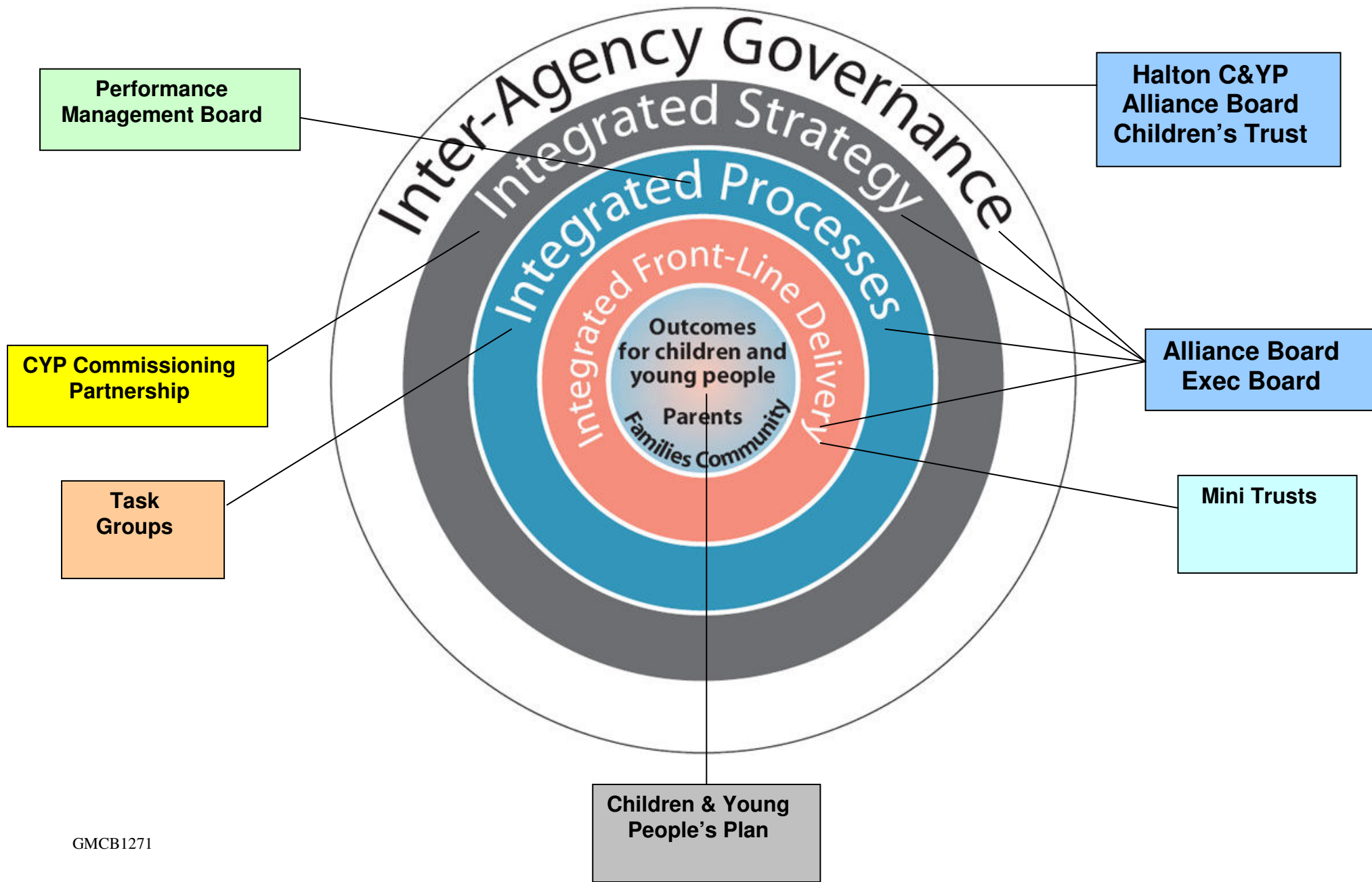


APPENDIX 1

Function of Each Board

Alliance Board Children's Trust	Alliance Executive	Commissioning Partnership	Performance Management Group	Task Groups	Mini Trusts
Multi agency working and vision	Driving integration/ Children's Trust developments	Commissioning of services across the Children's Trust	Performance monitoring re CYPP	Link between Alliance Board and service delivery arm	Commissioning functions
Strategic needs analysis and agreeing developmental priorities	Driving preparations for inspections	Specialist Strategic Partnership	Monitoring Community Strategy targets	Preparing Business Plans	Link between Alliance Board and their service delivery arm(s)
LAA signoff	Children & Young People's Plan	Aligned/pooled budgets		Monitoring performance of their own area of CYPP	Preparing Business Plans
Signing off strategies and plans	Business planning fed by task groups	Integrated commissioning strategy		Oversee their sub groups	Monitoring performance of their own area of CYPP
Participation (in conjunction with CPE Sub Group)	Community Strategy targets	LAA development			Oversee work of sub groups
Sharing information	Receive performance	NRF/WNF/monitor SLAs			

	monitoring exceptions reports				
Agreement of accountable areas with HSCB	Oversee Alliance Board budget	Coordinate research/needs analysis			
Responsibility for sharing information within their organisations	Overseeing progress in 'staying safe' areas agreed with HSCB				
Marketing and communications (in conjunction with Marketing sub group of IMAP)					
Membership					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive as chair • Current Alliance Board membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS to chair • Task group/mini trust chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS to chair • Mini Trust and cross-agency commissioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Performance Management Group membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current membership, in particular sub group chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current membership



APPENDIX 2

The following table provides additional information regarding each area of the above diagram:

Inter-agency governance	Integrated processes	Integrated strategy	Integrated front-line delivery
Strong and effective leadership	Full implementation of CAF	Shared resources	Systems that enable early identification, intervention and preventative work
Clear lines of accountability	Clear understanding of information sharing guidance	Aligned budgets	Are services targeted towards children with specific needs seamless at point of service
A board which can drive whole-system change	Agreements re. information sharing for strategic planning purposes	Willingness to shift resources where necessary to meet new priorities	Are we working across traditional service boundaries
Full engagement of all partners?	Information sharing training	Shared understandings re. commissioning	Do we have co-location in areas with high levels of need and low access to services
A genuine joint and outcome-focussed vision	Information sharing indexes	Commitment to new ways of working, and re-directing resources into an investment in preventative services	Staff who have the skills and abilities necessary to delivery across service boundaries
Has the structure delivered what it should deliver	Data sharing agreements	3 rd sector involvement in commissioning and setting priorities	

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Report

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Area Networks

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following a request made at the meeting of the Policy and Performance Board held on 7th January 2008 Members to receive a presentation on progress to date in developing a framework for integrated service delivery to children, young people and their families on a locality basis.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the presentation is received; and

(2) Members consider the progress towards integrating service deliver at locality level and offer feedback on developments.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In June 2006 the Children and Young People's Alliance Board supported the formation of Children and Young People Area Networks as a means of providing a framework for integrated service delivery. This was in response to the publication of Every Child Matters and the subsequent passing of the Children Act which heralded the move to integration of services to children, young people and families.

3.2 The formation of 5 Area Networks followed the launch of the inaugural Children and Young People's Plan in the Borough and the partnership driven new strategic planning framework in the form of the Children and Young People's Alliance Board

3.3. The networks were borne of the need, identified locally through consultation, for services which are:

- Needs led
- Responsive
- Accessible
- Community based

3.4 Inevitably, not all services can be targeted on a locality basis. This may be due to their very specialist nature and/or issues of economy of

scale , for example, fostering and adoption services. As a consequence it is recognised that integration at a locality level will function best within a framework that incorporates 3 levels;

- Borough wide
- Widnes/Runcorn
- Locality/Area Network

3.5 Since the formation of the networks, and as integration proceeds, further developments have occurred. These have included:

- Transforming learning via Building Schools for the Future
- Developments in working arrangements with the PCT
- Integrated and Targeted Youth Support

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Integrated service delivery is at the heart of Every Child Matters which seeks to secure the effective 'joining up' of services across the range of professionals working with children, young people and their families, in order to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable children are met, and outcomes for all are significantly improved.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Integration challenges organisations and services working with children, young people and their families to work better together, and to avoid duplication of service delivery. Inevitably the scale of system change that this signals will impact upon service and organisational structures, systems and cultures. The development of joint/integrated commissioning arrangements over time will secure a better use of the resources available.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Integrated service delivery secured through common assessment and commissioning processes and an integrated workforce development strategy will continue to result in improved outcomes for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Enjoying and Achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being are 3 of the 5 ECM outcomes. Integrated service delivery seeks to secure improvements in these outcomes locally.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Tackling health inequalities for children and young people in the Borough is a priority within the Children and Young People's Plan.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Keeping our children and young people safe is a priority within the Plan and is a focus of integration.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Urban renewal is supported through the development of children's centres and extended schools.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Integrated service delivery seeks to reduce risks to children and young people through the effective 'joining up' of services and improved information sharing protocols.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Every Child Matters, and Halton Children and Young People's Plan is inclusive of the needs of all children and young people and seeks to enhance support to the most vulnerable children and their families within the community.

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: 10 Year Children's Plan

WARDS: Borough-wide

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on the implications for Children's Services in Halton of the Governments new 10 Year Children Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 The Board notes the information relating to the 10 Year Children's Plan.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, and it will hopefully signal the beginning of a new way of working to achieve this. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) drew up the Children's Plan, with the help of the advice, thoughts and issues raised by parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves.
- 3.2 A major consultation exercise was carried out by DSCF which identified five main principles to underpin the Children's Plan:
- Parents, not government, bring up children, so the government needs to do more to back parents and family;
 - All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents take them;
 - Children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life;
 - Services need to be shaped by and be responsive to children, not by professional boundaries;
 - It is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later.
- 3.3 The Children's Plan sets out plans for the next ten years under each of the DCSF's seven strategic objectives that will ultimately build a brighter future for children and young people in England. The strategic objectives are;
- Happy and Healthy – Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people
 - Safe and Sound – Safeguard the young and vulnerable
 - Excellence and Equity – Individual progress to achieve world-class standards and close the gap in educational achievement for disadvantaged children

- Leadership and Collaboration – System reform to achieve world-class standards and close the gap in educational achievement for disadvantaged children
- Staying On – Ensuring that young people are participating and achieving their potential to 18 and beyond
- On the Right Track – Keeping children and young people on the path to success
- Making it Happen – Vision for 21st century children's services

3.4 To deliver all of the above a series of system-wide reforms is required regarding the way services for young people work together. For example, by locating services under one roof in the places people visit frequently, therefore the public are more likely to find the help they need; by investing in those who work with children and by building capacity to work across professional boundaries, ensuring that joining up services is about providing a safety net to the vulnerable and unlocking the potential of every child.

3.5 The aim is to build on the ambitions set out in Every Child Matters, and deliver a step change in outcomes. To achieve this DCSF will;

- Expect every school to be uncompromising in its ambitions for achievement;
- Expect Children's Trusts to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people, and to monitor Trusts to see if arrangements need to be strengthened to improve outcomes, e.g. further legislation;
- Publish a Children's Workforce Action Plan in early 2008, covering everyone who works with children and young people, which will strengthen integrated working across all services.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Local authorities including Halton will play a central role in the implementation of the Children's Plan, with particular responsibility in the following areas:

- Securing improvements in both failing and coasting schools;
- Working with local health and other partners, and the voluntary and community sector, building sustainable relationships with them, to ensure each child has the best start in life;
- To improve their children's services in order to achieve each ambition;
- To intervene in any service, be it a school, local agency, etc, where services are not being delivered effectively;
- Where appropriate, decommission services where the service or provision is not improving sufficiently quickly.

4.2 The government is keen that the delivery of policies is strengthened in every area to ensure children and young people receive the support they need. However, historic problems remain:

- Young people experiencing uncoordinated interventions or falling through the gaps in service provision;
- Services not being available due to lack of investment;
- Workforces under-developed.

- 4.3 To help with this a new Youth Task Force has been established to work in conjunction with local authorities to drive improvements in support of vulnerable young people.
- 4.4 Overall, local authorities, such as Halton, are uniquely placed to champion the needs of local communities, to take a strategic view across a range of services and to prioritise spending where it will have the biggest impact. They alone have the mandate and the broad local knowledge to shape supply and demand, and to drive change through Children's Trust partnership arrangements. Services, including schools, must be commissioned in a way that is tailored the community that is being served.
- 4.5 Halton will be expected to be creative in place-shaping; finding new ways to engage hard to reach groups, unlocking the potential of the community and ensuring that local businesses and third sector organisations are part of a rich pattern of local provision.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No other implications have been identified.

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The plan will provide a further national framework for the development of integrated children's services leading on from Every Child Matters. It will give additional focus and scrutiny to the priorities set out for Children and Young People in Halton and will establish new national priorities to complement those agreed at local level

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The plan covers the full range of 0-19 services including a focus on learning and skills and supporting young people into further education so will assist in work towards this council priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

One of the seven strategic objectives set out by DSCF as part of the plan is to secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people. As a national strategic objective it will assist in work towards this council priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton

One of the seven strategic objectives set out by DSCF as part of the plan is 'on the right track' which covers anti-social behaviour of children and young people and youth offending. As a national strategic objective it will assist in work towards this council priority.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Not applicable.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The 10 year Children's Plan provides a core national framework underpinning the work of Children and Young People's service. The successful implementation of the plan at local level will be critical to our future success in improving outcomes for Children and Young People. We are awaiting further guidance from DCSF that will be published during 2008 and at that stage a full risk assessment will be completed.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 The plan targets improvements for the most vulnerable children and in particular reducing inequalities in health and education to improve outcomes for all children. DCSF have completed a thorough Equality Impact Assessment on the Children's Plan and associated guidance.

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

- 9.1 Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures, DCSF, December 2007

REPORT TO:	Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	25 February 2008
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Children and Young People
SUBJECT:	Academy Sites
WARDS:	Norton South/Norton North

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the three site options available for the location of the new specialist Academy in Runcorn and seek the views of members as to which location would offer the best possible opportunity to develop world class education provision and promote social mobility and high aspirations for all young people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board consider and comment on the three site options available for the location of the Academy.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Academies are all ability state schools with a mission to transform education. They are set up in areas where there is a demand for new high quality school places. Most academies aim to serve communities for whom education is crucial to social mobility. It is the role of an academy to raise aspirations for all pupils, stimulating a culture shift in ethos and expectation.
- 3.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 12th December 2007 it was agreed that Halton High could be replaced with a new specialist Academy providing 1050 places for pupils aged 11-16 and 100 places for post-16 provision. Prior to statutory consultation it was agreed that further work be undertaken to identify the most appropriate location for the provision and secure a sponsor.
- 3.3 To date no sponsor has been secured although work is being undertaken to explore the opportunity of a Higher Education Sponsor for the Academy.

4.0 SITE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 In order to assess each of the three sites the Headteacher of Halton High School consulted parents, staff, pupils and Governors on each of the options. In addition, the local authority undertook an appraisal of the

physical characteristics of each site and the transport issues. (Maps will be provided at the Board meeting)

- 4.2 A summary of the appraisal of each site is attached at Appendix A. The details of the appraisal are listed below:

Halton High School (Current Site)

View of Parents, Staff and Governors

- Parents expressed concern that the site would lack appeal to prospective pupils from the wider area of East Runcorn which could mean that the school would not attract 1050 pupils despite new build.
- Parents expressed concern about the health and safety implications of developing the existing site whilst the school continued to operate on the site.
- Staff comment “ if the existing site is so attractive why are our numbers so low”?
- A Primary Headteacher commented that a school located on the current site would suffer the same prejudice that currently restricts parents from selecting Halton High.

Site Appraisal

- Site in principle is suitable for the development of a new educational facility.
- The site is in the ownership of the Council.

Building Issues/Risks

- Current suitability is well below the Building Bulletin 98 Standards as many areas were built to Building Bulletin 82 Standards. All building work supported through BSF must be developed in line with Building Bulletin 98 standards. The current building would require significant remodelling and utilising the existing build could inhibit development opportunities.
- School has experienced two major fires on the current site and significant major vandalism.
- Significant operational and financial challenges associated with the development of the current site including re-housing pupils in temporary accommodation and undertaking remodelling work with pupils on the site.

Transport

- The school is located on a bus route and accessible to students.

Other

- Decline in pupil numbers needs reversing to ensure the financial and curriculum sustainability of the school. Halton High is currently the smallest High school in the authority with the highest surplus places. All authorities must address surplus provision above 25%. The current surplus capacity of Halton High is over 37% . Surplus places in excess of 25% must be addressed through BSF. Failure to attract new pupils will lead to school closure.
- Any location must offer the potential to attract additional pupils.
- School shares sports facilities with Brookvale Recreation Centre. These sports facilities are ageing and would need further future investment.
- Disruption to pupils during the building programme – with some pupils moving several times from current build to mobiles and back to the remodelled facilities once building work had been completed. Concern about the impact all these moves would have on pupil progression and performance.

Wharford Farm Site

Views of Parents, Staff and Governors

Parents, staff and governors supported this option for the following reasons:

- Site would appeal to the whole of East Runcorn.
- Allow the development of a new school with a new identity and provide the opportunity for a new start without the history attached to the current site.
- It would attract students from areas such as Moore and Daresbury along with existing primary schools – addressing the outborough drift .
- Allow a broader social mix and provide greater community cohesion – which would contribute towards improved standards and raise aspirations.

Views of Pupils

- This site is the preferred location of the pupils of Halton High School.

Site Appraisal

- Potential for development of new educational facility.
- Attractive location with option for other developments – offers the potential for creating an inspiring educational environment , in a campus setting complemented by a mix of users.
- Site well located in relation to the new town and the Sandymoor development growth – local catchment population will increase over the next 2-5 years.
- Flood Plan – English Partnership are committed to addressing both existing and forecast water management and flooding issues.
- Site largely owned by English Partnership.

Building Issues

- The site is large with room for extensive development. This allows the opportunity to be creative as scope for future development.
- There is sufficient room to develop new sporting facilities.
- Pupils can continue in their current provision until the new school is developed and opened and then transfer to their new school together.

Transport

- The site is within easy walking distance of current pupils.
- Public transport routes would be developed for site.
- Sandymoor development should see the development of new highway infrastructure - vehicular access through railway viaducts is being investigated.
- English Partnerships are currently looking at the options for improving access to the site.

Other

- Location of the site adjacent to the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus offers a unique opportunity to create an exciting link-up between the science industry, higher education facilities (which have a presence on Daresbury SIC) and secondary education provision. Such collaboration will help open the door for young people to see the practical and employment.

Halton Sports Site

Views of Parents, Staff and Governors

- This site was viewed as the least attractive.
- Safety concerns were expressed due to proximity to motorway and proposed developments.
- Concern about the loss or relocation of current widely used sporting facilities located on the site.

Site Appraisal

- Sports ground owned by Halton Borough Council.
- Site in principle is suitable for the development of a new educational facility.
- Development of the site would require re-location of sporting facilities to another site.
- Mature ancient protected woodland on substantial area of the site.

Building Issues

- The developable area of the site is constrained.
- Pupils can continue in their current provision until the new school is developed and opened and all move together.

Transport

- Traffic remediation measures would be required to address the impact of the traffic on the adjoining expressway roundabout.
- A secondary emergency access would be needed.
- A traffic impact assessment would be required.

Other

- This is a very popular adult recreation facility.
- Significant investment has been made in the current pitch.
- Facilities would need to be relocated.
- The noise levels from the motorway appear excessive.

5.0 SUMMARY

5.1 As the Academy will replace Halton High its primary aim is to improve the education and life chances for those pupils. It will however also need to be sustainable. It will need to be innovative in its design and built to high environmental standards. Through its location, design and the development of the curriculum it will need to be able to raise expectations and be inspirational.

5.2 On balance having considered all the information available at this time it would appear that Wharford Farm is, therefore, the most suitable location for the development of a new specialist academy.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Failure to attract pupils to the new Academy will impact on its future financial and curriculum viability. Once a Sponsor has been secured their views on the location of the Academy would need to be considered.

6.2 Admission arrangements for the Academy would have to be agreed with the DCSF and be in line with the School Admission Code of Practice.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The aim of the Academy is to transform education for pupils in the most disadvantaged communities.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Through their specialism and sponsorship links Academies aim to improve the employment opportunities and skills of the most disadvantaged pupils. They aim to break the cycle of educational underachievement and worklessness.

The Academy will provide a modern curriculum in a new environment to provide the skills and qualifications young people will need in 21st century global economy.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

Improved sporting facilities will be provided through the new Academy.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The development of a new school will allow the highest standards for the personal safety of pupils.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Academies are located in disadvantaged areas, they aim to provide facilities for both pupils and the wider community and enhance local provision through their sponsorship and support.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 Failure to secure the most appropriate site will impact on the Academies ability to attract sufficient pupils, reduce the level of pupils leaving the borough to access schools in other authorities, prevent the school from being financially viable, increase the level of surplus places, reduce the authorities ability to attract a sponsor and could be disruptive to pupils.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 Academies are fully inclusive all ability schools. The provision of an Academy within Runcorn increases the diversity of secondary school provision. The Academy will offer facilities comparable to the best available in the maintained sector.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Academies, Trust and Higher Education Prospectus – DCSF and Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills	Business Planning and Resources 3 rd Floor Grosvenor House Runcorn	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director - CYPD
Site Appraisals	As above	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director
School Response to consultation	As above	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director
Academy briefing	Halton Borough Council Internet/Intranet – BSF Site	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director

SUMMARY OF SITE ISSUES

KEY ISSUES	HALTON HIGH SCHOOL (CURRENT SITE)	WHARFORD FARM SITE	HALTON SPORTS SITE
Support from Young People		√	
Support from Governors, Parents and Staff		√	
Site Capacity for Development	√	√	√
Impact on Learning	X*1	√*2	
Sustainability (pupil numbers)		√	
Access – walking distance, public transport and vehicular access	√	√*3	√
Safety Issues	X*4		X*5

Notes

- *1 - disruption to pupils as will need to decant into mobiles and remain on site during building development work
- *2 - Links to Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus and benefit of broader social mix on pupil performance
- *3 - Further development work would be needed to improve public and vehicular access
- *4 – previous arson and vandalism problems
- *5 – noise pollution from motorway

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Comments, Complaints and Compliments to Child Care Services

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on the Directorate's management of complaints and compliments relating to social care services during 2006/7.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 The Board notes the information relating to social care complaints for 2006-07

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The social care complaints system is regulated by statutory framework and this report forms part of the requirement of the framework. In September 2006 revised regulations and procedures for the handling of complaints were implemented in England as a result of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Health & Social Care (Community Health & Standards) Act 2003.
- 3.2 The arrival of these regulations coincided with structural changes following the disaggregation of Policy and Support services between Children & Young People's Directorate and Health & Community. Efforts are being made to introduce consistency in practice and procedure, making processes simpler to understand for staff and service users in respect of all complaints and appeals processes across the C&YP Directorate. There are also advantages for management, in gaining a fuller picture of performance across the Directorate's Services.
- 3.3 In 2006 "Working Together" introduced new guidance for all who work with children. This requires any complaints, which relate to allegations against people who work with children to be managed under the LADO procedures.
- 3.4 In June 2007 the Department of Health issued a consultation document which proposes that complaints procedures relating to NHS organisations and local authority social care services for adults be aligned to reduce confusion amongst people. There has been some debate over the inclusion of Children's complaints within this proposed structure. There is some concern

that the focus on Children's complaints may be lost under the proposals. There is also concern that any new process should include the present safeguards enabling children to complain in their own right with access to advocacy and an independent person monitoring the independent investigation.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Complaints and compliments provide the Council with practical guidance on the effectiveness of policies. Practice and procedure may be changed as a result of the outcome of a complaint investigation. Revised guidance to staff relating to complaints/appeals procedures (including Social Care) across the Directorate is about to be issued.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The following learning and service improvements resulted from complaints received during the year.

