



Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**Monday, 3 November 2008 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Peter Browne	Conservative
Councillor Philip Drakeley	Conservative
Councillor Frank Fraser	Labour
Councillor Robert Gilligan	Labour
Councillor Trevor Higginson	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Joan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor John Stockton	Labour
Mr Colin Chorley	

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

The next meeting of the Board is on Wednesday, 26 November 2008

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (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 & Performance Board

DATE: 3rd November 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 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 3rd November 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board and Executive Sub Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Sub since the last meeting of this Board are attached at Appendix 1 (link) for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to update the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

7.0 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 11TH SEPTEMBER 2008

EXB36 SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2008

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People outlining the 2008 performance data for Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stages 1 to 4. This was an initial report referring to currently available data reporting attainment only, not indicating the effectiveness of service delivery. A more detailed report covering locality, comparator and school interventions would be produced when reliable pupil level data was available.

It was advised that there had been a number of problems with the marking of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 papers. This had led to delays in the release of the results and, at the current stage, data was still incomplete for Key Stage 3 and so could not be reported. However, a detailed data report for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People outlining the 2008 performance data for Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stages 1 to 4. This was an initial report referring to currently available data reporting attainment only, not indicating the effectiveness of service delivery. A more detailed report covering locality, comparator and school interventions would be produced when reliable pupil level data was available.

It was advised that there had been a number of problems with the marking of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 papers. This had led to delays in the release of the results and, at the current stage, data was still incomplete for Key Stage 3 and so could not be reported. However, a detailed data report for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, GCSE and A-Level was included in Appendix 1 to the report. The Board noted that there had been tremendous progress again at both Key Stage 2 and GCSE, which were the key results in terms of an indicator of future outcomes for children and young people in Halton.

In receiving the report, the Board noted the following:

- there had been an improvement in relation to Children In Care (CIC) although further work was still required. Results for CIC were also dependent upon the particular cohort as each child had unique circumstances. However, in order to try and address this, a Personal Education Plan was produced for each child;
- it was considered that work carried out in relation to attendance figures had had a direct impact on improvement, and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was very much a part of this;
- results in respect of Key Stage 3 and some for Key Stage 2 were still awaited which could have a further positive impact on the level of attainment;
- a second joint meeting had taken place at Cronton that morning to address the issue of children aged 16 – 19 going outside the Borough for further education. This had been attended by all of Halton's Head Teachers and positive steps had been made.

RESOLVED: That the attainment of children in Halton's schools for the 2007-08 academic year be noted.

EXB37 JOINT AREA REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People summarising the key findings of the recent Joint Area Review (JAR) in Halton.

Halton's JAR was undertaken against a change of methodology from April 2007. This change had resulted in a "harder test" in which the emphasis was upon vulnerable groups. The result of the investigations in Halton were outlined for the Board's consideration. Overall, it was noted that:

- the combined score of the "core" investigation made Halton the most successful JAR in the North West to date (only Lancashire, Tameside and Blackburn were left to report);
- Halton was the only North West authority to secure a score of "outstanding" for safeguarding (one of only six nationally); and
- Halton's successful JAR put it in the top 4 nationally.

In addition, a number of key improvements had been highlighted, which could be categorised under the two sections of improvement

in outcomes and improvement in processes. These were outlined for the Board's information. In light of the recommendations for improvement a multi-agency improvement plan had been established and was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

In presenting the report, the Portfolio Holder thanked all those across the children's partnership that had contributed to the JAR.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the improvement plan be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2008

EXB56 STATUTORY CONSULTATION FOR ST CHAD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided the response to the statutory consultation on the closure of St Chad's Catholic High school and the establishment of a new joint faith Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided High School.

It was noted that formal consultation with stakeholders commenced in June 2007 as part of the secondary reorganisation process. A further round of consultation was then undertaken in November 2007. Permission was then sought from the Secretary of State to publish the proposal without holding a competition. On 9th June 2008, the Secretary of State exercised the powers conferred on him by Section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and decided to grant consent to the publication of a proposal for a new 11-19 joint Catholic/Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School.