- Review of practice relating to type of information taken as a referral in relation to open cases;
- Review of policy in relation to destruction of staff files including agency staff;
- Review of procedures relating to logging of phone calls with particular reference to NSPCC guidelines;
- Importance of adhering to timescales;
- In responses to complainants, avoid jargon, use plain English and always give contact details;
- To establish guidance and associated training in relation to criteria for assessment for Direct Payments;
- To review existing policy and guidance relating to eligibility criteria as it applies to the Direct Payments Scheme;
- Pathway Plan to be reviewed on a monthly basis with clear targets established to determine readiness for independent living;
- Plans for a specialist fostering service to be under-pinned by effective training and support arrangements;
- Re-wording of policy relating to Residence Order Allowance.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The learning taken from the complaints systems is fed into the planning and continuous service development with Children's Services to ensure that we are able to meet the priorities set in the Children and Young People Plan.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Not applicable.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Not applicable.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Not applicable.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Not applicable.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Listening to what children, young people, their parents, carers and close relatives have to say about our services is a most valuable form of performance monitoring. Not processing and responding to such information would put the Council at risk of failing to carry out its duties in a positive and professional manner.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Under the new guidelines Local Authorities are required to ask complainants for information, where possible and appropriate, about their ethnic origin, gender, age and disability. How we listen and respond to young people will be a key focus in our forthcoming JAR.

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

None

Appendix 1

Statistical Information 2006-07: Social Care Complaints

Stage 1 Complaints

The table below gives a breakdown of the service areas from which comments and complaints at Stage 1 came in 2006/7 are as follows:

Service Area	2006-07			2005-06		
	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total
Children in Need	10	7	17	19	5	24
Children in Care	7	1	8	19	8	27
Safeguarding	1	0	1	1		1
Children with Disabilities						
Total	18	8	26	39	13	52

In 2004/5 10% (5) of the complainants were children and young people, in 2005/6 the figures were 29% (15). By 2006/7 the proportion had increased slightly to 31%(9). In addition the Commissioning Service dealt with 2 complaints in 2006/7 (9 in 2005/6), which related to the care of children and young people.

Complaints covered the following areas:

Issues raised by children and young people:

(An asterisk indicates Barnardo's supported the complainant.)

- * Young person with concerns about: contract of care and signing forms relating to her baby at time when adoption was a possible option for the child / having the same social worker as her baby/ fear that she may be moved on to a different placement family.

Action arising: Explanation given of need for paperwork to be prepared in advance / SW from Young People's Team allocated to young person / explanation given of the plans for young person to progress towards independence which would mean a change in placement.

- * Issues around wanting a change of SW, young person wanting more independence.

Action arising: Explanation given of the Council's responsibilities towards children aged under 16. Complainant's role in meetings discussed and meetings will be made less formal. Assurance given that young person would be able to maintain contact with former carers.

- * Young person unhappy that CSW, who has worked with complainant and siblings for 9 years, has to move on.

Action arising: Letter of explanation sent, followed up by a meeting with young person.

- * Young person wishing to remain in current placement, which he understood he could do until he reached 18 years. Did not understand that his needs were being jeopardised because of a resource issue.

Action arising: Placement reviewed and complainant was satisfied with outcome.

- The failure of HBC to support a young person's wish to move into independent living now, rather than later.

Action arising: Pathway Plan to be reviewed on a monthly basis with clear targets established to determine complainant's readiness for independent living.

- Invasion of 16 year-old's privacy (parent contacted ref. access to medical records).
Action arising: To ensure that social work practice is more responsive to young adults.
- Child wanting move from residential care to foster care.
Action arising: Child to continue to be fully involved with care planning process.

Issues raised by parents, adult carers:

Issues around Direct Payments in respect of the care of children with disabilities;

- Dissatisfaction with the content of a social worker's report for court and action taken by the SW when monitoring contact sessions;
- Dissatisfaction with support offered by HBC to carers who have taken out Residence Orders, in particular ineligibility for Residence Order Allowance in respect of their grandchildren;
- Dissatisfaction with action taken by HBC in respect of care of complainant's daughter;
- Dissatisfaction with training / preparation offered to foster parents when caring for a young person with challenging behaviour;
- Dissatisfaction with social work support offered to complainant's family.

Stage 2 Complaints

Service Area	2006-07			2005-06		
	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total
Children in Need	1	3	4		1	1
Children in Care		1	1		2	2
Safeguarding						
Children with Disabilities		2	2		1	1
Total	1	6	7		4	4

Average cost per complaint 06/07- £1400 (Investigator and Independent Person)

Stage 3 Complaints

Service Area	2006-07			2005-06		
	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total	Within timescale	Outside timescale	Total
Children in Need		1	1		1	1
Children in Care		1	1			
Safeguarding / Conference & Reviewing						
Children with Disabilities		3	3			
Total		5	5		1	1

Average cost per complaint 06/07- £1300 (3 panellists, attendance of Investigator and Independent Person, room hire and hospitality).

Ombudsman

Service Area	2006/7	2005/6
Children in Need	1	2
Children in Care	1	0
Safeguarding	0	0
Children with Disabilities	0	0
Total	2	2

There were two complaints dealt with by the Ombudsman's office in 2006/7: One related to a complaint, which originated with the Council in 2004/5 and the other originated with the Council in 2005/6. In both instances, the Ombudsman recorded her findings as: *No or insufficient evidence of maladministration.*

Litigation

A complaint which originated with the Council in 2003/4 has recently been the subject of judicial review.

Outcomes in 2006/7

Service Area	Upheld	Partially	Not upheld
Children in Need	6	2	10
Children in Care	3	0	4
Safeguarding	0	0	1
Children with Disabilities			

Compliments

Service Area	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Children in Need	28	11	2
Children in Care	10	18	16
Quality Assurance	0	2	
Children with Disabilities			4
Total	38	31	22

These include relaying positive remarks made by service users, carers, parents and counsel.

In 2006/7 compliments covered such areas as:

- Supporting families, carers during crises, e.g. a young person permanently excluded from school;
- Establishing routines within a family;
- Support given to parents throughout their son's childhood (transition to Adult Services);
- Information, support and professionalism throughout an adoption process;
- Care and support given to child whilst long-term foster carers were on holiday;
- *"I enjoy my relationship with my social worker, she takes me out and listens to what I say."*
- *"...support...exceptional...he had given the impression that they were the only family on his case-load";*
- *"...she helped raise the young person's self esteem and encouraged positive contact with her family"*
- Quality of report provided for LAC review.

REPORT TO: Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports Quarter 3 to 31 December 2008

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 3rd quarter performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for:

- Specialist Services
- Universal & Learning Services
- Community Services
- Business Planning & Resources

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the 3rd quarter 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.**

3.0 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.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
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QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People
SERVICE: Business Planning & Resources
PERIOD: Quarter 3 to period-end 31 December 2007.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Business Planning & Resources Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2007. It describes key developments and progress against key objectives and performance indicators for the service.

The way in which traffic lights symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 4

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Revised Priorities

There is a formal process for setting priorities for Children's Services at the Autumn Strategic Engagement Meeting with Government Office North West (GONW) and their field force. This meeting was held on the 26th November 2007 and agreed eight priorities to focus the work of the Children and Young People Alliance Board for the next year. These eight are subset of the nineteen priorities included in the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan published in June and will be the subject of additional scrutiny. Business Planning and Resources does not have the lead for any of the eight priorities, however a number of cross-cutting themes were identified as significant risks or enablers that are within the remit of the Department.

2.2 Building Schools for the Future

The second round of pre-statutory consultation was completed in December 2007. The recommendations of the Cross Party Members Advisory Group were agreed by the Executive Board at the meeting on 12th December and endorsed by Full Council the same day. Permission has now been granted to undertake statutory consultation in February 2008 on the proposal to expand Wade Deacon High School to provide places for 1500 11-16 pupils and close Fairfield High School due to the decline in pupil numbers. It was also agreed that statutory consultation could commence in Summer 2008 on the proposal to amalgamate the Grange Comprehensive, Grange Junior, Grange Infant and the Grange Nursery and establish an All Through Trust school providing places for 0-16 years old. In addition, once a sponsor has been secured to consult on

the closure of Halton High school and the establishment of an Academy to replace it. All other secondary proposals were agreed.

2.3 Primary Capital Programme

Department for Children, Schools and Families released guidance for the Primary Capital Programme on 7th December 2007. The programme will have a major impact on one of our Key Strategic Priorities of Transforming Learning. The process of briefing key stakeholders has begun and will continue during 2008.

2.4 ICT Projects

There are a number of major ICT projects that are progressing well. An eCAF pilot is testing out the electronic CAF form at six locations covering a variety of settings including Schools, Children's Centres, PCT and a voluntary agency. The ContactPoint project is still in the technical stage of development focusing on Halton's case management systems and all milestones for the project have been achieved. The Computers for Schools Project is designed to put computers and internet access into the homes of pupils who would otherwise not have access. It is funded for KS3 and KS4 pupils living in the most deprived areas and Halton has received a grant to fund the project.

2.5 Alliance Board

An Alliance Board away day was held in December to look at the way in which the Board operates and start to develop proposals for its transformation to the Children's Trust. An Action Plan was put together based on the outcomes from the day and it was agreed to set up a small task group to come up with recommendations for the future of the Board and the implementation of the Children's Trust arrangements.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 10 Year Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures

The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, and it will hopefully signal the beginning of a new way of working to achieve this. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) drew up the Children's Plan, with the help of the advice, thoughts and issues raised by parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves.

It sets out plans for the next ten years under each of the DCSF's strategic objectives that will ultimately build a brighter future for children and young people in England. It sets out goals for what can be and should be achieved by 2020 and the DCSF will consult widely over the next year on whether these goals represent the right national ambitions.

The Plan requires LA's to champion the needs of local communities, to take a strategic view across a range of services and to prioritise spending

where it will have the biggest impact. They should shape supply and demand, and drive change through Children's Trust partnership arrangements. Services, including schools, must be commissioned in a way that is tailored to our community.

3.2 ICT Projects

Virtual Learning Platform

As outlined in the DCFS e-strategy a key objective is for every school learner in England to have access to a personalised online learning space (Learning Platform) with the potential to support e-portfolios. This will require schools to have access to a platform that conforms to the requirements specified by Becta by August 2008. All schools involved will have received training in the use of the Platform system allowing them to update their individual school/curriculum areas. Various factors have been tested including the support that teachers/schools may need for successful implementation of the Platform.

From April 2008 each school in the borough will be given the opportunity to adopt the recommended platform and collaborate with each other. We have scheduled that the training will begin to take place in the summer term 2008. Training for the primary sector will be structured and these will take place over five phases with ten schools being trained in each phase (six schools already trained through the pilot). The primary schools will have the option/preference for which phase they would like to take part in. Full support and further training will be provided by the Learning Platform Team.

CareFirst 6

A Business Process Exercise is currently underway and will take approximately 6 months for the CareFirst 6 Project. This involves looking at all business processes including CareFirst recording processes within all Children's Social Care Teams.

CareFirst 6 Phase 1 implementation is currently underway, this involves installing the Database Servers and the infrastructure for CareFirst 6 within ICT Services. From April 2008 we will begin looking at the System Setup for CareFirst 6. Phase 2 is to ensure that the CareFirst 6 Application works correctly and that users are identified, this will take approximately 6-9 months. Phase 3 consists of the outcome of the BPR exercise and roll out across all Children's Social Care Teams.

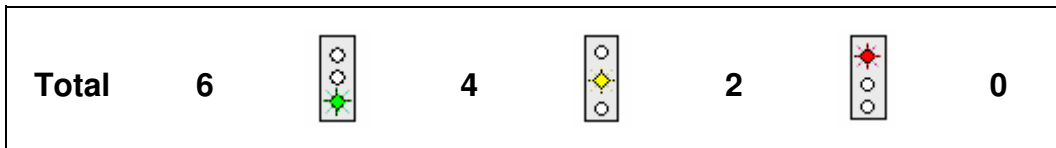
3.3 Workforce Development

A Children's Workforce Development Strategy is due to be completed and sent out for consultation during the next quarter. This will be a key document in the development of an integrated workforce for children's services as part of the Children's Trust arrangements. There are currently two pilots running covering Children with Disabilities and Integrated Youth Support and the learning from the pilots will inform the implementation of the Strategy.

3.4 Joint Area Review

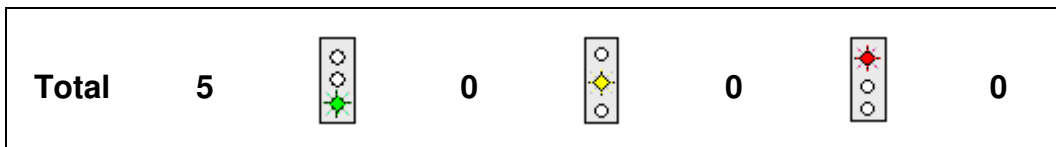
Halton’s Joint Area Review will take place during Quarter 4, starting with the submission of Case Tracking list on 4th January and the set up meeting with the Lead Inspector on the 18th January. Analysis week will take place from the 25th to the 29th February when case files and the document submission will be scrutinised by the Inspectors to form the lines of enquiry that will be followed up during the fieldwork. The fieldwork phase will run from Monday 31st March to Friday 11th April with initial feedback received at the end of the fieldwork. Preparations for the JAR have been going on for some time and will intensify during the next quarter in the lead up to the analysis week and the fieldwork phase.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES



Further details of progress against each Key Objective are available in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

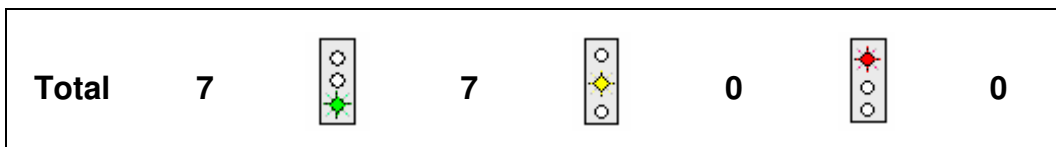


No “Other” objectives have been reported this quarter.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




No service review information to report this quarter.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Progress against all 7 Key Performance Indicators is on track to meet their target. Further details of progress against each Key Performance Indicator are available in Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	9		0		0		0
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No "Other" performance indicators have been reported this quarter.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2007-08 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.




9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2006/07 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 in quarters 2 and 4.

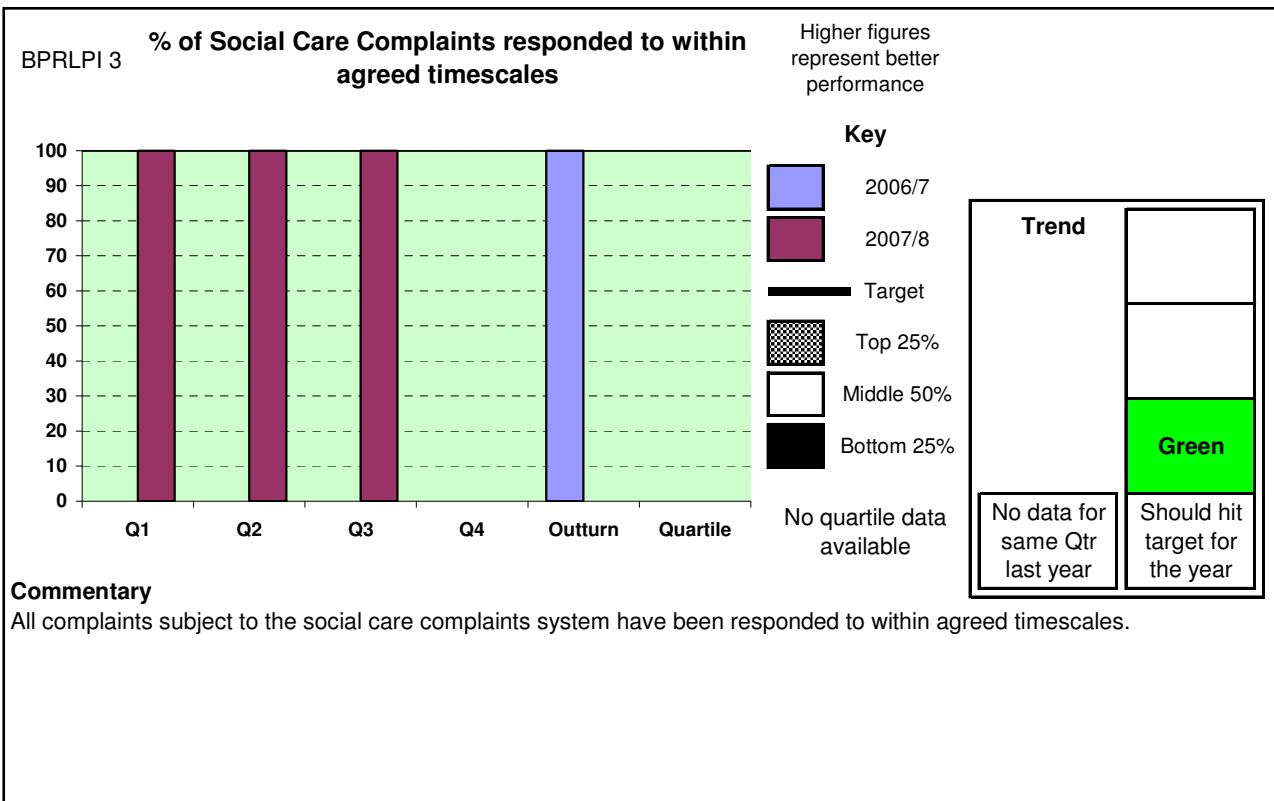
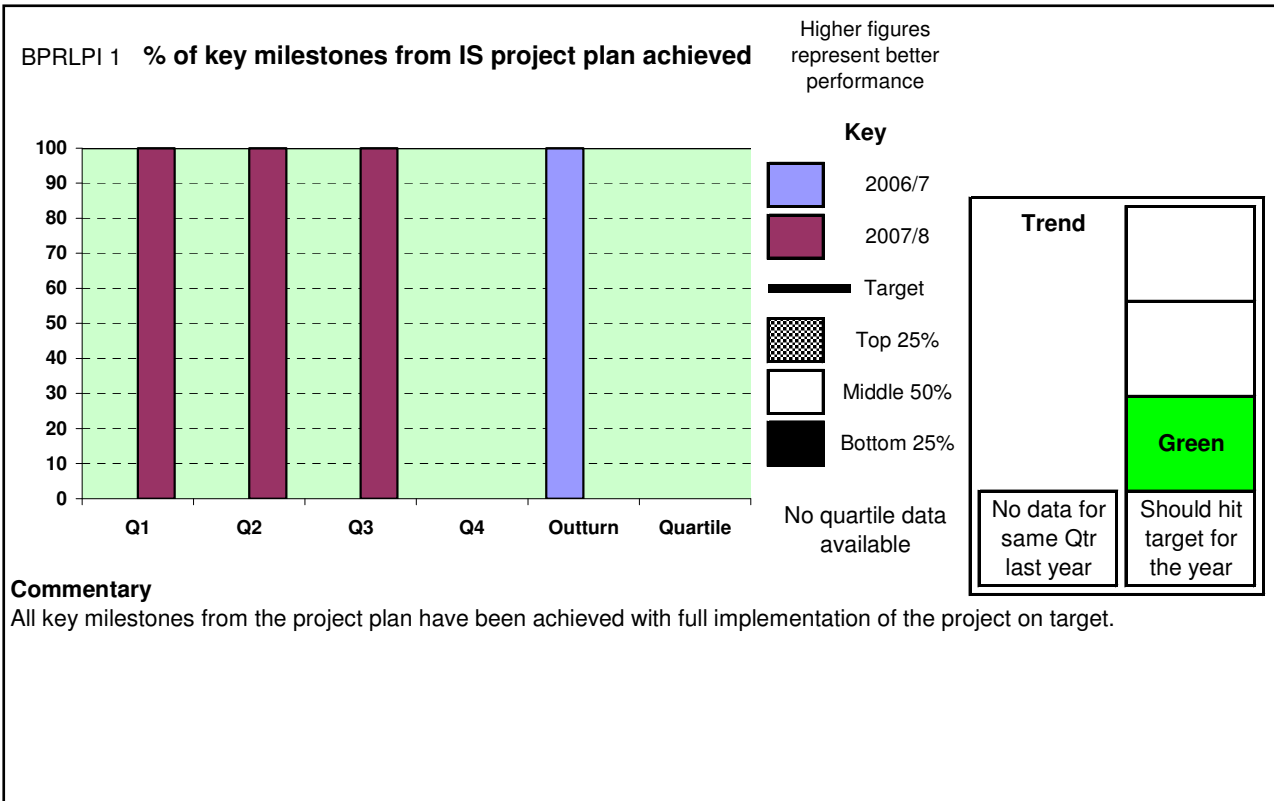
10.0 APPENDICES