The statutory proposal was published by the governing body on 3rd July 2008. The statutory proposal was a joint agreement with the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Church of England Diocese of Chester. The notice outlined the intention to close St Chad's High in order that a joint faith Catholic and Church of England (11-19) school could be established on the current site. It was proposed that St Chad's Catholic High School close on 31st August 2009 and the new joint faith school commence on 1st September 2009. All the pupils from St Chad's would transfer to the new joint faith school from 1st September 2009. The published admission number would increase to 190 from 1st September 2009 and from 1st September 2013 it would increase to 240 with 100 sixth

form places.

Members were further advised of the consultation process undertaken and that those people wishing to respond to the consultation were advised to put their views in writing to Operational Director, Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources. No responses had been received within the representation period of 3rd July 2008 to 14th August 2008.

It was further noted that approval to the proposal had to be agreed within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision would be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. The Board was advised of what this would mean along with the issues the decision maker needed to consider.

RESOLVED: That

Having had regard to the statutory guidance and in pursuance of the powers set out in Section 10 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 and the related Regulations and the permission that was granted by the Secretary of State IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following related proposals be approved:-

- (a) With effect from 31 August 2009 St Chad's High be discontinued.
- (b) With effect from 1 September 2009 the new St Chad's Catholic/Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School be established on the current St Chad's Catholic High; and
- (c) With effect from 1 September 2009 the St Chad's Catholic/Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School published admission number be 190 per year group. In addition, the school will continue to provide a sixth form for 100. The expansion of this admission number of the closing Catholic High School is to give effect to the joint faith dimension of the new school. The Published Admission number will increase to 240 per year group on completion of the BSF investment at St Chad's.

EXB57 PLAY BUILDER PROJECT - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which updated Members on the progress made in developing the Playbuilder programme and which sought consideration of the proposals for its delivery. In addition it sought to give Members the chance to consider the opportunity and implications of a bid for Wave 2 Play Pathfinder Status.

Members received a report on the 21st May 2008 informing them of the success of the authority in achieving Playbuilder status. Halton had received formal confirmation of this status on 31st May 2008 and confirmation of the funding awarded, as detailed within the report.

From the guidance received, it had been identified that Halton must deliver a minimum of 6 new/transformed playgrounds in 2008/09 and a further 18 in 2009/10 and 2010/11 making a total of 24 over the 3 years.

It was noted that that Halton Play Partnership had been asked to consider appropriate models for the consideration, commissioning and management of play area development proposals. At its meeting in May the Play Partnership agreed the formation of a Playbuilder Implementation Project team and the Membership details were outlined in the report.

The Project Team had met twice to date and progress had been made to develop a 'Playbuilder Project Plan' and a 'draft Plan'. The draft plan would include proposals for the identification of and timetable for year 1 2008/09 projects.

As a result of the challenging timeframe (all yr1 capital allocation must be spent by 31st March 2009) the project team had, based on the consultation carried out to develop the Halton Play Plan 2007-2011 and the Big Lottery Funded Children's Play Initiative, identified a number of projects which could meet the challenge of delivering within this the timeframe and that met the criteria proposed for yr 1 projects.

The Board was advised that only £15,000 of the year one allocation could be carried over into the following year. Year one projects must therefore be deliverable by March 31st 2009.

It was noted that projects in years two and three would be invited for submission to the Council. This would afford time for a formal application process to be developed where projects would be subject to strict eligibility criteria developed by the Play Partnership.

Members were advised on the Wave 2 Play Pathfinder Status. Existing Playbuilders had been asked if they would like to be considered for play pathfinder status in Wave two and were given until 19th September to advise DCSF that they wished to be considered.

The final date for the submission of full pathfinder bids was 12noon on Friday 24th October and there would be 10 Play Pathfinders awarded funding from all applications.

In addition to the £1.1 million capital already approved for playbuilder the 10 Pathfinders would each deliver at least one large adventure playground or play park, costing around £800k.