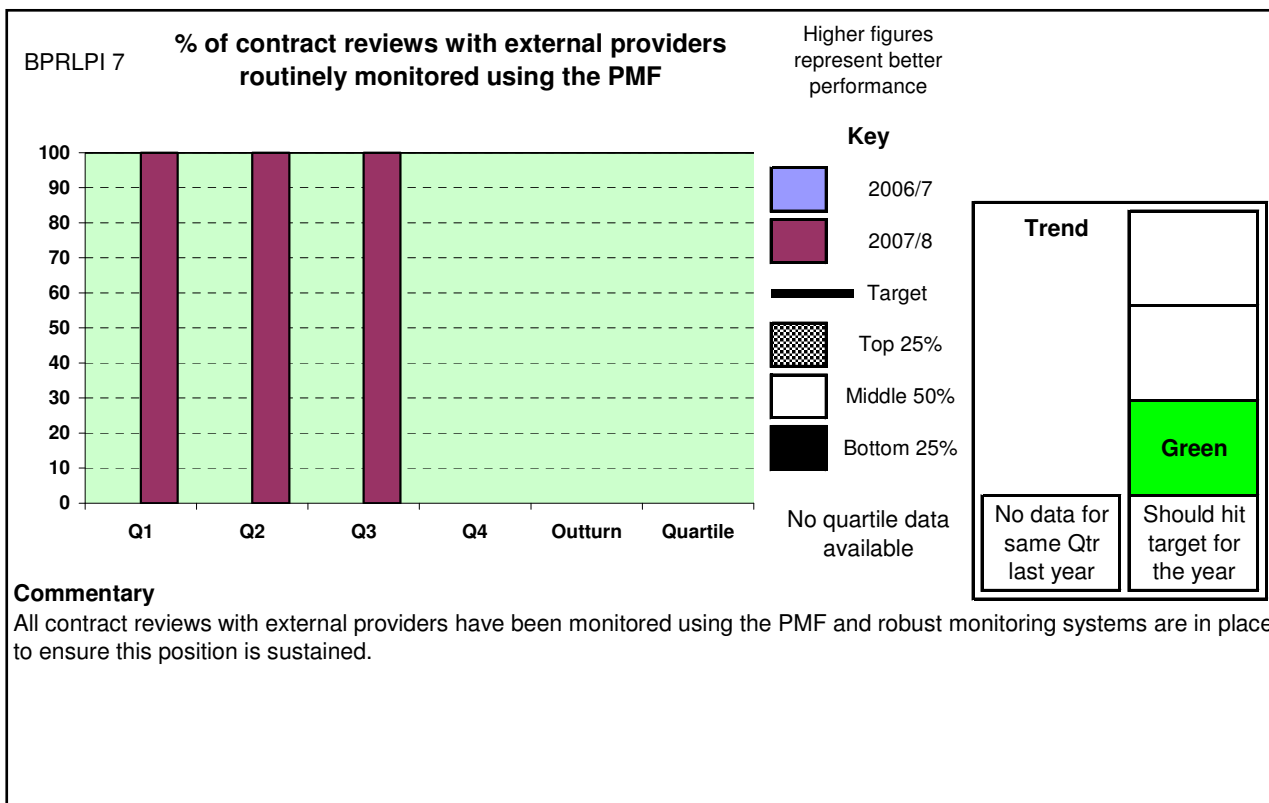
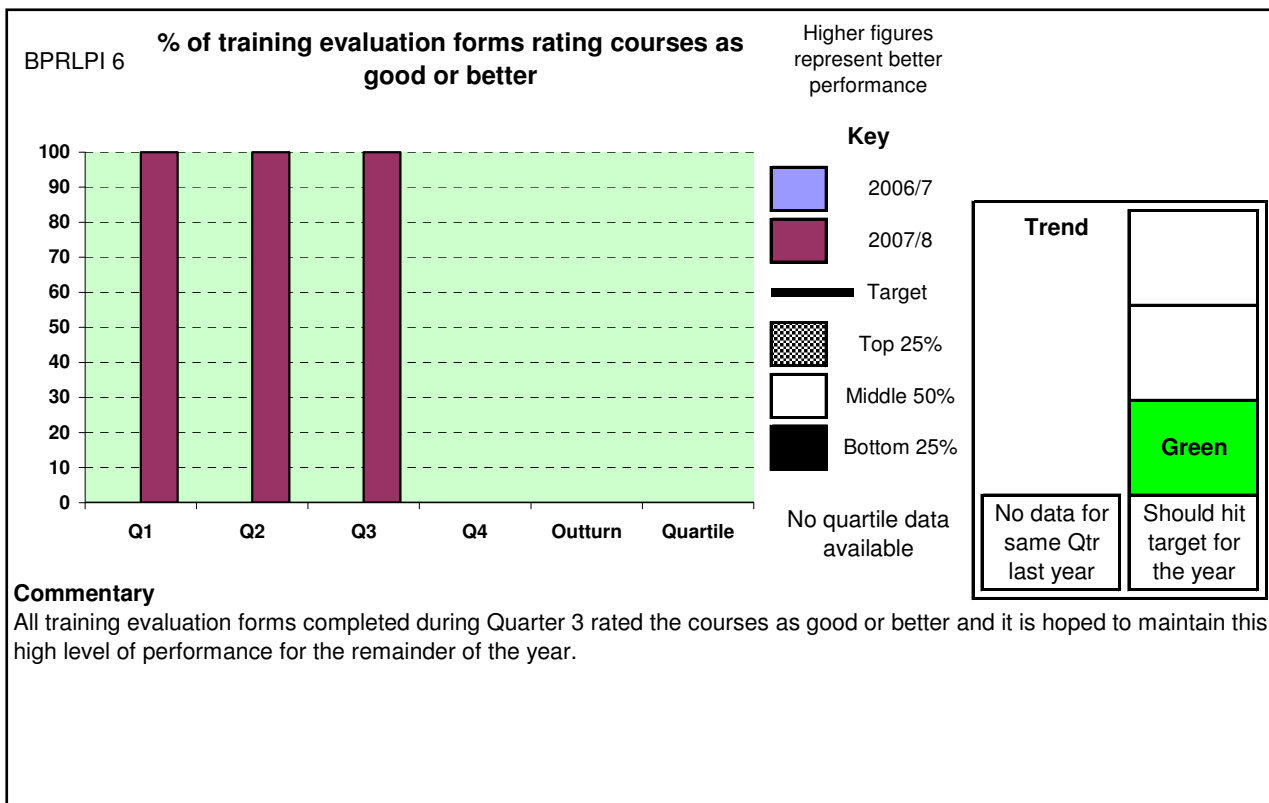
Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones
 Appendix 2 -Progress against Key Performance Indicators
 Appendix 3- Financial Statement
 Appendix 4- Explanation of traffic light symbols

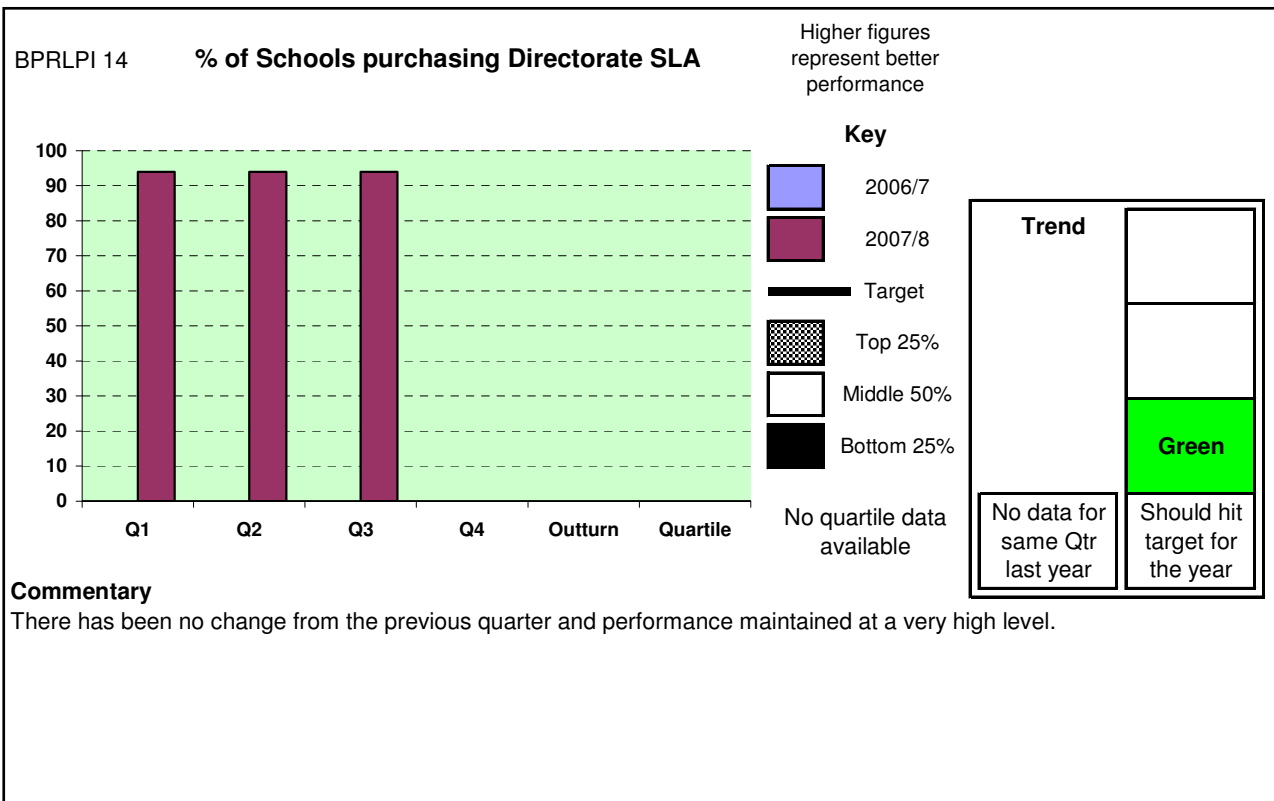
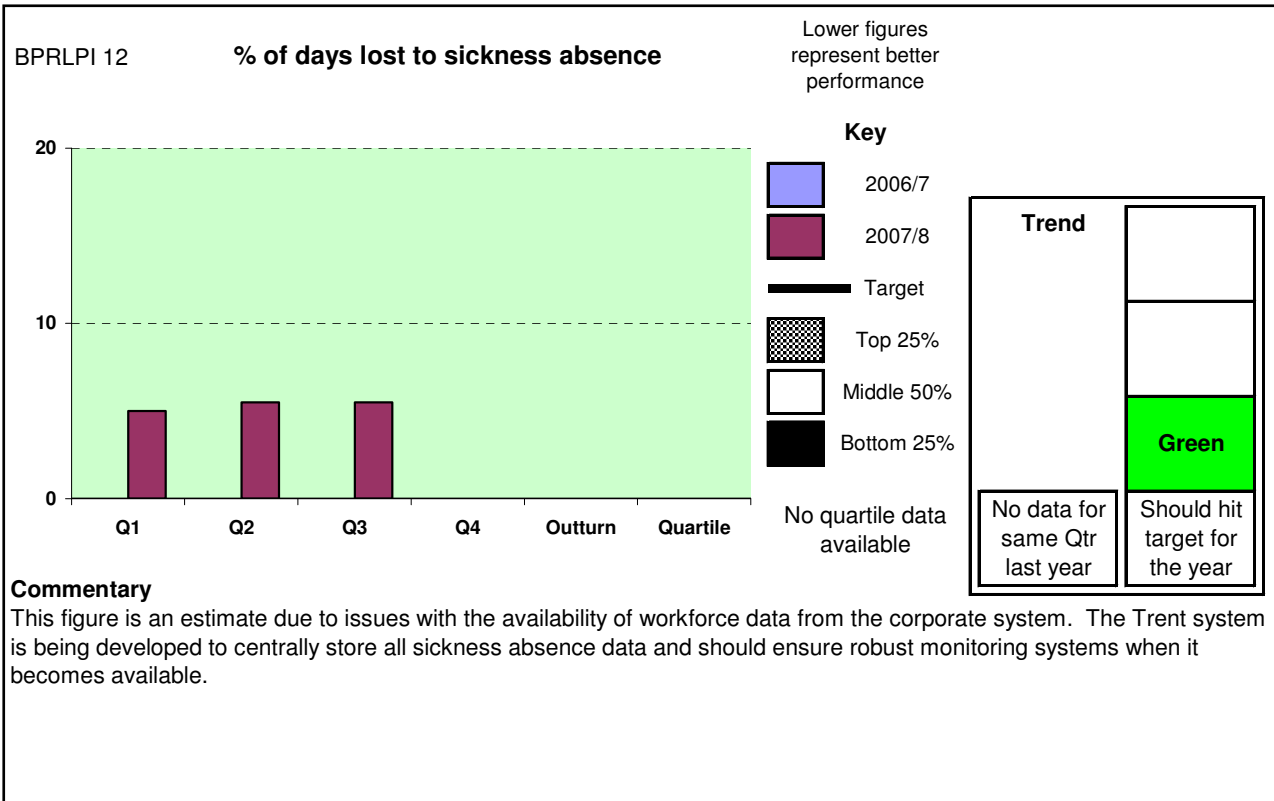
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
BPR 1	To enable the process of School Re-organisation including the development of the BSF programme	Review progress in the light of new pupil number data by February 2008 Implement second phase of secondary rationalisation programme by March 2008		Second phase of consultation on secondary re-organisation completed in December 2007. Statutory consultation scheduled for February/June 2008. Outline briefing on Primary Capital Strategy (PCP) provided for Primary Headteachers in November 2007. National launch of PCP attended
BPR 2	To deploy resources effectively and efficiently	Review arrangement for staffing, funded through grant by January 2008 Review Special Schools and SEN funding formula by March 2008 Implement Year 3 Gershon Efficiency targets from Apr 2007		Grant funding levels confirmed for 2008/2009. Staffing post funded from grant funding confirmed in December 2007. Revised Special Schools funding Formula agreed. Sub group of the School Forum established to complete the review of special unit funding and mainsteam SEN funding. Three meetings held with final meeting scheduled in January 2008. On track to achieve the Gershon efficiency targets for 2007/2008
BPR 5	To recruit and retain a fully staffed, trained and motivated workforce	Reduce the level of staff turnover by March 2008 Provide training to meet requirements highlighted in Personal Action Plans		A survey of social care staff has been completed to identify recruitment and retention issues and some potential solutions. However there are still difficulties recruiting to front-line posts. The results of the Job Evaluation process have been released and are like to have an impact on staff turnover.

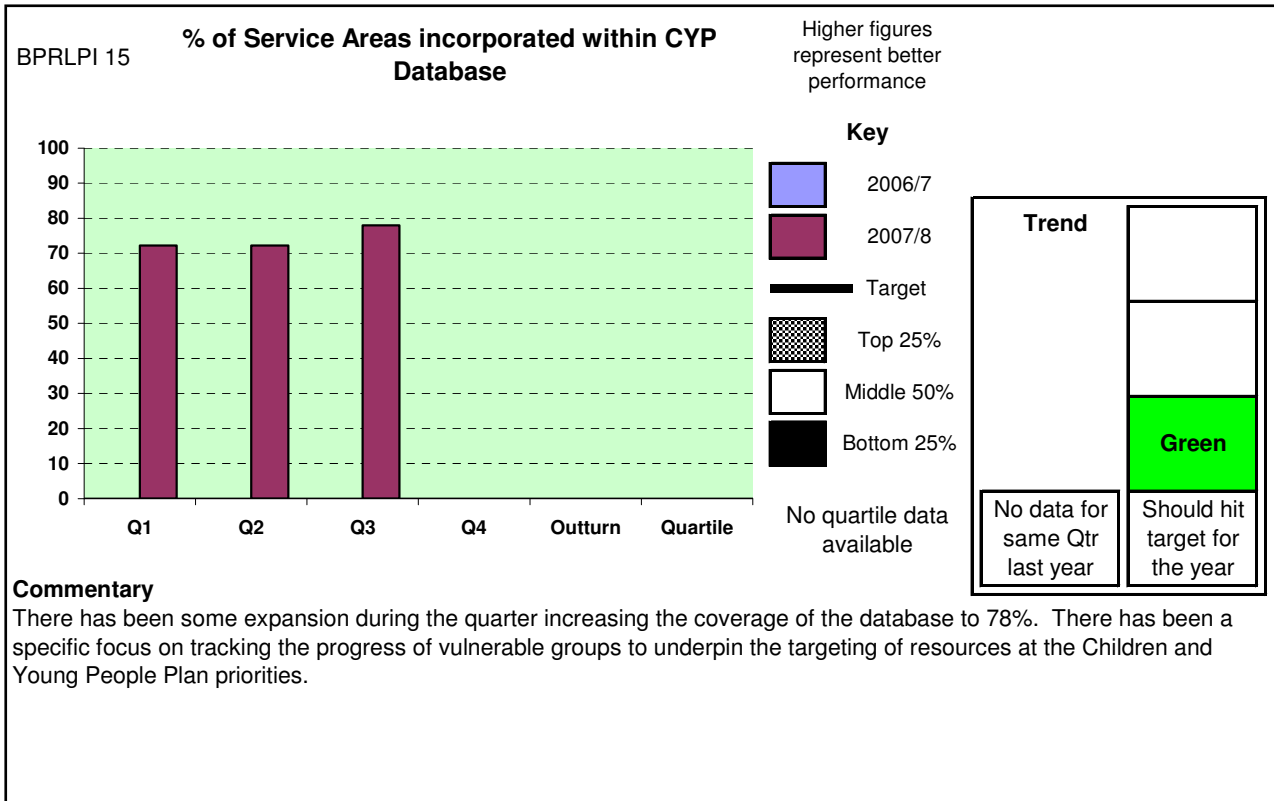
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				The EDR form has been developed to include key tasks linked to team plans and training identified to support these tasks. A training database has been established to collate PAP's and match requests with available courses
BPR 7	To develop the commissioning function to efficiently and effectively commission and contract services	Commence implementation of new joint commissioning framework by Sept 2007		The Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework has been through the approval process and implementation started in September.
BPR 8	To meet new ICT requirements and lead new projects	Lead the IS index project and ensure DCSF timescales are met		<p>The three streams of IS developments – ContactPoint – ECAF and Service Directory are running in line with project dates and DCSF timescales.</p> <p>CareFirst 6 Phase 1 implementation is currently underway, this involves installing the Database Servers and the infrastructure for CareFirst 6 within ICT Services.</p>
BPR 10	To develop a communication strategy for the Directorate	<p>Complete implementation of Parent Direct by Sept 2007</p> <p>Directorate Communication Strategy developed by Sept 2007</p>		<p>The Corporate Communication Strategy has still to be finalised and approved. As soon as its available for CYP we will construct the CYP Communication Action Plan.</p> <p>In the meantime a new editorial process for the Children & Young People's Directorate has been introduced to record all external and internal communication printed and distributed.</p>

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				The process will ensure that all communications consistently follow Corporate / CYP branding. It will also aim to avoid duplication and highlight areas overlooked or poorly communicated









BUSINESS, PLANNING & RESOURCES**Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2007**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	2,380	1,785	1,801	(16)	1,801
Premises Support	574	65	65	0	65
Other Premises	9	7	3	4	4
Supplies & Services	590	443	418	25	467
School / College	1,284	595	576	19	593
Transport					
Transport	30	23	35	(12)	35
Support Service	833	0	0	0	0
Recharges					
Transport Support	163	0	0	0	0
Service Recharges					
Asset Charges	5,254	0	0	0	0
Standards Fund	462	346	346	0	346
School Contingency	721	0	0	0	0
SEN Contingency	51	0	0	0	0
SSA's Contingency	136	0	0	0	0
NQT Contingency	151	0	0	0	0
Teachers Pensions	565	423	389	34	389
Redundancies	318	239	210	29	210
Non Delegated	62	22	22	0	22
Building Schools for Future	600	55	55	0	55
Total Expenditure	14,183	4,003	3,920	83	3,987
<i>Income</i>					
Dedicated Schools Grant	-2,525	-1,894	-1,894	0	-1,894
Reimbursements	-10	-8	-12	4	-12
School SLA Income	-289	-217	-301	84	-301
Building Schools For Future	-300	-300	-300	0	-300
Total Income	-3,124	-2,419	-2,507	88	-2,507
Net Expenditure	11,059	1,584	1,413	171	1,480

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile.

Pre LGR Teachers Pension Gratuity Payments are paid monthly to Cheshire County Council and current budget projections highlight an estimated small budget saving in this area.

Additional income has been received throughout the financial year from Schools SLA Income as a result of ad hoc services being provided to Schools.

The contingency budget for School's, Special Education Needs (SEN), Special Support Assistant's (SSA's) and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT's) are allocated at different stages throughout the year.

At this stage it is anticipated that overall revenue spending will be in line with the Departmental budget by the end of the financial year.

SPENDING ON EXTERNAL OR GRANT FUNDED ITEMS**As at 31st December 2007**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Sure Start Children's Centre – Ditton	2,010	1,508	1,019	489	1,019
Children's Centre – Brookvale	392	294	215	79	215
Children's Centre – Halton Lodge	449	336	281	55	281
Children's Centre – Halton Brook	392	294	196	98	196
Children's Centre – Kingsway	485	363	292	71	292
Children's Centre – Warrington Road	473	354	197	157	197
Children's Centre - OLOPS	20	15	35	(20)	35
Children's Centre - Palacefields	15	11	3	8	3
Children's Centre – Windmill Hill	21	16	24	(8)	24
Contracts/ SLA's	21	16	11	5	11
	1,084	813	356	457	356
Total Sure Start Grant	5,362	4,020	2,629	1,391	2,629

Local Strategic Partnership	1,525	1,143	583	560	583
Total External / Grant Funded Items	6,887	5,163	3,212	1,951	3,212

Comments on the above figures:

External funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile in both main areas.

General Sure Start Grant still has a number of budget areas which are yet to be allocated, but historically expenditure increases in the final quarter of the financial year. The current budget underspend against budget profile is due to a number of staff vacancies during the financial year. Senior management are currently assessing the grant conditions in order to fully utilise the grant by the financial year end.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in respect of all LSP projects and any areas of concern are dealt with throughout the year by the LSP support team and individual project managers. Some variances against the budget are expected, as the LSP have deliberately over-programmed in order to ensure that the full allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant is spent during the year.

1.0 SPENDING ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

As at 31st December 2007




	2007/08 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend to Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Special Schools – Cavendish / Brookfields	2,141	1,606	220	1,921
School Capital Repairs	951	713	791	160
Castlefields Children's Centre	627	470	0	627
Runcorn All Saints Children's Centre	400	300	21	379
The Holy Spirit Children's Centre	355	266	322	33
All Saints Upton Children's Centre	207	155	185	22
Access Initiative	179	134	22	157
Contingency Budget	132	99	12	120
Farnworth Link Building	45	34	0	45
Halebank Replacement Mobile	12	9	12	0
Warrington Road Children's Centre	40	30	39	1
The Bridge (Astmoor) Alterations	28	21	28	0
The Grange Comp – Drama Facilities	22	17	9	13
The Bankfield – Kitchen / Dining Extension	22	17	22	0
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Moorfield Primary – 2 Class Extension	11	8	11	0
Palacefields Children's Centre	11	8	15	(4)
Wade Deacon – Refurb Science Labs	8	6	7	1
Asset Management Data	5	4	0	5
Halton High Tech – Phase 2	5	4	5	0
Total Expenditure	5,216	3,912	1,721	3,495

Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes which have little actual spend up to the end of quarter 3, most notably the Cavendish and Brookfields scheme and the two Children's Centre schemes at Castlefields and Runcorn All Saints.

It is important that these projects get underway as soon as possible, in order to ensure that the relevant capital allocations are fully utilised by the year-end.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target is on course to be achieved</u>.</p>
<u>Amber</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>unclear</u> at this stage, due to a lack of information or a key milestone date being missed, <u>whether the objective will be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</p>

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People
SERVICE: Community Services
PERIOD: Quarter 3 to period-end 31 December 2007.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Community Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2007. It describes key developments and progress against key objectives and performance indicators for the service.

The way in which traffic lights symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 4.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Revised Priorities

There is a formal process for setting priorities for Children's Services at the Autumn Strategic Engagement Meeting with Government Office North West (GONW) and their field force. This meeting was held on the 26th November 2007 and agreed eight priorities to focus the work of the Children and Young People Alliance Board for the next year. These eight are subset of the nineteen priorities included in the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan published in June and will be the subject of additional scrutiny. Community Services has the lead on two of the eight priorities;

- BH1 Reducing Health Inequalities
- EA2 Improve attendance at school of all children

2.2 SEN Formula Funding Review

A representative group of primary and secondary Heads have met to debate and discuss a variety of formula funding models. The proposals will be presented to Schools Forum during the Spring Term, if agreed, implementation of the new formula will be in the new financial year (2008-9). Review of funding for Special Schools is completed and agreed, ready for implementation in the new financial year.

2.3 Early Years

Providers across the private, voluntary and maintained sectors have been surveyed for information for the Early Years census of 3 and 4 year old children accessing their early years education entitlement. The census will take place in January. Currently, it is assessed that 95% of 3 and 4 year olds are taking their places up. Representation from the private and voluntary sector is being sought to join the School Forum. The Forum will

be undertaking a review of the implications of the new funding formula for early education places. A bid for funding to support early years practitioners who have achieved Early Years Professional Status has been successful. The funding will support continuous professional development.

2.4 Play

A bid for Big Lottery funding to support Play projects has been successful. The funding of over £387,000 will be used to develop new play facilities at Spike Island; expand the existing play area at Runcorn Town Hall; provide inclusive play equipment for children and young people with disabilities; and, open new play facilities at children's centres for 5- 13 year olds. Additionally a review of the Play Service has been commissioned to inform its integration within the wider extended services agenda.

2.5 Children's Centres

Confirmation of the 3rd programme for Children's Centres has been received. Halton will receive a capital allocation of £521,866 for the development of 2 new children's centres 2008-2011. The criteria for the programme require that centres are developed from existing services. A programme of consultation for future children centre developments will begin in the near future.

2.6 Reducing Persistent Absence

Six of Halton's eight high schools have been identified in recent years as having high levels of persistent absence (i.e pupils who have over 20% absence). In 2006/7 this figure has been reduced to three both as a product of overall improvements in attendance and work that is taking place between the Education Welfare Service and schools to target this cohort.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 10 Year Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures

The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, and it will hopefully signal the beginning of a new way of working to achieve this. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) drew up the Children's Plan, with the help of the advice, thoughts and issues raised by parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves.

It sets out plans for the next ten years under each of the DCSF's strategic objectives that will ultimately build a brighter future for children and young people in England. It sets out goals for what can be and should be achieved by 2020 and the DCSF will consult widely over the next year on whether these goals represent the right national ambitions.

The Plan requires LA's to champion the needs of local communities, to

take a strategic view across a range of services and to prioritise spending where it will have the biggest impact. They should shape supply and demand, and drive change through Children's Trust partnership arrangements. Services, including schools, must be commissioned in a way that is tailored to our community.

3.2 Education and Skills Bill

The Bill brings in the legislative changes needed to implement elements of the Leitch Review of Skills. The bill is based on the consultation paper Raising Expectations and introduces a number of duties placed on parents, young people, providers and the Local Authority in relation to education and training. The main duties for the LA are to provide support and advice to students through an Information, Advice and Guidance services and to assess the training needs of young people 16-19 with special educational needs. The Bill also raises the compulsory minimum age for young people to remain in education or training to 17 from 2013 and 18 from 2015.

3.3 Inclusive Learning Division

Proposals are developing regarding the future of SEN Unit provision. Planning will be linked to the developing Primary Capital Programme. Additionally work is underway developing a shared understanding of levels of need and criteria for intervention and additional support for pupils with LDD.

3.4 Health Integration Project




The Health Integration project is a joint project between Halton, St Helens and the Joint PCT that serves both authorities. The purpose of the project is to bring about necessary change with regard to the achievement of Children's Trust status across both boroughs by March 2008. The project is considering key issues as part of the integration process that include management structures, human resources, financial information, staff engagement, governance issues and benefits realisation. It is proposed as part of the project that there will be an integration of front-line service delivery on a locality basis through the Children and Young People Area Networks.

3.5 Joint Area Review

Halton's Joint Area Review will take place during Quarter 4, starting with the submission of Case Tracking list on 4th January and the set up meeting with the Lead Inspector on the 18th January. Analysis week will take place from the 25th to the 29th February when case files and the document submission will be scrutinised by the Inspectors to form the lines of enquiry that will be followed up during the fieldwork. The fieldwork phase will run from Monday 31st March to Friday 11th April with initial




feedback received at the end of the fieldwork. Preparations for the JAR have been going on for some time and will intensify during the next quarter in the lead up to the analysis week and the fieldwork phase.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	9		8		1		0
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Eight Key Objectives are reported as being on track with 1 classified as amber. Further details of progress against each Key Objective are available in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	4		0		0		0
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No "Other" objectives have been reported this quarter.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

Inclusive Learning




The review of systems and structures for providing holistic support to young children and their families with additional needs is underway with report and recommendations expected at the end of January 2008. Implementation of the review recommendations expected in the new financial year.

Appointments of Secondary Coordinator and Specialists teachers to the SEN Service completed. Appointees due to take up post in the Spring Term. Review of SEN Strategy has now been completed and reported to SMT and PPB with an Action Plan to be implemented in the new financial year.

Children with Disabilities




A review of the Children with Disabilities Mini-Trust is due to report during January.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	10		6		0		0
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Performance against 6 Key Indicators has been reported and all are shown as green. There is no update available at the end of this Quarter for 4 Key indicators. Further details of progress against each Key Performance Indicator are available in Appendix 3.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	5		0		0		0
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No "Other" indicators have been reported this quarter.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2007-08 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.


9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS



During 2006/07 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 in quarters 2 and 4.



10.0 APPENDICES



Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones



Appendix 2 -Progress against Key Performance Indicators Appendix 3- Financial Statement Appendix 4- Explanation of traffic light symbols
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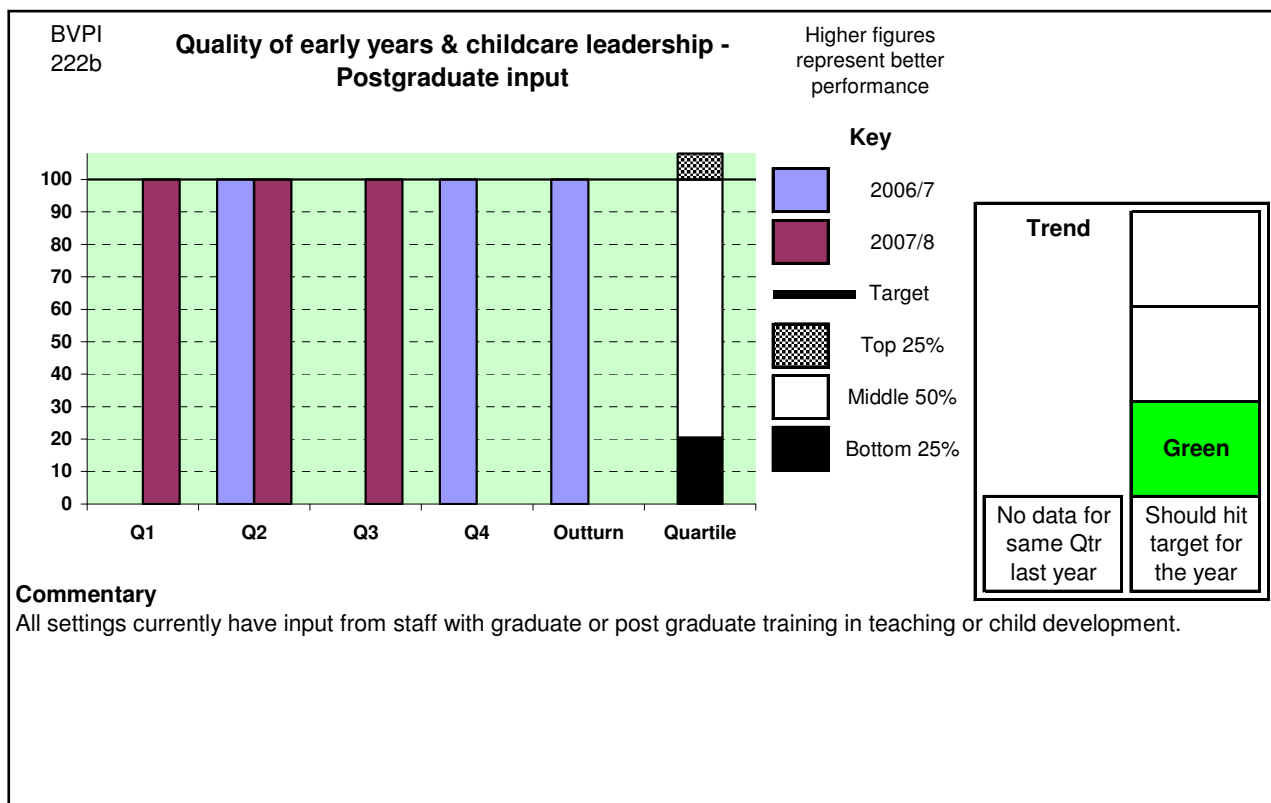
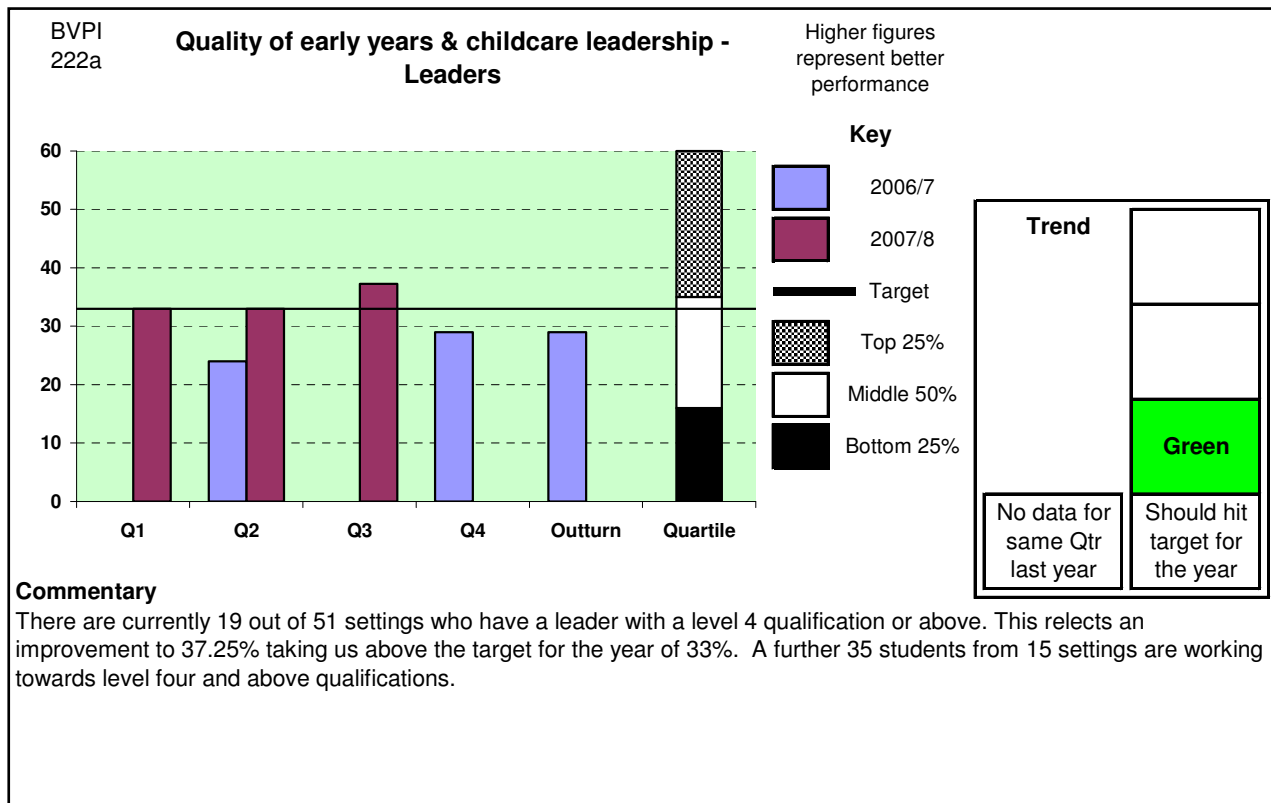
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS 1	To reduce the number of children/young people requiring a Statement of SEN and improve the opportunities for pupils to be educated in mainstream school	To establish a multi-agency provisions panel, allowing enhanced provision to be allocated earlier to support effective earlier identification and inclusive practice in advance of requests for statutory assessment by March 2008		<p>Halton currently maintains 714 statements which is 2.28% of the latest 0-19 population estimate (2006).</p> <p>The % of pupils placed in maintained special schools aged 5-15 is 1.5% based on latest 5-15 resident population estimate.</p> <p>94 pupils are receiving School Action Plus Enhanced provision and 14 children are receiving Early Years Enhanced provision across maintained and private & voluntary early years settings</p> <p>There have been 27 requests to STAMP in Q3. 2 were for statutory assessment and 25 were requests for enhanced provision from maintained schools/nurseries. In addition there have been 7 requests to the Early Years Enhanced Provision PVS Panel for additional support for children in early years private and voluntary settings.</p> <p>There have been 7 cases of chair's action for urgent/severe need for enhanced support in medical and behaviour cases.</p>

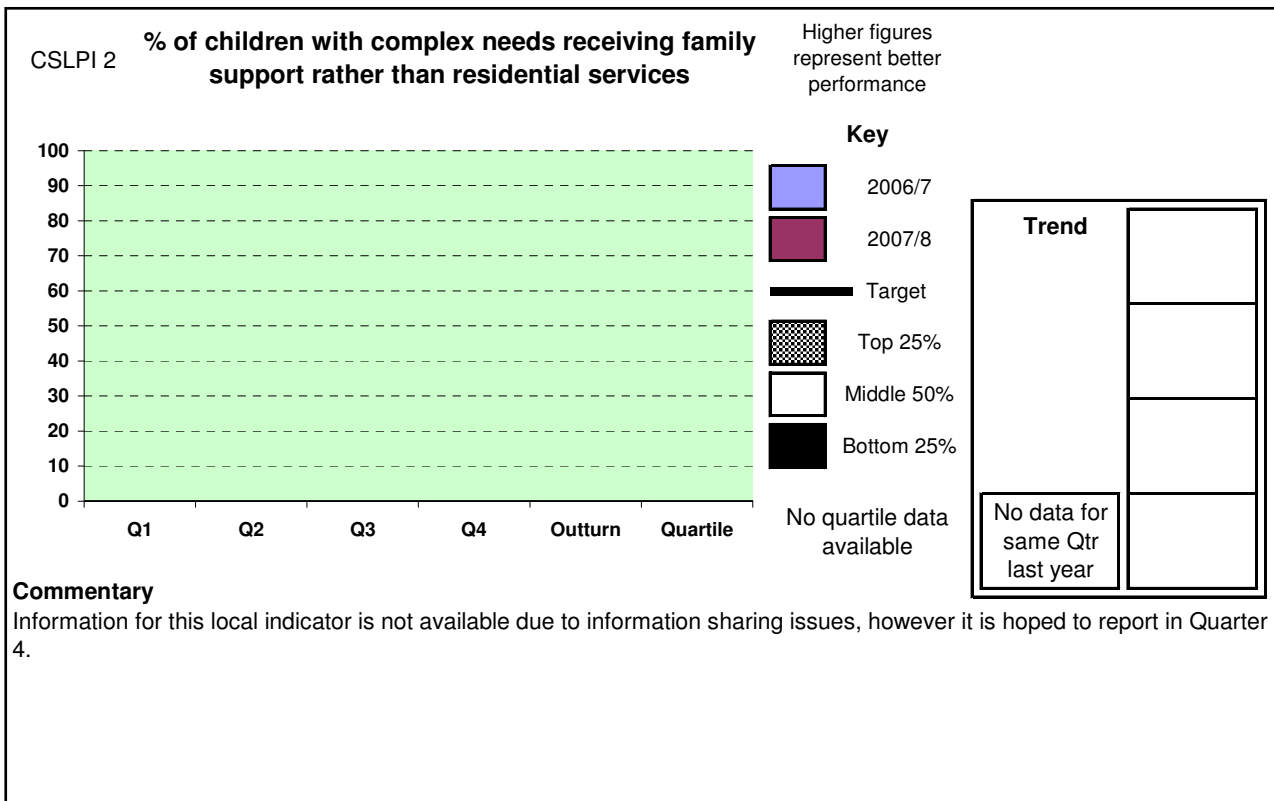
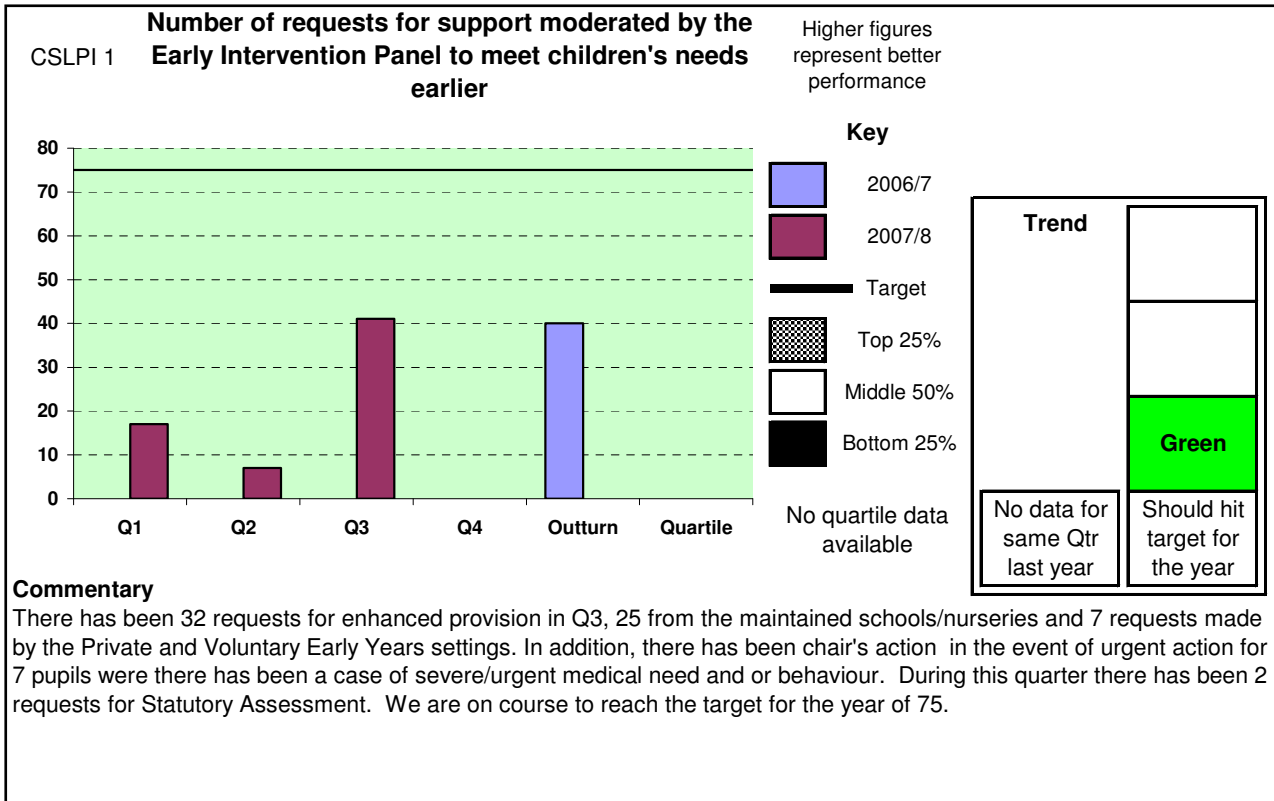
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CS 2	To ensure value for money in meeting SEN and seek to improve levels of educational achievement and attainment for all pupils with SEN	To monitor the use and deployment of delegated and non-delegated SEN resources to ensure that the needs of pupils with SEN are met throughout the year		<p>A representative group of primary and secondary Heads have met to debate and discuss a variety of formula funding models. The proposals will be presented to Schools Forum during the Spring Term, if agreed, the new formula will be implemented in the new financial year (2008-9). Review of funding for Special Schools is completed and agreed, ready for implementation in the new financial year.</p> <p>Funding for SEN Unit provision. Agreed proposals to be implemented post April 2008.</p> <p>The £400k savings made due to reduced numbers of pupils educated out of borough has been recycled to schools according to levels of need.</p>
CS 3	To secure sufficient childcare and Early Education Places in line with Childcare Act	<p>Complete Childcare needs analysis by Sept 2007</p> <p>Provide QTS support to private and voluntary service to ensure at least 75% achieve good or better inspection rating by March 2008</p>		<p>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment complete and demonstrates that Halton has sufficient early education and childcare places.</p> <p>Draft Assessment document is due to go out to consultation in January 2008, with deadline 22 February.</p> <p>Take-up of 3&4 year old early education places in Halton is in line with national average at 95%</p>