Pathfinders would also receive revenue funding to cover activity such as generating learning on innovative ways of improving local play offers; appointing a senior project manager to link to high-level decision-making; and any other required infrastructure to ensure the Pathfinder programme runs effectively.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) progress to date be noted and the schemes identified in Appendix 5 to the report be agreed; and
- (2) Wave 2 Pathfinder status application be progressed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2008

ES23 THE SETTING UP OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS WITH KEY STAGE 4 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVIDERS KID'S FIRST AND RIVERSIDE COLLEGE

There was a statutory duty on local authorities to provide education for pupils who were permanently excluded from school. This was undertaken in most Councils through the provision of pupil referral units. The key stage 4 pupil referral unit in Halton employed a model of service delivery whereby the provision for pupils was made via external providers, who were co-ordinated, supported and quality assured by the Council.

At the end of the last academic year, tenders were invited for provision in the following areas:

- support and emotional literacy;
- academic – GCSE

Specifications for these tenders were widely distributed to organisations in the region that provided in these areas and expressions of interest were requested. However, this year only single tenders were received in each of these areas of provision. This reflected the limited number of

organisations who were willing and equipped to work with some of the most demanding and challenging young people within the Borough. Both tenders received were from existing providers who were part of the successful OFSTED inspection and who had met the quality assurance processes administered by the Head of Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Director – Children and Young People be authorised to enter into Service Level Agreements with Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit providers Kid's First and Riverside College.

REPORT TO: Children & Young People PPB

DATE: 3rd November 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Q2 Performance Monitoring Reports

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an initial briefing on Quarter 2 Performance for Children's Services. Due to the timescale of the PPB meeting in this cycle the full reports will not be completed until just prior to the meeting. They will be circulated as soon as possible although it is likely they will not be ready until the last week in October.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) The Board scrutinise progress against the Service Plans identified in this summary and the full reports which will be circulated prior to the meeting.

3.0 Summary

There are four service plans for Children's Services covering all aspects of the Directorate's work. Quarterly reports are prepared to update progress against these plans and reported to PPB. The summary attached is an early snapshot of progress during the quarter and the emerging issues that will impact in the future. More detail will be provided on all of the areas identified in the full report.

3.1 Universal and Learning Services

Key Developments

- *Leadership and Management:* A number of projects are ongoing with schools including establishment of a leadership hub, a comprehensive database of support information, and a leadership and management programme, which will cover the changing role of school leaders.
- *Inclusion:* There has been a co-location of staff involved in inclusive learning services with the School Improvement Team to ensure greater alignment.

- *School Performance:* Excellent GCSE results leading to an 18.3% increase in % achieving 5 A*-C over the last 2 years and a 15.9% increase in % achieving 5 A*-C including English & Maths in the same period

Emerging Issues

- *Inclusion:* Refocusing the use of under-utilised provision to ensure the needs of low incidence LDD within the mainstream setting. A more flexible resource is being provided based around the identified needs of the child.

3.2 Preventative Services

Key Developments

- *Locality Working:* A project plan has been developed to progress the co-ordination and delivery of services to children, young people and families on a locality basis across the Borough
- *MyPlace:* We have submitted a radical and innovative bid to secure investment of £2.5m to redesign and refurbish the Kingsway Health Building into a Youth Hub to be called 'The Buzz'.

Emerging Issues

- *PRU's/Alternative Provision:* DCSF published a white paper "Back on Track" in response to perception of the poor quality of alternative provision nationally. Provision in Halton appears to be very much along the lines of the models they are suggesting nationally but awaiting further guidance.
- *Child Poverty:* Halton has been successful in submitting an Expression of Interest for work focused services in Children's Centres. If successful, the bid will also attract around up to £100,000 per annum over a pilot period of 3 years.

3.3 Specialist Services

Key Developments

- *Targeted Support:* Principal Manager has been seconded to develop the integration of targeted support for vulnerable children. This will see the integration of Children in Need specialist services with Children's centres.
- *Safe Recruitment:* HSCB Safer Recruitment sub-group to ensure that all organisations working or in contact with children operate recruitment, supervision and management practices which take into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Emerging Issues

- *Capacity Issues:* There has been increasing demand on Specialist Services over the last 18 months in two key areas; number of children in need cases and costs of placement for children in care. A detailed review is underway to identify the implications for the service.
- *Placement Strategy:* A strategy is being developed to look at ways of improving the supply of local foster carers.