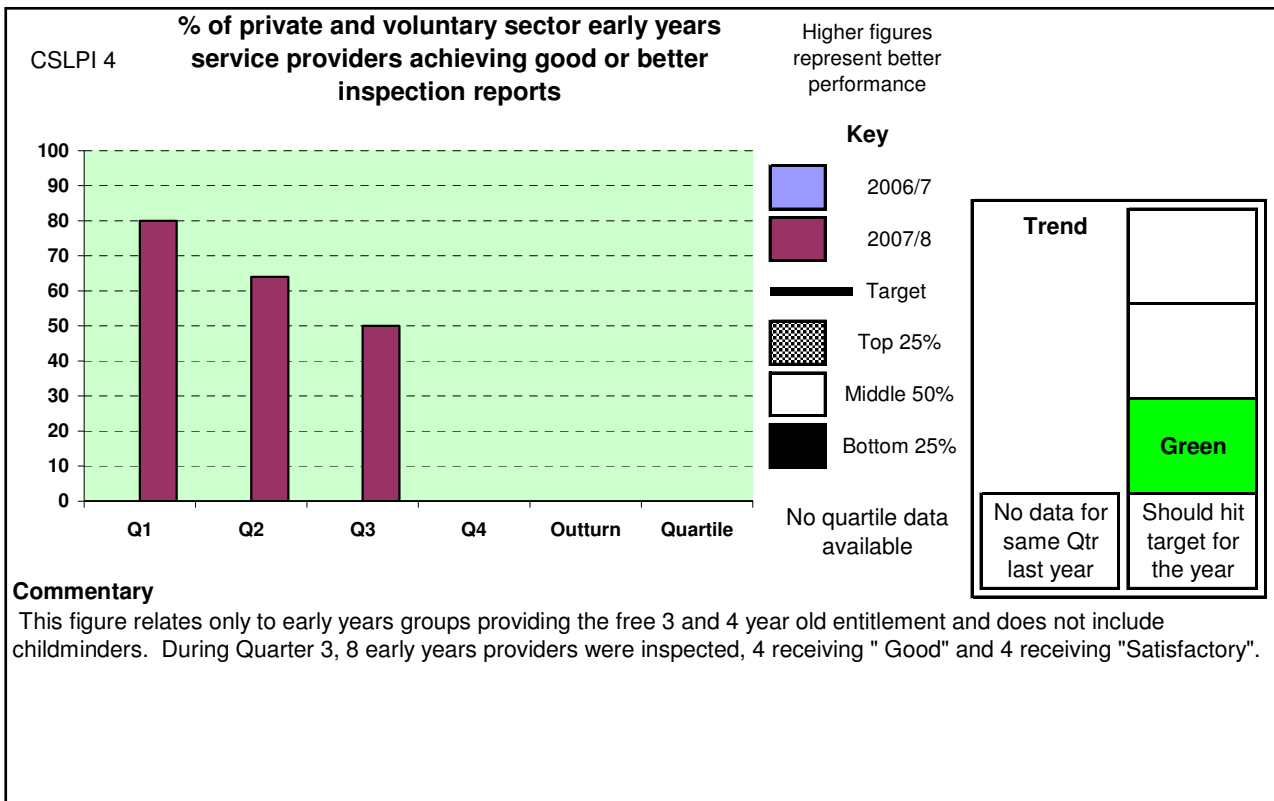
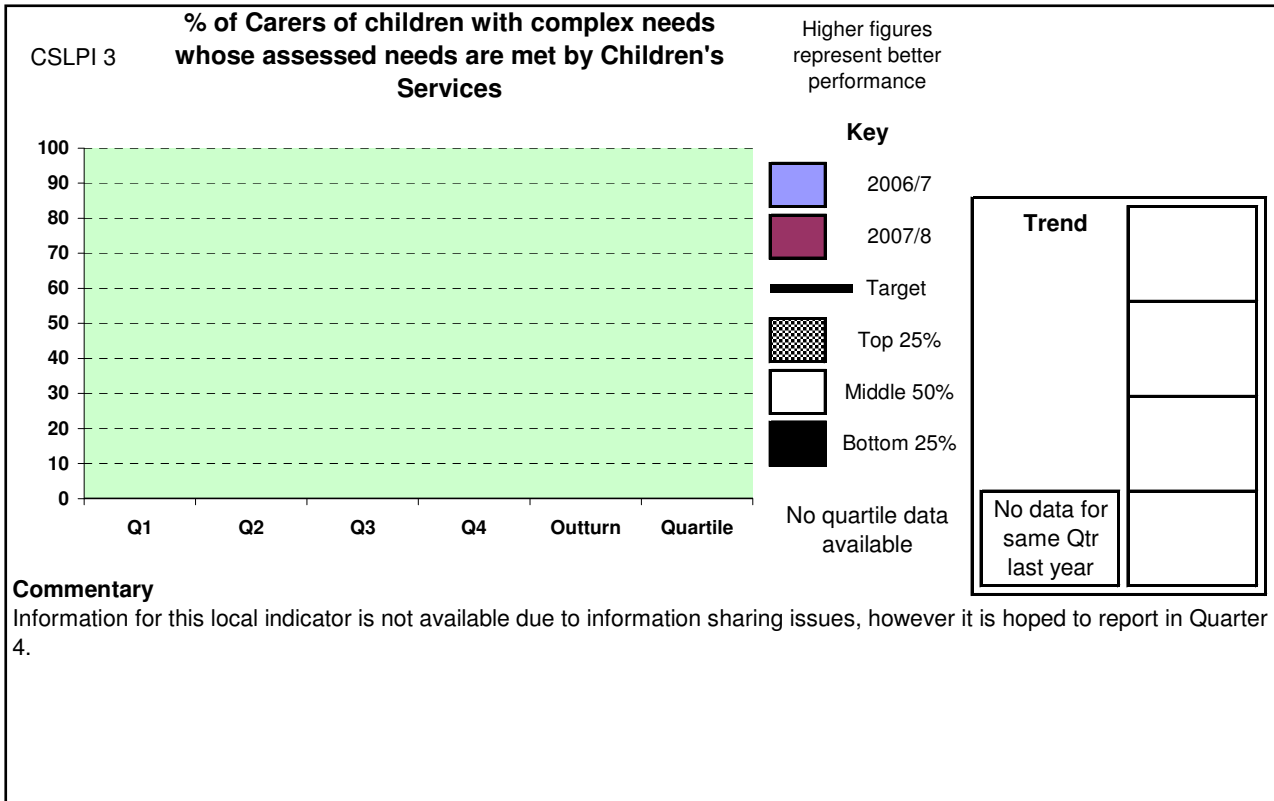
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				QTS support continues to be available for all private and voluntary settings. During this period 8 groups have been inspected; 4 groups received "Good" gradings and 4 received "satisfactory".
CS 4	To increase accessibility to Children's Centres services	<p>Establish national performance management framework for children's centres by March '08</p> <p>To achieve designation of 3 Phase 2 Children's Centres by March 2008</p>		<p>A development day for all Head Teachers concerned with the development of Children Centres was facilitated by the Children, Families and Extended Services division, Legal Services and an external consultant on 6 December. The content of the day focussed on government and management issues of Children's Centres and arrangements for performance management. This successful event launches the start of a series of meetings with head teachers to consider children's centre performance management issues.</p> <p>Progress towards designation of 3 Phase 2 Children's Centres by March 2008 is on target.</p>
CS 5	To develop Children and Young People's Area Networks (CYPAN) to provide services based on local needs	<p>To identify key local targets for CYPAN areas based on needs analysis and community consultation by December 2007</p> <p>To consolidate the</p>		<p>CYPAN area based needs analyses have been completed along with a consultation programme involving over 800 families.</p> <p>All designated Children's Centres are</p>

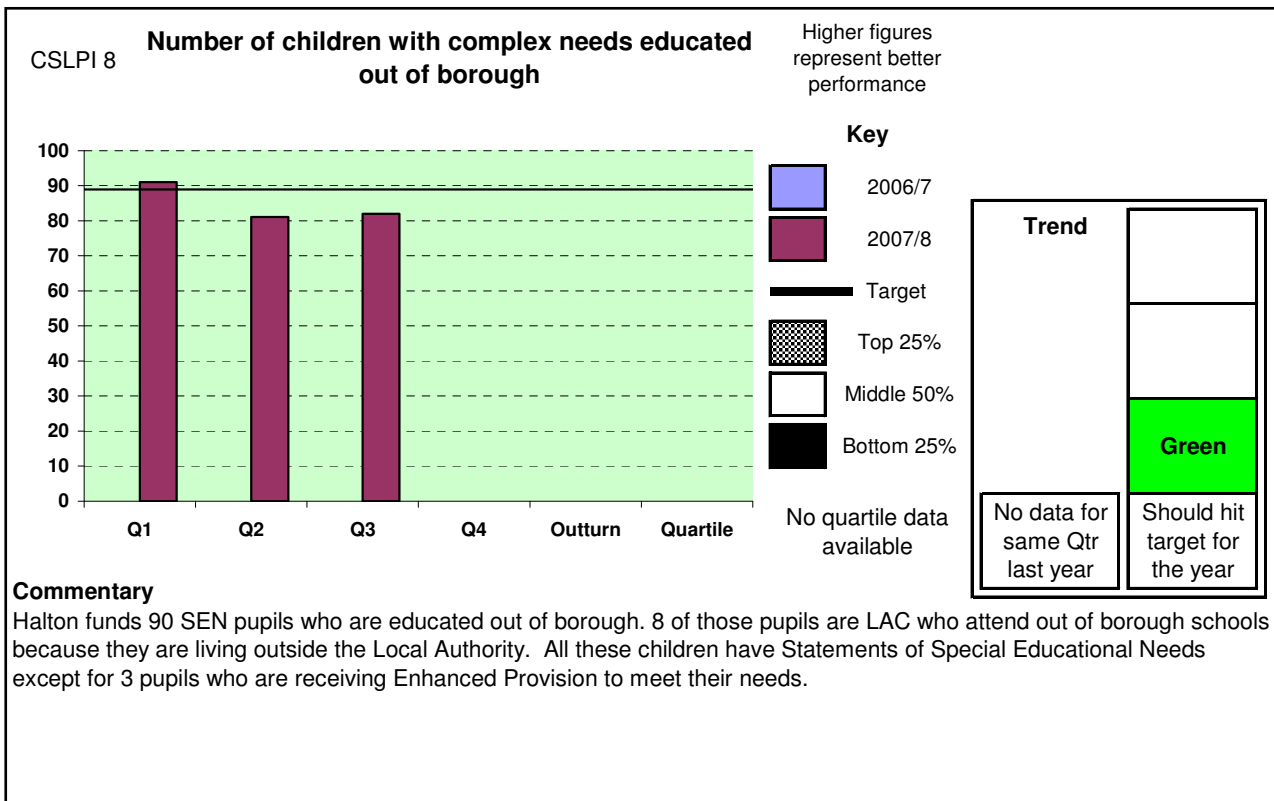
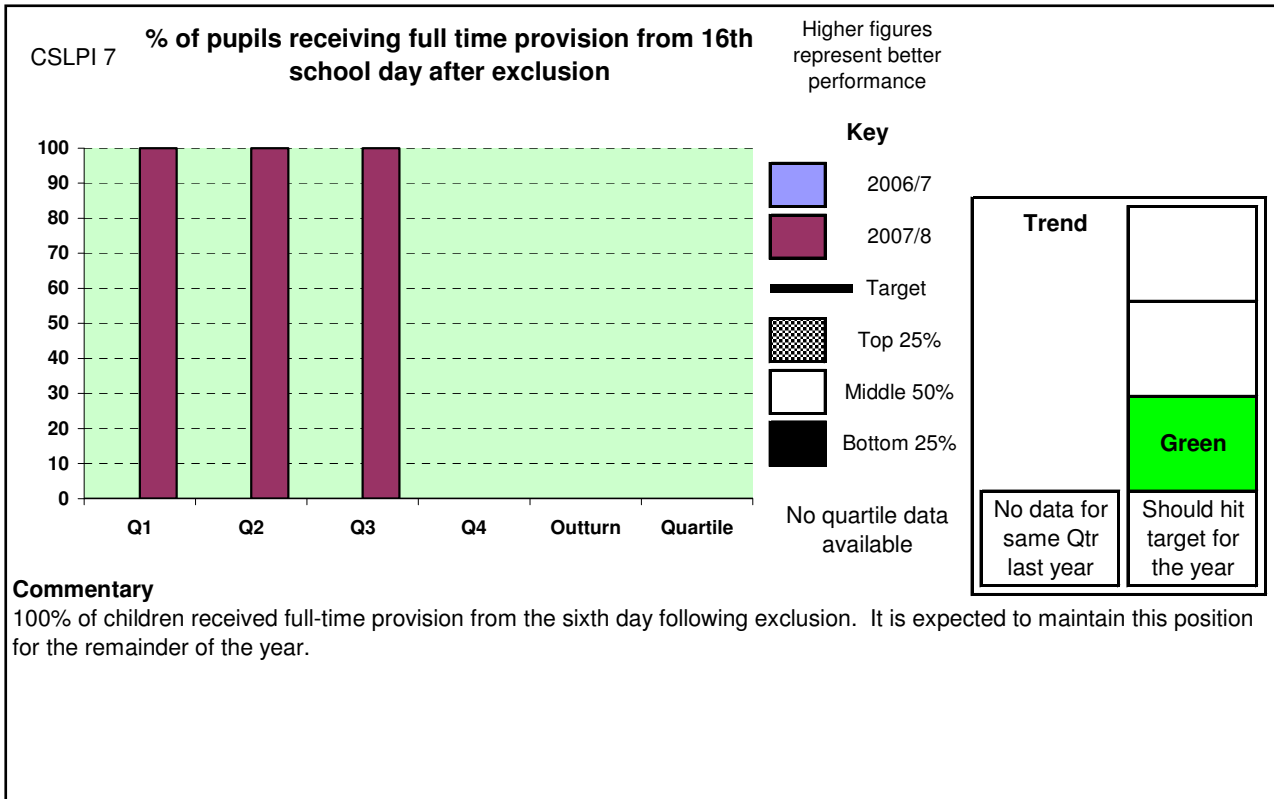
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		transition from Surestart programmes to Children and Young People Area Network's (CYPAN's) by September 2007		Providing a full core offer of services. 39 schools are also providing core offer of extended services. This exceeds the target set by TDA for the development of Extended Schools in Halton. A full Divisional Development day for all Children Centre, Early Years and Play staff was held on 30 November. The event was attended by the DCS. The focus of the day was to consider current achievements and plan priorities for future work.
CS 6	To provide co-ordinated and integrated services to children with disabilities (CWD)	Review/ updating of strategy in the context of the new service design. Implement revised strategy by March 2008 and establish baseline position.		Council for Disabled Children commissioned to work with staff to develop integrated teams and processes. Work concluded late 2007 final report to be presented to senior managers February 2008 with action plan to move forward development of integrated services.
CS 8	To develop self confidence of children with disabilities to deal with significant life changes and challenges	Review data with Connexions on post school destinations of CWD mini trust cohort by March 2008		Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People with Complex Needs with action plan launched September 2007 in partnership with Health and Community Directorate, Adults of working age. Multi agency strategic planning group set up and meeting regularly to implement strategy, operational management group set up and tracking all young people who will move into adult services. Halton Speakout commissioned to undertake person centred planning with all 14 and 17yr old young people

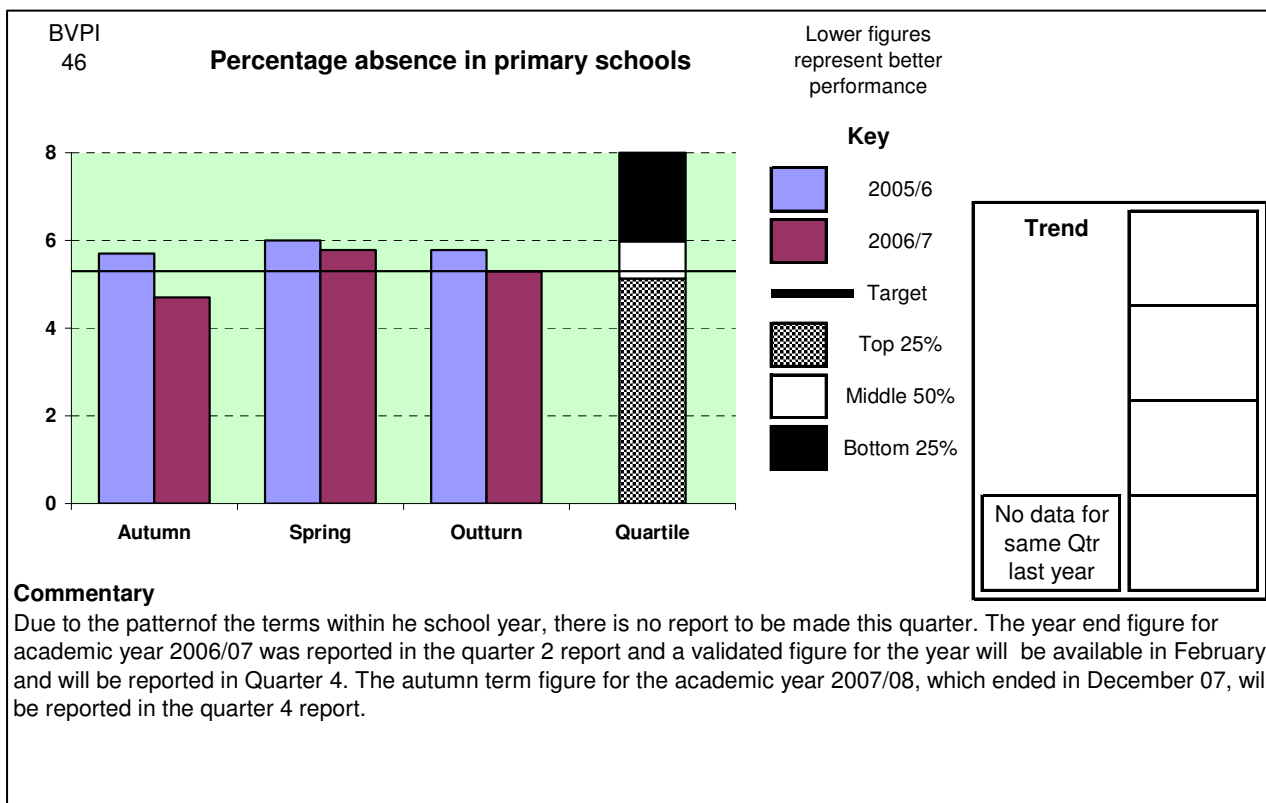
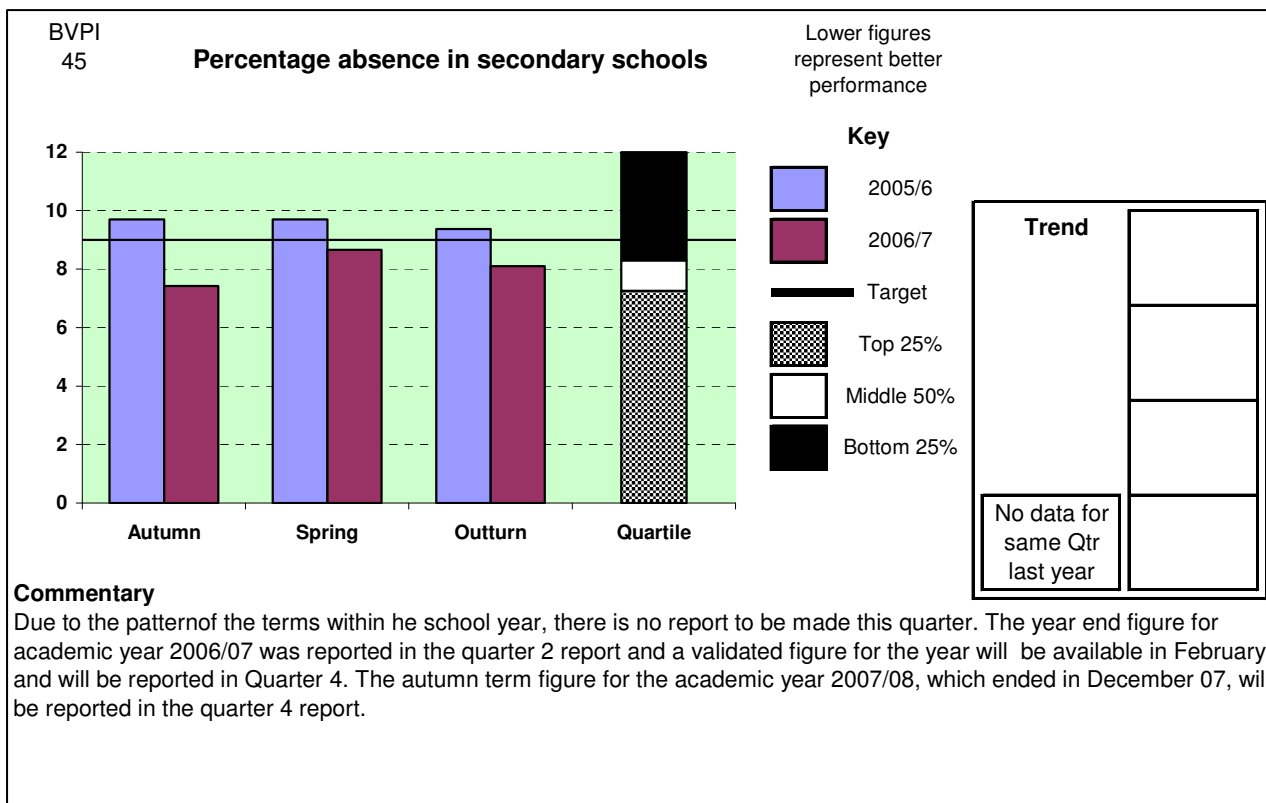
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				with complex needs. Planning for life project delivered in schools to build confidence for young people with complex needs to contribute to transition planning. Transition development day with schools planned for summer term.
CS9	To improve levels of school attendance, particularly in secondary schools	Develop joint working with health sector to reduce non attendance due to chronic health issues by March 2008 Develop multi-agency intervention plan each pupil identified in persistent absent cohort by September 2007		Work is in progress with the health sector to target non attendance due to chronic health issues Multi-agency intervention plans are now in place for all pupils identified within the persistent absent cohort.
CS10	To improve behaviour in schools	Every secondary school to be part of an Education Improvement Partnership on Behaviour by Sept 2007 Develop a broader, high quality alternative curriculum ensuring accredited outcomes by Sept 2007.		All secondary schools are part of an Education Improvement Partnership on Behaviour Key Stage 4 engagement service has been launched to offer a broader curriculum.











COMMUNITY SERVICES

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2007

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	2,356	1,767	1,458	309	1,458
Premises Support	40	0	0	0	0
Premises Other	42	32	45	(13)	45
Supplies & Services	192	144	115	29	126
Transport	19	14	5	9	8
Nursery Provider Payments	1,662	1,080	1,062	18	1,062
Independent School Fees	1,636	1,132	1,090	42	1,090
Inter Authority Special School Fees	913	0	0	0	0
Speech Therapy	46	0	0	0	0
Asset Charges	3	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	6,909	4,169	3,775	394	3,789
Income					
Dedicated Schools Grant	-5,060	-3,795	-3,795	0	-3,795
Inter Authority Income	-543	0	0	0	0
Other Grant	-57	-29	-29	0	-29
Fees	-87	-65	-59	(6)	-59
Total Income	-5,747	-3,889	-3,883	(6)	-3,883
Net Expenditure	1,162	280	-108	388	-94

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile.

Employees are currently spending below budget profile due to a number of staffing vacancies which have been prevalent throughout the financial year. These staffing vacancies are primarily in the Early Years team, Halton Children's Information Service and SEN Service.

The budget profile has been adjusted for Inter Authority Special School Fees and Income, as no invoices have been received or issued for the current financial year.

At this stage it is anticipated that overall revenue spending will be in line with the Departmental budget by the end of the financial year.

SPENDING ON EXTERNAL OR GRANT FUNDED ITEMS

As at 31st December 2007

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Sure Start	2,010	1,508	1,019	489	1,019
Children's Centre – Ditton	392	294	215	79	215
Children's Centre – Brookvale	449	336	281	55	281
Children's Centre – Halton Lodge	392	294	196	98	196
Children's Centre – Halton Brook	485	363	292	71	292
Children's Centre – Kingsway	473	354	197	157	197
Children's Centre – Warrington Road	20	15	35	(20)	35
Children's Centre - OLOPS	15	11	3	8	3
Children's Centre - Palacefields	21	16	24	(8)	24
Children's Centre – Windmill Hill	21	16	11	5	11
Contracts/ SLA's	1,084	813	356	457	356
Total Sure Start Grant	5,362	4,020	2,629	1,391	2,629
Local Strategic Partnership	1,525	1,143	583	560	583
Total External / Grant Funded Items	6,887	5,163	3,212	1,951	3,212

Comments on the above figures:

External funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile in both main areas.

General Sure Start Grant still has a number of budget areas which are yet to be allocated, but historically expenditure increases in the final quarter of the financial year. The current budget underspend against budget profile is due to a number of staff vacancies during the financial year. Senior management are currently assessing the grant conditions in order to fully utilise the grant by the financial year end.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in respect of all LSP projects and any areas of concern are dealt with throughout the year by the LSP support team and individual project managers. Some variances against the budget are expected, as the LSP have deliberately over-programmed in order to ensure that the full allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant is spent during the year.

1.0 SPENDING ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

As at 31st December 2007




	2007/08 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend to Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Special Schools – Cavendish / Brookfields	2,141	1,606	220	1,921
School Capital Repairs	951	713	791	160
Castlefields Children's Centre	627	470	0	627
Runcorn All Saints Children's Centre	400	300	21	379
The Holy Spirit Children's Centre	355	266	322	33
All Saints Upton Children's Centre	207	155	185	22
Access Initiative	179	134	22	157
Contingency Budget	132	99	12	120
Farnworth Link Building	45	34	0	45
Halebank Replacement Mobile	12	9	12	0
Warrington Road Children's Centre	40	30	39	1
The Bridge (Astmoor) Alterations	28	21	28	0
The Grange Comp – Drama Facilities	22	17	9	13
The Bankfield – Kitchen / Dining Extension	22	17	22	0
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Moorfield Primary – 2 Class Extension	11	8	11	0
Palacefields Children's Centre	11	8	15	(4)
Wade Deacon – Refurb Science Labs	8	6	7	1
Asset Management Data	5	4	0	5
Halton High Tech – Phase 2	5	4	5	0
Total Expenditure	5,216	3,912	1,721	3,495

Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes which have little actual spend up to the end of quarter 3, most notably the Cavendish and Brookfields scheme and the two Children's Centre schemes at Castlefields and Runcorn All Saints.

It is important that these projects get underway as soon as possible, in order to ensure that the relevant capital allocations are fully utilised by the year-end.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective</u> is <u>on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target is on course to be achieved</u>.</p>
<u>Amber</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>unclear</u> at this stage, due to a lack of information or a key milestone date being missed, <u>whether the objective will be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain that the objective</u> will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target</u> will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</p>

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People

SERVICE: Specialist Services

PERIOD: Quarter 3 to period-end 31 December 2007.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Specialist Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2007. It describes key developments and progress against key objectives and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Revised Priorities

There is a formal process for setting priorities for Children's Services at the Autumn Strategic Engagement Meeting with Government Office North West (GONW) and their field force. This meeting was held on the 26th November 2007 and agreed eight priorities to focus the work of the Children and Young People Alliance Board for the next year. These eight are subset of the nineteen priorities included in the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan published in June and will be the subject of additional scrutiny. Specialist Services has the lead on two of the eight priorities;

- BH3 Enhance Emotional & Psychological Well-Being
- SS4 Improve the Quality of Care for Children in Care

2.2 Court Proceedings

Following the *Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales*, published in May 2006, and public consultation on draft guidance between June and September 2007, revised guidance has now been issued for managing cases that come before the courts, **the Public Law Outline** and comes into effect from 1 April 2008. The aim of the guidance is to reduce delay in courts asked to make judgements on the future care arrangement for children.

It is of particular relevance to children services practitioners and front-line managers, supported with their legal advisers, who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It is also highly relevant to Directors of Children's Services and other senior

local authority managers, who together oversee the exercise by local authorities of their functions under the Children Act 1989, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The guidance features a number of key changes that will have implications for local authorities:

- the expectation, as a matter of routine, that core assessments (in accordance with the *Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families*) will have been carried out prior to section 31 applications being made;
- as part of this, careful consideration will have been given to the possibility of the placement of children with relatives and friends, whether as an alternative to proceedings or as a care placement;
- the sending a 'Letter before Proceedings' to parents (save where it is unsafe for the child to do so) as part of improving communications with families and with a view to deflecting proceedings and, linked to which, to enable the parents to gain access to pre-proceedings legal help; and
- improved preparation of materials to support section 31 applications, in accordance with the 'pre-proceedings checklist'.

2.3 Levels of Need

The first Halton Toolkit for Identifying the Levels of Need for children and young people. It is a framework that needs to develop over time and reflect new ways of working to meet the needs of the more vulnerable children and young people in our borough. The Toolkit is just the beginning of 'growing' an understanding of how services should work together to meet the needs of all children and young people across the four levels.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 10 Year Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures

The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, and it will hopefully signal the beginning of a new way of working to achieve this. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) drew up the Children's Plan, with the help of the advice, thoughts and issues raised by parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves.

It sets out plans for the next ten years under each of the DCSF's strategic objectives that will ultimately build a brighter future for children and young people in England. It sets out goals for what can be and should be achieved by 2020 and the DCSF will consult widely over the next year on whether these goals represent the right national ambitions.

The Plan requires LA's to champion the needs of local communities, to take a strategic view across a range of services and to prioritise spending where it will have the biggest impact. They should shape supply and demand, and drive change through Children's Trust partnership arrangements. Services, including schools, must be commissioned in a way that is tailored to our community.

3.2 Children and Young Persons Bill




The Bill takes forward measures that require legislation outlined in the Care Matters white paper. New provisions in the Bill include:

- Enabling pilot local authorities to set up social work practices;
- Strengthening current measures to ensure that children's voices are heard when decisions that affect their future are taken;
- Making the designated teacher role statutory;
- Ensuring that young people in care do not move schools in Years 10 and 11 except in exceptional circumstances;
- Giving young people a greater say over moves to independent living;
- Improving the quality and stability of placements, and ensuring that looked after children in custody are visited regularly by social workers.

3.3 Joint Area Review




Halton's Joint Area Review will take place during Quarter 4, starting with the submission of Case Tracking list on 4th January and the set up meeting with the Lead Inspector on the 18th January. Analysis week will take place from the 25th to the 29th February when case files and the document submission will be scrutinised by the Inspectors to form the lines of enquiry that will be followed up during the fieldwork. The fieldwork phase will run from Monday 31st March to Friday 11th April with initial feedback received at the end of the fieldwork. Preparations for the JAR have been going on for some time and will intensify during the next quarter in the lead up to the analysis week and the fieldwork phase.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	3		1		1		1
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Progress against key milestones objectives is mixed with 1 green, 1 amber and 1 red. Further details of progress against each Key Objective are available in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES




Total	3		0		0		0
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No "Other" objectives have been reported this quarter.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




Nothing to report this quarter.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	5		3		1		1
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Further details of progress against each Key Performance Indicator are available in Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	6		0		0		0
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No "Other" indicators have been reported this quarter.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

Data has not been available in Q3 to report progress, details are available in Appendix 3.

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2007-08 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.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

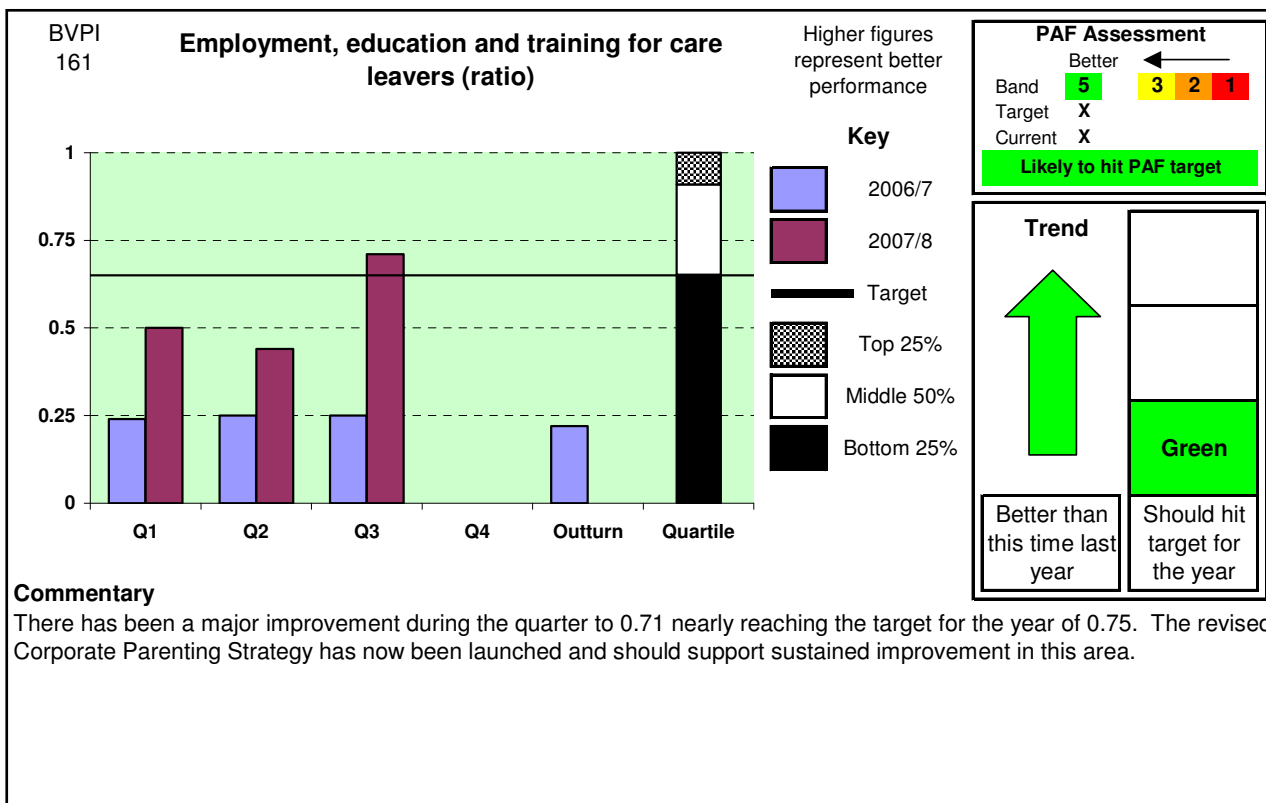
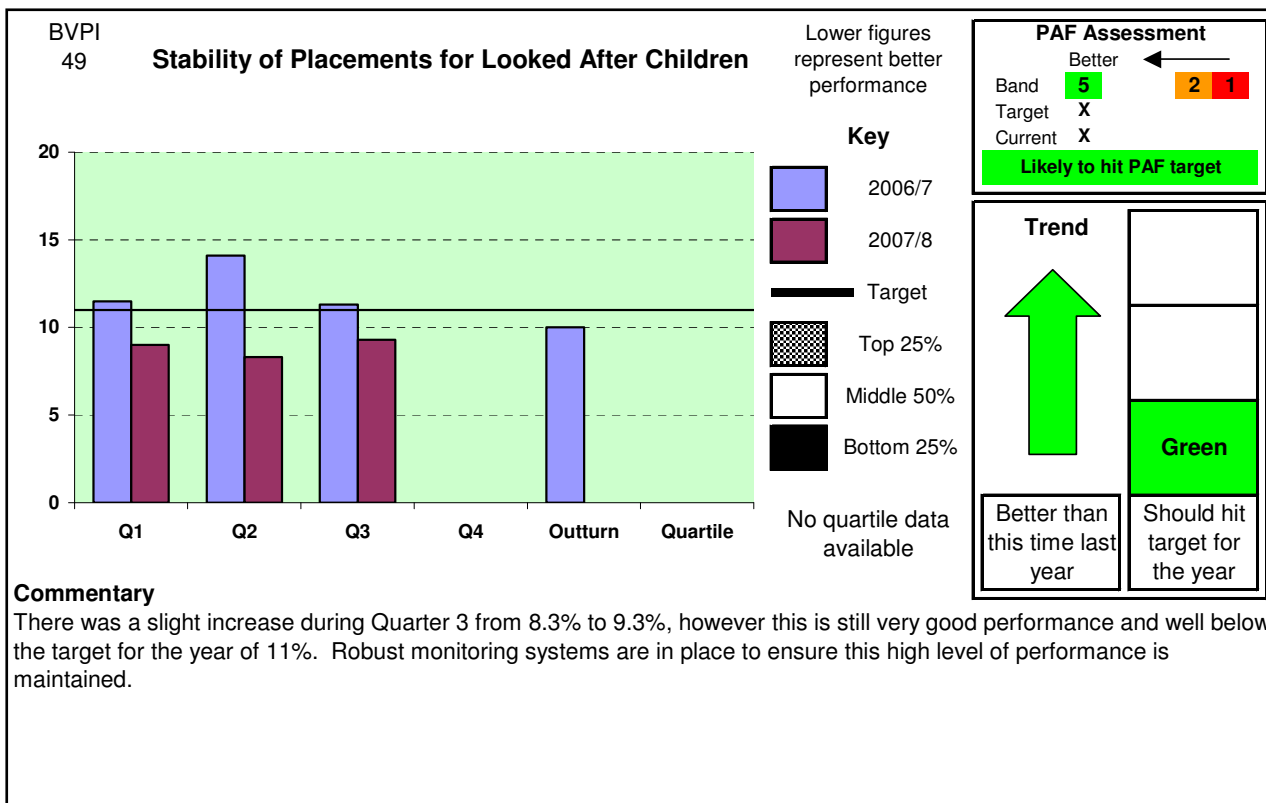
During 2006/07 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

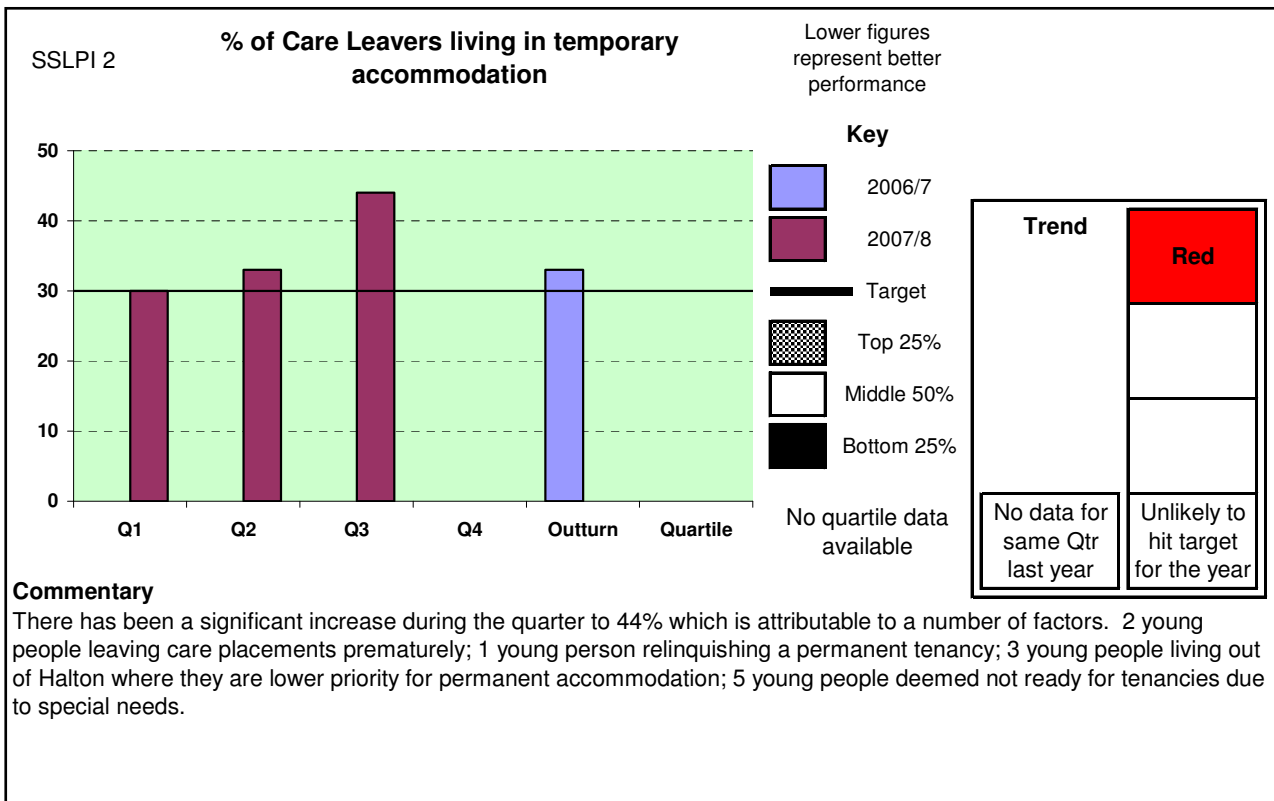
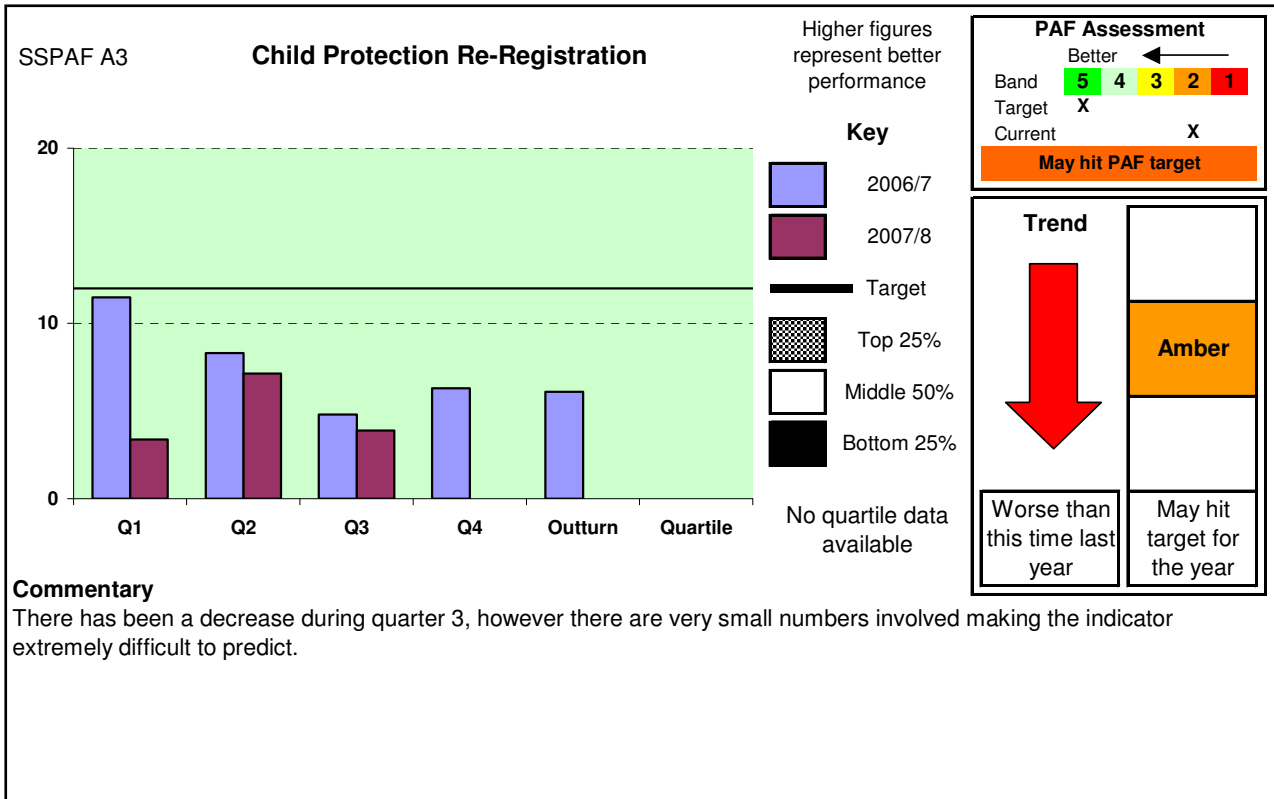
10.0 APPENDICES

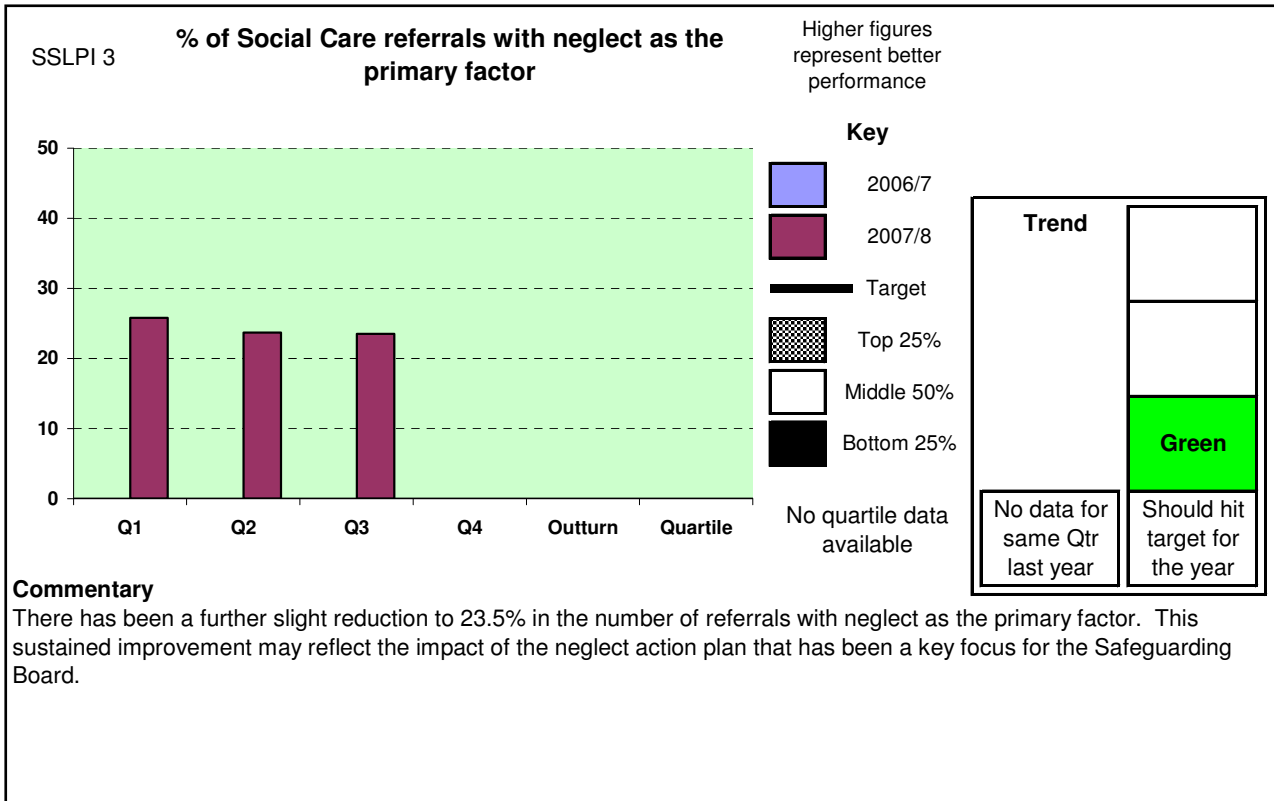
Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against LPSA targets
Appendix 4- Financial Statement
Appendix 5- Explanation of traffic light symbols

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
SS1	To improve outcomes for looked after children and provide an integrated support service to LAC	Establish a baseline position for the % of LAC accessing early years provision as appropriate by June 2007		100% of eligible LAC are now accessing their early years entitlement. Work is ongoing to raise the profile of the Foundation Stage amongst foster carers and to pilot the introduction of an early years personal Education Plan (PEP)
SS2	To ensure children and young people are mentally and emotionally healthy	All frontline staff are trained in knowing how to identify the Emotional Health and Mental Well Being of children and young people by March 2008 CAMHS Strategy reviewed and updated by March 2008		Ongoing training being provided at three levels, with new JMU course starting in February 2008, however 100% target is very challenging. New CAMHS strategy and Action Plan completed and was presented to Halton's Alliance Board in December
SS3	All Directorates to exercise their corporate parenting responsibilities	Implement revised corporate parenting strategy by Sept 2007 Increase the number of		Revised Children In Care Strategy incorporates Corporate Parenting alongside other Care Matters proposals. Strategy to be presented to Executive Board in March 2008

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		work placements offered to LAC and Care Leavers by 5% against baseline by March 2008.		Progress continues and robust monitoring is in place through the Young People's Team to ensure opportunities are maximised.







LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 06/07	Perform 07/08 Q3	Traffic light*	Commentary
11	<p>Improved opportunities and levels of participation in education training and employment by children in the care of Halton Council.</p> <p>1. The percentage school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months</p>	89.6% May 05	92.6% May 08	92.4%	Not Available		There is no update at the end of Quarter 3 and this will be reported again in Quarter 4
	<p>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)</p>	64.4% 04/05	81.5% 07/08	75.3%	Not Available		There is no update at the end of Quarter 3 and this will be reported again in Quarter 4

SPECIALIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2007

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual to Date	Variance to Date (Overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	5,661	4,081	4,039	42	4,592
Premises	453	27	22	5	23
Supplies & Services	1,120	612	577	35	596
Central Support Services	522	0	0	0	0
Training	62	19	-2	22	-2
Payments to Volunteer Drivers	77	58	33	25	33
Transport	107	80	53	27	106
Agency Placements	1,833	1,270	1,148	121	1,250
Foster Care Payments	2,347	1,804	1,577	227	1,577
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	1,095	821	817	3	817
Section 17 Payments	47	35	18	17	19
Asset Charges	25	0	0	0	0
Youth Opportunity Fund	34	0	0	0	0
Contribution to CWD Pooled Budget	1,050	618	553	64	579
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	14,433	9,424	8,836	588	9,589
<u>Income</u>					
Other Reimbursements	-255	-286	-286	0	-286
CAMHS Grant	-241	0	0	0	0
Children's Fund Grant	-504	-378	-370	(8)	-370
Children's Services Grant	-656	-503	-503	0	-503
ICT Capital Grant	-41	-31	-21	(10)	-21
Integrated Children's Services Grant	-43	-43	-43	0	-43
Positive Activities for Young People	-93	-93	-93	0	-93
Local Change Fund Grant	-73	-73	-73	0	-73
Parenting Support Group Grant	-40	-40	-40	0	-40
Teenage Pregnancy Grant	-157	-157	-157	0	-157
Other Income	0	0	-2	2	-2
Young People's Substance Misuse Grant	-240	-180	-91	(89)	-91
Youth Opportunity Fund	-34	0	0	0	0
<u>Total Income</u>	-2,377	-1,784	-1,678	-106	-1,678
<u>Net Expenditure</u>	12,055	7,640	7,158	482	7,911

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is below budget to date.

This is primarily due to expenditure in respect of Agency Placements and Foster Care Payments being currently well below the budget profile to date. Expenditure against these budgets is heavily demand led and likely to fluctuate throughout the year and is therefore monitored closely by the Department. However, at this stage it appears likely that expenditure will be below budget by year-end.

In terms of income, there is likely to be a shortfall in grant income in respect of the Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant. This is due to actual income received to date being less than the budget profile with no additional income anticipated to offset the balance.

Although the budget profile is only an estimate of likely spend to date, it is anticipated that in overall terms the Department's net expenditure will be below budget by year-end.

Note: A Summary of the HBC contribution to the CWD Pooled Budget is presented below.

SPECIALIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Children with Disabilities Pool Budget as at 31st December 2007**

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual to Date	Variance to Date (Overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	840	630	622	8	632
Premises	69	16	18	(2)	18
Supplies & Services	115	45	38	7	53
Training	10	7	0	7	0
Transport	21	16	16	0	16
Agency & Contracted Services	211	0	0	0	0
Agency Placements	20	0	0	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	172	120	84	36	84
Section 17 Payments	10	7	4	3	5
Asset Charges	57	0	0	0	0
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	1,525	841	783	59	809
<u>Income</u>					
Other Reimbursements	-211	-14	-16	2	-16
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services					
Grant	-38	-38	-38	0	-38
Carer's Support Grant	-114	-60	-64	3	-64
LPSA (1) Reward Grant	-112	-112	-112	0	-112
<u>Total Income</u>	-475	-224	-230	5	-230

<u>Net Expenditure</u>	1,050	618	553	64	-579

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is marginally below budget to date. It is anticipated that in overall terms net expenditure on the Pool will be in line with the budget by year-end.




SPECIALIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Capital Projects as at 31st December 2007**

	2007/8 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend to Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Edinburgh Road Children's Centre	22	0	0	22
Total	22	0	0	0

Comments on the Above Figures

The works at Edinburgh Road will modernise the accommodation in order to promote independence skills amongst Young People and it is anticipated that the allocation will be spent within the current financial year.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective</u> is <u>on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target is on course to be achieved</u>.</p>
<u>Amber</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>unclear</u> at this stage, due to a lack of information or a key milestone date being missed, <u>whether the objective will be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain that the objective</u> will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target</u> will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</p>

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People

SERVICE: Universal & Learning Services

PERIOD: Quarter 3 -end 30th December 2007.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Universal & Learning Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2007. It describes key developments and progress against key objectives and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Revised Priorities

There is a formal process for setting priorities for Children's Services at the Autumn Strategic Engagement Meeting with Government Office North West (GONW) and their field force. This meeting was held on the 26th November 2007 and agreed eight priorities to focus the work of the Children and Young People Alliance Board for the next year. These eight are subset of the nineteen priorities included in the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan published in June and will be the subject of additional scrutiny. Universal and Learning Services has the lead on four of the eight priorities;

- BH2 Improving Sexual Health
- EA1 Improve educational outcomes for all children
- EA3 Narrow the gap in educational outcomes for vulnerable children
- AEW1 Improved learning opportunities 14-19 and participation post-16

2.2 Review of Universal and Learning Service

The review of Adviser's roles and responsibilities has taken place and two advisers have been appointed to the posts of Senior School Standards and Effectiveness Officers (SSSEO). The posts are:

1. School Improvement Partner Manager
2. Co-ordination of Learning, Performance Data and Business Management

The four other posts within this area of the service have also been revised and are entitled School Standards and Effectiveness Officers (SSEO) for:

1. Early Years Learning
2. Primary Learning
3. Secondary Learning
4. Inclusion and Intervention

2.3 Target setting

All schools have completed the target setting process and targets have been submitted to the Local Authority. Discussion will take place with schools where targets are not sufficiently challenging and / or where FFT D projections have not been used. School targets are set by the Governing Bodies with advice being given by the School Improvement Partners. If a Governing Body sets targets below expectation and are not prepared to review a letter will be forwarded to the school stating that the LA does not support the targets set.

2.4 Schools Causing Concern

The policy for Schools Causing Concern entitled 'Strategy for Intervention and Support for Schools in Halton' has been written and all schools have been consulted. This document clearly states the procedures for support and intervention for schools. The policy will be considered by the Executive Board on the 24th January 2008. The Secretary of State has granted permission for an Interim Executive Board (IEB) to be established at Simms Cross Primary School.

2.5 Headteacher Partnership groups

To develop greater openness and partnership working with schools and headteachers four 'Partnership groups' have been established. Each group will work directly with one of the Operational Directors focussing on development areas within the authority.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 10 Year Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures

The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, and it will hopefully signal the beginning of a new way of working to achieve this. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) drew up the Children's Plan, with the help of the advice, thoughts and issues raised by parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves.

It sets out plans for the next ten years under each of the DCSF's strategic objectives that will ultimately build a brighter future for children and young people in England. It sets out goals for what can be and should be achieved by 2020 and the DCSF will consult widely over the next year on whether these goals represent the right national ambitions.

The Plan requires LA's to champion the needs of local communities, to take a strategic view across a range of services and to prioritise spending where it will have the biggest impact. They should shape supply and demand, and drive change through Children's Trust partnership arrangements. Services, including schools, must be commissioned in a way that is tailored to our community.

3.2 Education and Skills Bill

The Bill brings in the legislative changes needed to implement elements of the Leitch Review of Skills. The bill is based on the consultation paper Raising Expectations and introduces a number of duties placed on parents, young people, providers and the Local Authority in relation to education and training. The main duties for the LA are to provide support and advice to students through an Information, Advice and Guidance services and to assess the training needs of young people 16-19 with special educational needs. The Bill also raises the compulsory minimum age for young people to remain in education or training to 17 from 2013 and 18 from 2015.

3.3 Review of Contracted Services for Preventative Services Board

Priorities for The Preventative Services Board have been agreed and include Teenage Pregnancy, Substance Misuse with a focus on alcohol, targeted support/diversionary activities and participation. The Preventative Service Strategic Needs Analysis, grant conditions and Halton Priorities have informed priorities. Teenage Pregnancy Fund, Substance Misuse and Children's Fund are to be part of the Area Based Grant. Contract specifications for 08/09 to be developed in response to priorities and strategic needs analysis.

3.4 Review of Universal and Learning Service

Proposals are being developed to re-structure the Universal and Learning Service to encapsulate learning from 0 – 19. Discussions will continue to take place in the next quarter on the potential shape of the Service.

3.5 Target setting and standards

Monitoring by School Improvement Partners (SIPs) in the Spring term will give a clearer indication of progress towards 2008 targets. Targets for 2009 will be challenged if required. There is a requirement to submit targets to the Department for Schools, Children and Families (DCSF) by the end of January.

3.6 Implementation of the 'Strategy for 'Intervention and Support for Schools in Halton'




If agreed by the Executive Board in January the policy will be immediately implemented. All colleagues within the service will need to be fully conversant with the document when working with schools. The next stage for development, which has already commenced, is the writing of specific criteria, which will support the categorisation of schools. The work will be conducted in consultation with Headteachers.

3.7 Joint Area Review

Halton's Joint Area Review will take place during Quarter 4, starting with the submission of Case Tracking list on 4th January and the set up meeting with the Lead Inspector on the 18th January. Analysis week will take place from the 25th to the 29th February when case files and the document submission




will be scrutinised by the Inspectors to form the lines of enquiry that will be followed up during the fieldwork. The fieldwork phase will run from Monday 31st March to Friday 11th April with initial feedback received at the end of the fieldwork. Preparations for the JAR have been going on for some time and will intensify during the next quarter in the lead up to the analysis week and the fieldwork phase.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	7		3		0		4
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Further details of progress against each Key Objective are available in Appendix 1.

4.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	4		0		0		0
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No "Other" objectives have been reported this quarter.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

Integrated Youth Support Service

The local authority submitted its health check to Government Office North West in October, covering the steps it is taking to integrate youth support services in response to the Ten Year Youth Strategy published in July 2007. Positive feedback has been received regarding our submission. In the short term this will focus upon integration locally of Connexions and the Youth Service, with a focus upon integrated delivery. Over time other services will follow this model.

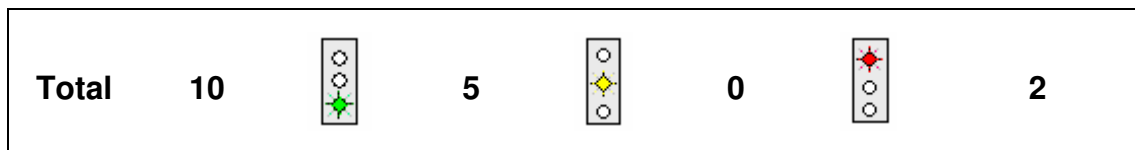
Review of Universal and Learning Service

The review of Adviser's roles and responsibilities has taken place and two advisers have been appointed to the posts of Senior School Standards and Effectiveness Officers (SSSEO). The posts are:

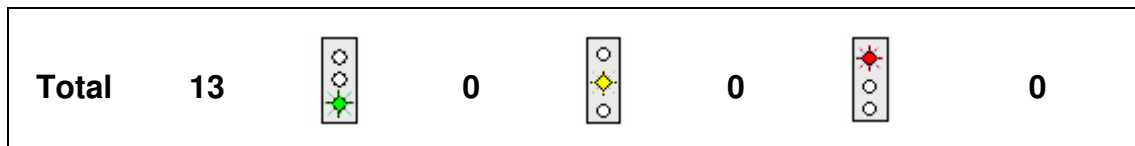
- School Improvement Partner Manager
- Co-ordination of Learning, Performance Data and Business Management

The four other posts within this area of the service have also been revised and are entitled School Standards and Effectiveness Officers (SSEO) for:

- Early Years Learning
- Primary Learning
- Secondary Learning
- Inclusion and Intervention

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Three indicators (BVPI 197, ULS LPI 3 & LPI 4) cannot currently be reported due to data being unavailable until February 2008. Further details of progress against each Key Performance Indicator are available in Appendix 3.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

No "Other" indicators have been reported this quarter.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There is one LPSA target for this service relating to attainment at Key Stage 4. This target has been achieved, however performance needs to be maintained for 2008. Further details are available in Appendix 3.

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8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2007-08 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.


9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS


During 2006/07 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 in quarters 2 and 4.



10.0 APPENDICES


Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against LPSA targets
Appendix 4- Financial Statement
Appendix 5- Explanation of traffic light symbols

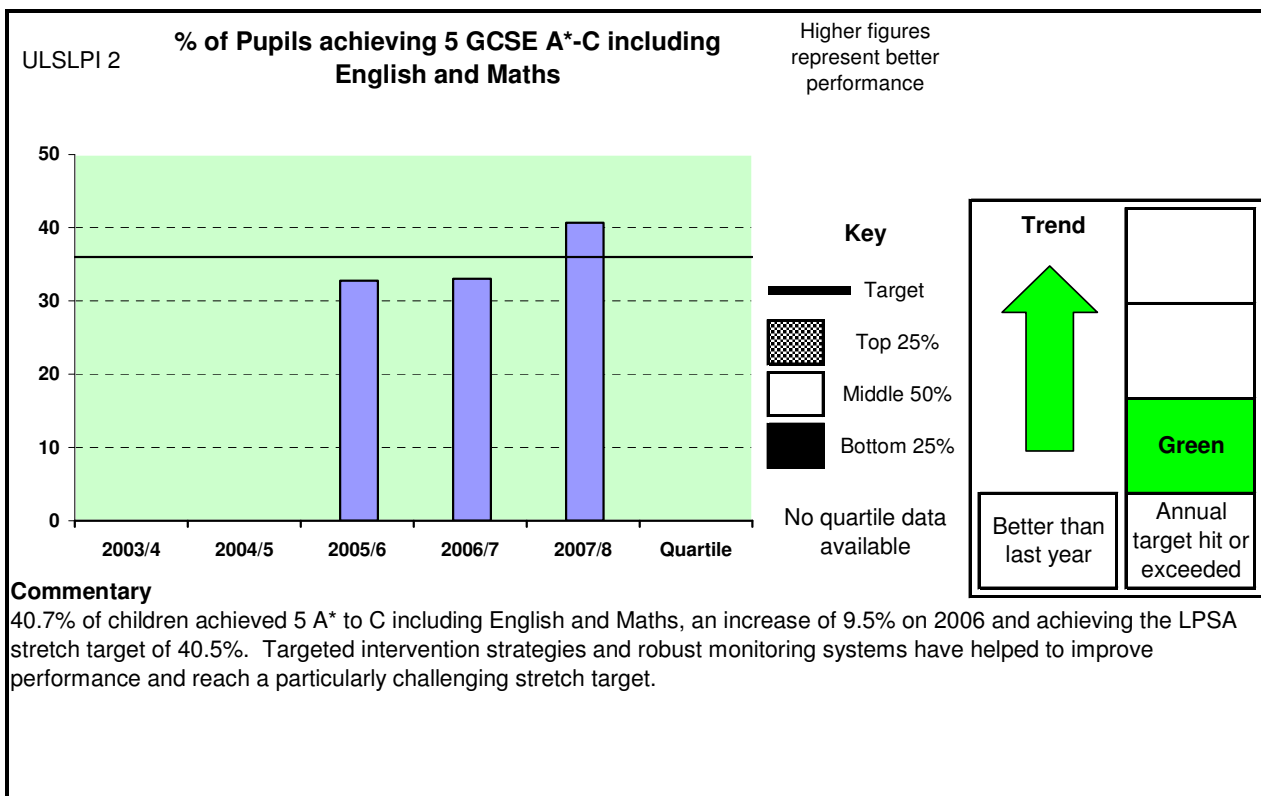
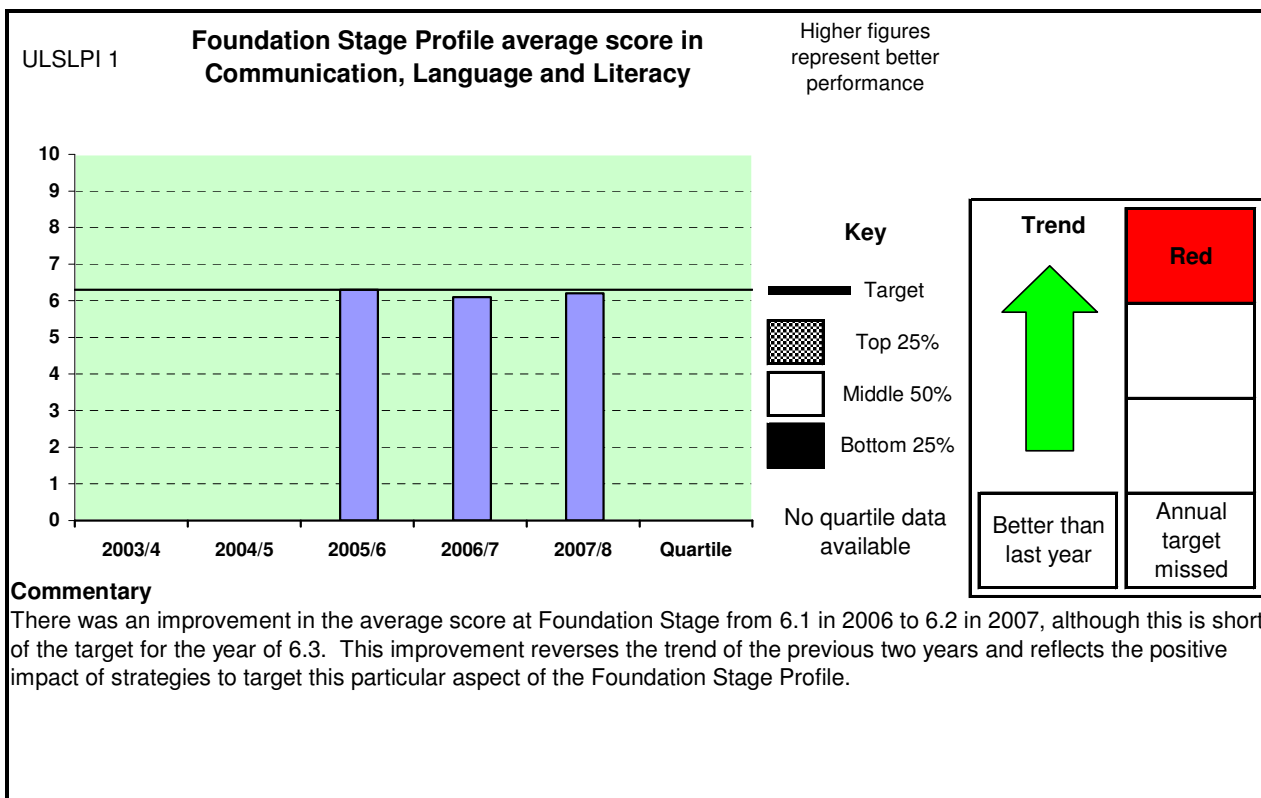
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS1	To improve outcomes for children in Foundation Stage particularly those with low scores in FSP	<p>Improved moderation processes in pre-school and YR (inc. private settings) evidenced through QTS.</p> <p>Target agreed for narrowing the gap from the lowest 20%</p> <p>All settings understand priorities including linking sounds and letters and writing.</p>		<p>Target for 2009 has been agreed at an Authority level ready for submission to DCSF.</p> <p>The Authority is not funded for CLLD but has involved 18 schools and associated preschools in a CLLD type project. A further 44 schools and 23 PVI or nursery classes have attended phase 21 phonics training. This is beginning to impact on FSP results.</p> <p>The LA has recently been identified as a priority for funding for CLLD but this has yet to be confirmed. This however will not lead to an increase in the capacity as other funding has been reduced.</p> <p>Work as been undertaken to improve transition into Key Stage 1 through training in progression in early reading and writing from the foundation stage into year 1.</p>
ULS2	To raise standards at Key Stage 1	<p>Improved levels 2C and 2B in reading and writing by 1% from 2006 actual</p> <p>Narrow the gap</p>		<p>Majority of schools have been using the renewed literacy and mathematics frameworks.</p> <p>Roll out of Early Reading project extended</p> <p>Targeted training on phonics</p>

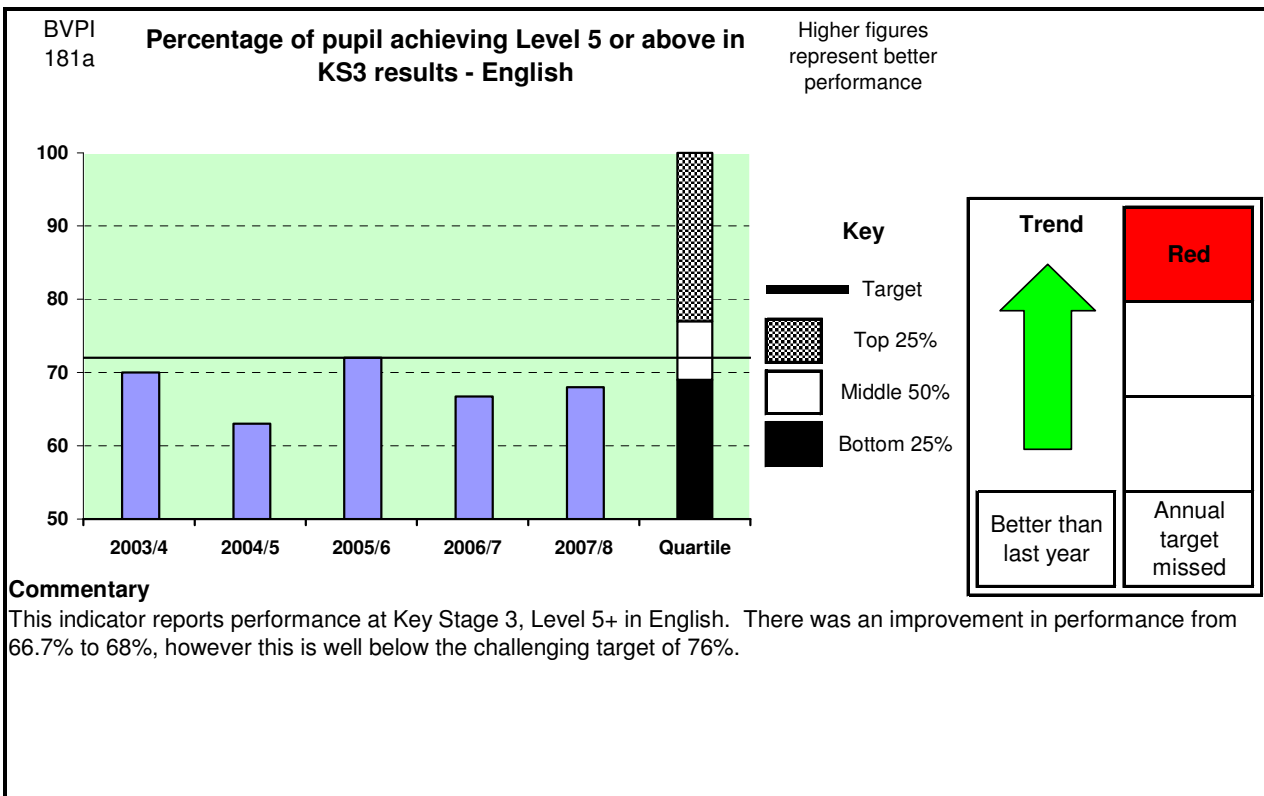
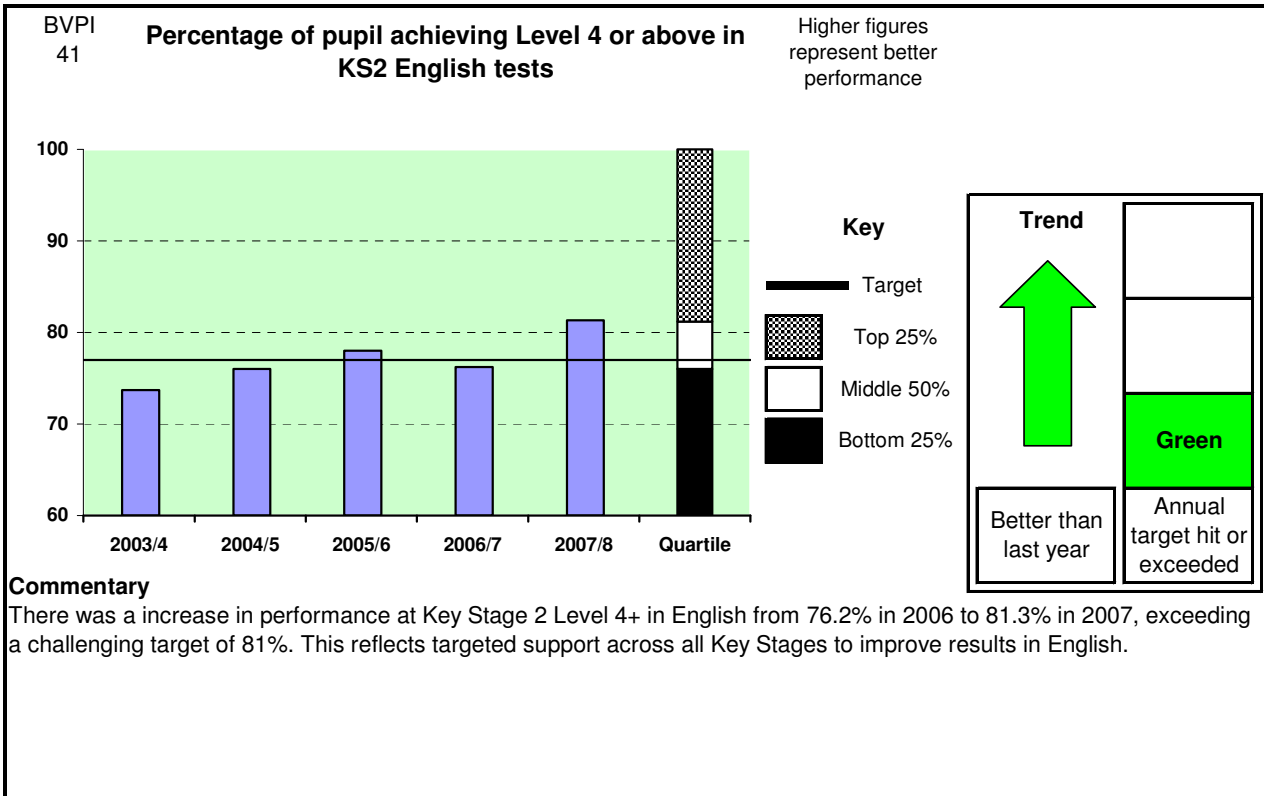
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		between Halton Level 2C and national		<p>Training events delivered covering Literacy and Maths development</p> <p>Subject leader networks to develop subject leader knowledge and share good practice</p> <p>‘Talking Maths’ project is being piloted with target schools</p> <p>Additional leading teachers (Leading from the classroom – LfTC) identified and working in support of other schools (modelling good practice)</p> <p>National Strategy ‘Leading on Improvement’ training for Head teachers has been delivered in support of whole school improvement.</p> <p>Targeted National Strategy Standards funding has been allocated to schools on a ‘needs led’ formula to support schools to resource Additional intervention programmes for underachieving pupils</p>
ULS3	To raise standards at Key Stage 2	<p>LA target of 79% pupils achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 maths tests is met</p> <p>LA target of 81% pupils achieving Level 4 or</p>		<p>National Strategy literacy and mathematics frameworks training delivered to year 3 and 5 teachers</p> <p>Training delivered for Year 6 teachers on use of intervention materials – moving pupils from level 3 to 4</p> <p>16 schools participating in the ‘Raising</p>

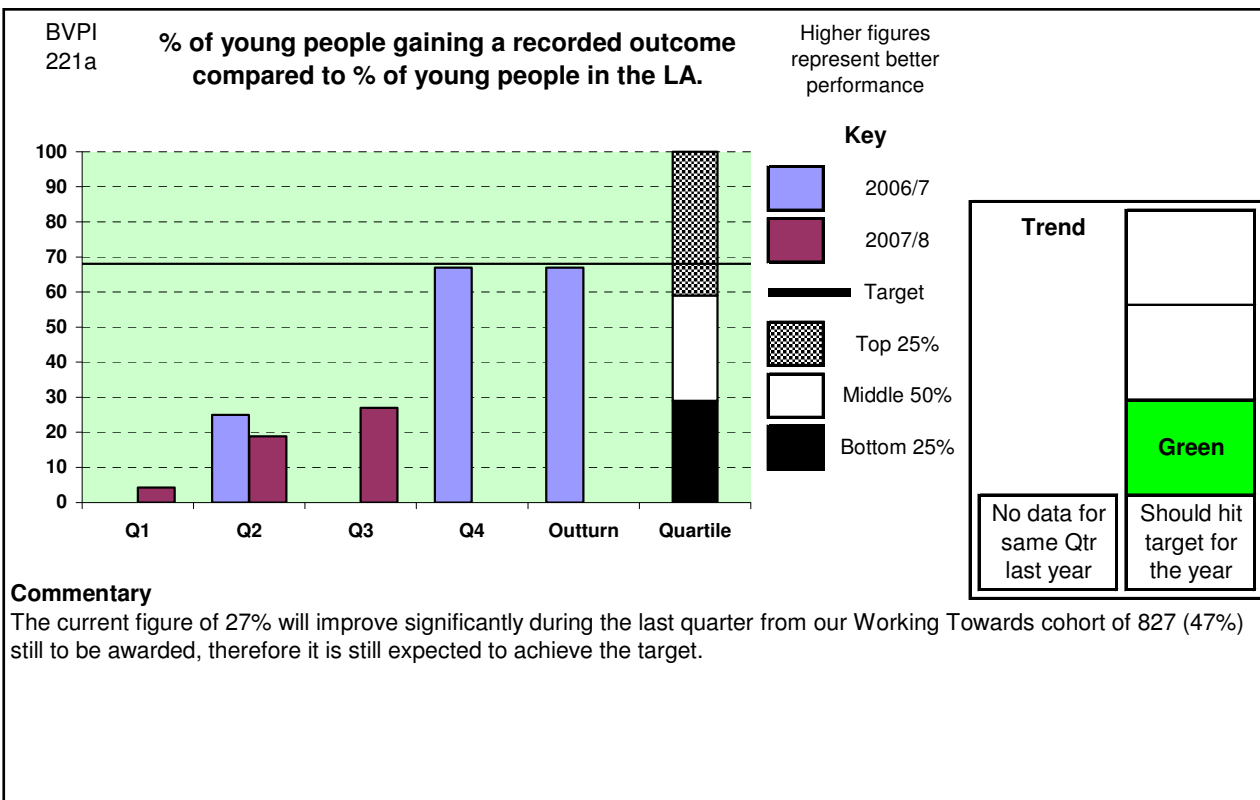
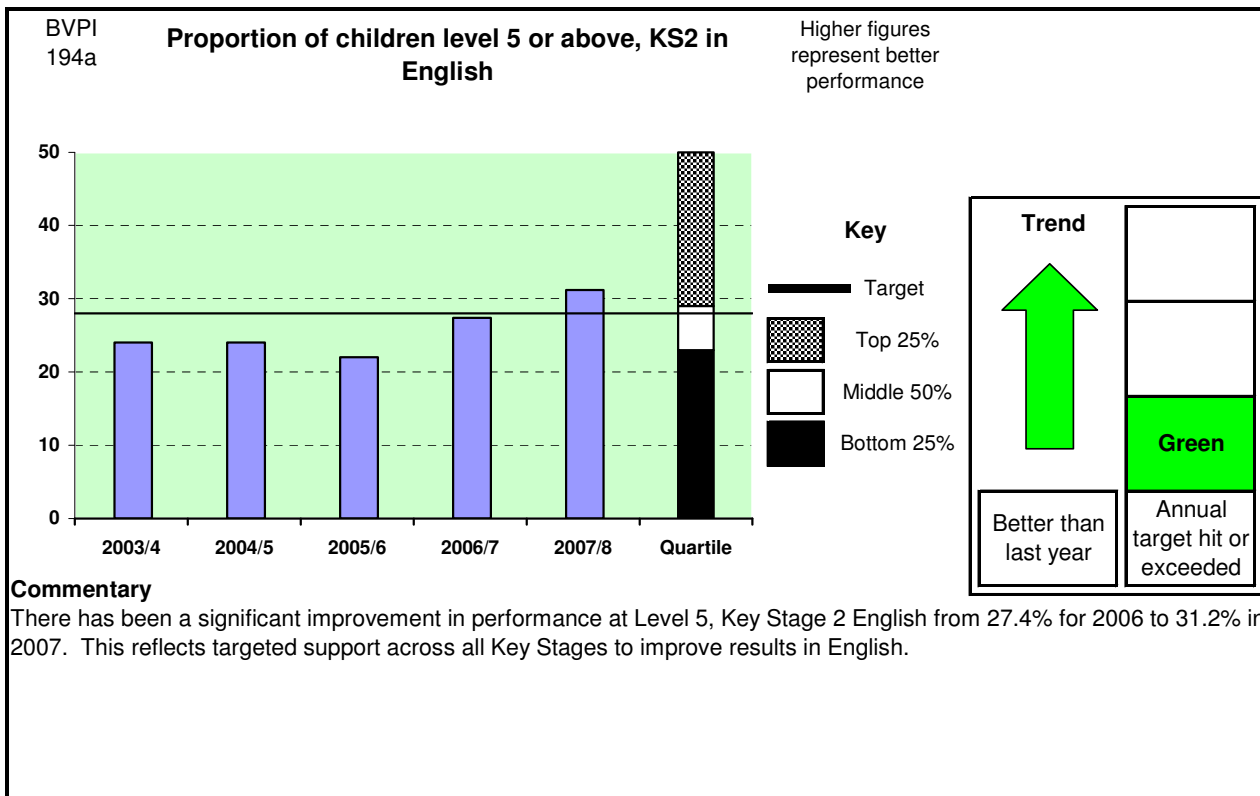
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		<p>above in KS2 English tests is met</p> <p>LA target of pupils achieving Level 5 in KS2 tests are met - 28% for English and 31% Maths</p> <p>All schools set challenging targets for 2008 by December 2007</p>		<p>boys attainment' project</p> <p>Planning of activities related to the 'Year of Reading' been undertaken to raise the profile of reading in Halton</p> <p>Maths training event delivered with a focus on problem solving</p> <p>Subject leader networks to develop subject leader knowledge and share good practice</p> <p>Intensifying Support programme continues to focus on specific schools</p>
ULS4	To raise standards at Key Stage 3	<p>LA target of pupils achieving Level 5 in KS3 tests are met - 76% pupils in English, 75% pupils in Maths and 71% pupils in Science</p> <p>All schools set challenging targets for 2008 by December 2007</p> <p>To increase the L5+ in English is a priority</p>		<p>Confirmation of whether schools are on target still has to be confirmed however School Improvement Partners (SIPs) will be tracking progress this term and reporting to the SIP manager.</p> <p>All schools have set challenging targets for 2008.</p> <p>English consultant working with schools to develop teachers' delivery of KS 3 programme of study and address key issues related to learning. In particular improving boys' writing.</p>

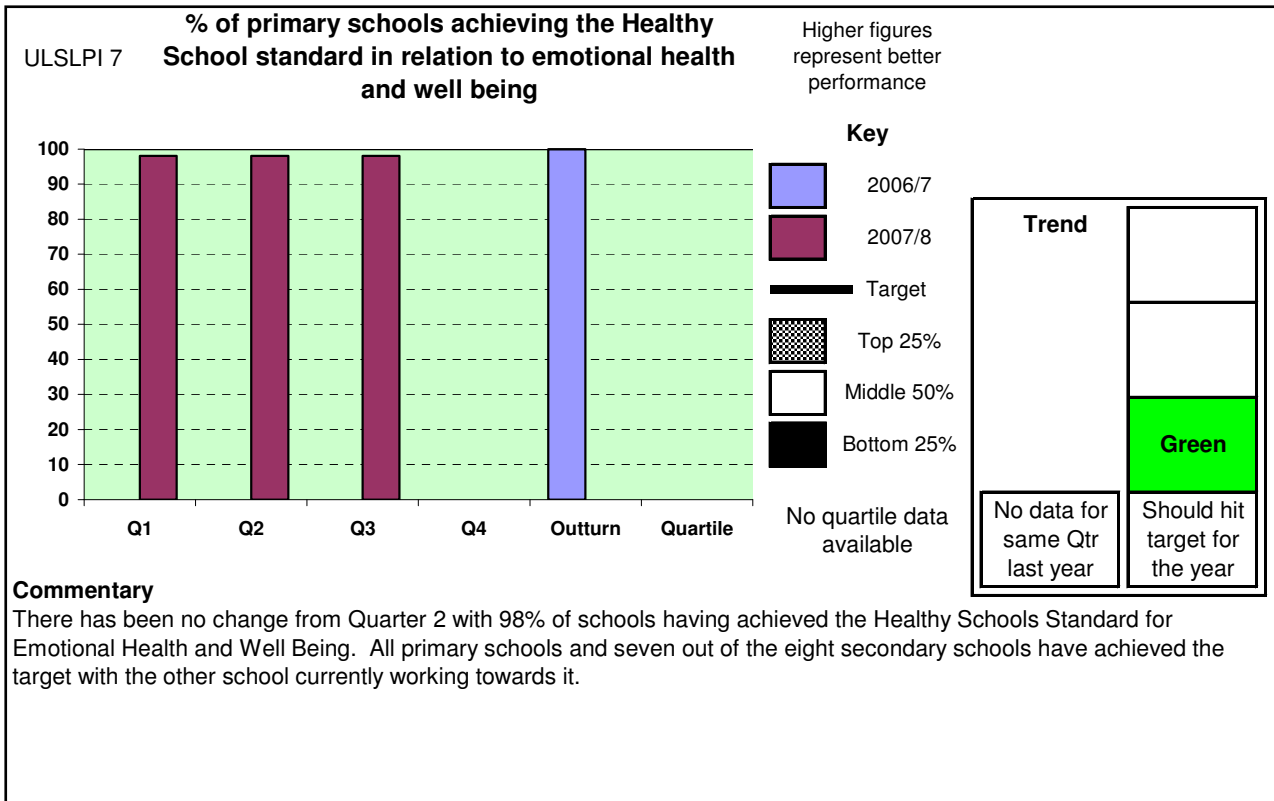
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS5	To raise standards at Key Stage 4	<p>LA target of 36% pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C including English and Maths is met</p> <p>LA target of 90% pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G including English and Maths is met</p> <p>All schools set challenging targets for 2008 by December 2007</p> <p>To increase the 5A*C in English and Maths and 5A* - G is a priority</p>		<p>Excellent performance in schools last year and 40.8 % gained 5 A*-C GCSE's including English and maths. Consultants are working closely with schools to maintain the improvement from previous years results.</p> <p>LA target for 90% achieving %+ A*-G was achieved last year target.</p> <p>All schools have set challenging targets for 2008.</p> <p>School Improvement Partners (SIPs) will be tracking progress this term and reporting to the SIP manager progress at KS4 with regard to statutory targets.</p>
ULS9	To promote economic well-being	To reduce % of young people NEET by November 2007 from March 2006 baseline of 10.54%		<p>The 16 to 18 year old NEET percentage in Halton was 11.27% at the end of December 2007 this is compared with 11.79% in December 2006. In real terms the NEET figure fell by 37 young people from the end of November 2007.</p> <p>The national KPI is calculated as the average percentage NEET in November, December and January so</p>

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2007/08 Key Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				this data will not be available until mid February 2008.
ULS11	To improve young peoples sexual health	Reduce under 18 conception rate by 15% by March 2008		<p>ONS validated data recalculated in November for 2005 shows Halton +17.5% above 1998 baseline. 2006 data due February 08 (ONS validated data)</p> <p>Small increases and decreases in the number of conceptions can show variations year on year. The three year rolling average shows the rate has reduced by 13.3% for Halton from the 1998-2000 rates to 2003-05 rates. 2006 quarter two ONS data is similar to 2005 figure re. Number of conceptions. The rolling quarterly average (June06) is higher than the previous years figure (47.4 and 51.2 respectively)</p>









LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 05/06	Perform 06/07 (reported Q3 07/08)	Traffic light*	Commentary
9	<p>Improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4.</p> <p>The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSE's at grades A* to C, or DFES equivalents, in English and Maths.</p>	<p>32.5% 04/05</p>	<p>40.5% 07/08</p>	<p>33%</p>			

UNIVERSAL & LEARNING SERVICES

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2007

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Employees	814	611	649	(38)	649
Premises Support	158	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	187	140	323	(183)	343
Transport	10	8	6	2	6
Support Service Recharges	719	0	0	0	0
Connexions Payments	1,105	650	645	5	645
Commissioned Work	38	29	8	21	8
Total Expenditure	3,031	1,438	1,631	(193)	1,651
<i>Income</i>					
Dedicated Schools Grant	-376	-282	-282	0	-282
Other Grants	-24	-18	-24	6	-24
Schools SLA Income	-113	-85	-140	55	-140
Reimbursements	-130	-98	-322	224	-322
Total Income	-643	-483	-768	285	-768
Net Expenditure	2,388	955	863	92	883

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile.

The overspend against general Supplies & Supplies and Staff costs at this stage is due to additional expenditure in the provision of services via an SLA to Schools. This overspend is offset by additional income from reimbursements and Schools SLA income.

At this stage it is anticipated that overall revenue spending will be in line with the Departmental budget by the end of the financial year.

SPENDING ON EXTERNAL OR GRANT FUNDED ITEMS**As at 31st December 2007**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Sure Start	2,010	1,508	1,019	489	1,019
Children's Centre – Ditton	392	294	215	79	215
Children's Centre – Brookvale	449	336	281	55	281
Children's Centre – Halton Lodge	392	294	196	98	196
Children's Centre – Halton Brook	485	363	292	71	292
Children's Centre – Kingsway	473	354	197	157	197
Children's Centre – Warrington Road	20	15	35	(20)	35
Children's Centre - OLOPS	15	11	3	8	3
Children's Centre - Palacefields	21	16	24	(8)	24
Children's Centre – Windmill Hill	21	16	11	5	11
Contracts/ SLA's	1,084	813	356	457	356
Total Sure Start Grant	5,362	4,020	2,629	1,391	2,629
Local Strategic Partnership	1,525	1,143	583	560	583
Total External / Grant Funded Items	6,887	5,163	3,212	1,951	3,212

Comments on the above figures:

External funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below the budget profile in both main areas.

General Sure Start Grant still has a number of budget areas which are yet to be allocated, but historically expenditure increases in the final quarter of the financial year. The current

budget underspend against budget profile is due to a number of staff vacancies during the financial year. Senior management are currently assessing the grant conditions in order to fully utilise the grant by the financial year end.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in respect of all LSP projects and any areas of concern are dealt with throughout the year by the LSP support team and individual project managers. Some variances against the budget are expected, as the LSP have deliberately over-programmed in order to ensure that the full allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant is spent during the year.

SPENDING ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

As at 31st December 2007

	2007/08 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend to Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Special Schools – Cavendish / Brookfields	2,141	1,606	220	1,921
School Capital Repairs	951	713	791	160
Castlefields Children's Centre	627	470	0	627
Runcorn All Saints Children's Centre	400	300	21	379
The Holy Spirit Children's Centre	355	266	322	33
All Saints Upton Children's Centre	207	155	185	22
Access Initiative	179	134	22	157
Contingency Budget	132	99	12	120
Farnworth Link Building	45	34	0	45
Halebank Replacement Mobile	12	9	12	0
Warrington Road Children's Centre	40	30	39	1
The Bridge (Astmoor) Alterations	28	21	28	0
The Grange Comp – Drama Facilities	22	17	9	13
The Bankfield – Kitchen / Dining Extension	22	17	22	0
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Moorfield Primary – 2 Class Extension	11	8	11	0
Palacefields Children's Centre	11	8	15	(4)
Wade Deacon – Refurb Science Labs	8	6	7	1
Asset Management Data	5	4	0	5




Halton High Tech – Phase 2	5	4	5	0
Total Expenditure	5,216	3,912	1,721	3,495

Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes which have little actual spend up to the end of quarter 3, most notably the Cavendish and Brookfields scheme and the two Children's Centre schemes at Castlefields and Runcorn All Saints.

It is important that these projects get underway as soon as possible, in order to ensure that the relevant capital allocations are fully utilised by the year-end.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target is on course to be achieved</u>.</p>
<u>Amber</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>unclear</u> at this stage, due to a lack of information or a key milestone date being missed, <u>whether the objective will be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the <u>target will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</p>