3.4 Business Support and Commissioning

Key Developments

- *Children's Trust:* Proposals to develop the Alliance Board and rename it as the Children's Trust were agreed at the Board Meeting on the 3rd September. There is a statutory duty to have a Children's Trust as part of the Every Child Matters guidance to drive the integration of Children's Services. Membership of the Trust and the new Trust Executive Board were agreed and further work is required on the detail of the structure below these groups.

Emerging Issues

- *Complaints Consultation:* DCSF have issued a consultation document to review the process for dealing with complaints against schools. It is proposed to introduce a new independent body to review complaints that cannot be resolved by the school or the governing body. This is likely to have significant implications for Schools and the LA.
- *BSF:* The Strategy for Change Part 2 is the next major milestone in the Building Schools for the Future Programme and is due to be submitted to DCSF by the end of October.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications identified

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

No other implications have been identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The service plan monitoring systems supports work towards the priority on Children and Young People by ensuring robust monitoring of services.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Not applicable.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Not applicable.

6.3 A Safer Halton

Not applicable.

6.4 Halton's Urban Renewal

Not applicable.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

A risk analysis has been completed against each of the Departmental Service Plans.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The priorities identified in the service plan are targeted at reducing inequalities and ensuring the best outcomes for all children and young people in Halton with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

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

None

REPORT TO: Children and Young People's Performance Board
DATE: 3 November 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Special Strategic Partnership Board minutes
WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People's Portfolio which have been considered by the Special Strategic Partnership Board are attached at Appendix 1 for information.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

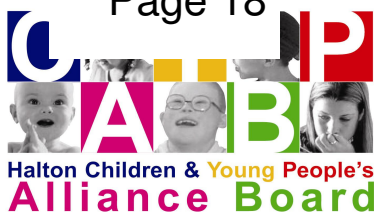
6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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



**Halton Children & Young People's Commissioning Partnership
Minutes of Meeting held Monday 8th September 2008, 9.00-11.30,
Municipal Building, Marketing Suite**

Item		Action By
	<p>Present: Gerald Meehan – Director of Children's Services Tilly Heigh – Children & Young People's Alliance Board Manager John Pearce – Divisional Manager, Planning & Performance, CYPD, HBC Margaret Chaplin – Divisional Manager Children with Complex Needs Lorraine Crane – Children's Commissioning Manager, HBC Lorraine Butcher – Operational Director Preventative Services Ann McIntyre – Operational Director Business Support and Commissioning Tony Crane – Organisational Development Manager Nigel Moorhouse – Divisional Manager Children In Need Mark Grady – Policy & Partnership Development Officer, Strategic Policy and Partnerships, HBC Debbie Garner (attending for Elizabeth Mannion) – Halton & St Helens PCT Dympna Edwards – Deputy Director of Public Health Diane Sproson – Area Manager, Connexions Jane Lunt – Operational Director for Family Health & Commissioning, Halton & St Helens PCT Karen Hickey – Alliance Board Partnership Officer (minutes)</p>	
1	<p>Apologies</p>	
	<p>Pat Grunwell – Vice Principal, Riverside College,</p>	
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p>	
2.1	<p><u>Item 2.2 - Children's Trust Update</u> TC outlined the purpose of the draft memorandum of understanding. Discussions are currently being held with the PCT with a view to formalising an agreement to integrate services, which should be in place within the next 2 months. Regarding section 75 it was clarified that this is a finance agreement.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Item 2.3 – Parenting Strategy</u> The grading for the post of Parenting Strategy Lead Implementation Officer has now been agreed following discussions.</p>	

2.3	<p><u>Item 2.4 - CAF</u></p> <p>The research proposal has now been considered but there are issues regarding costs. TH requested that the CAF team be involved in further discussions and this was agreed.</p>	
2.4	<p><u>Item 2.5 – Children’s Obesity</u></p> <p>There is currently a significant piece of work going on around this, looking at additional resource coming into the PCT, also looking into children’s centres to see how these can be better used to address issues. 80k has been committed from Mike Treharne around playground support.</p>	
2.5	<p><u>Item 6 – Aiming Higher for Disabled Children</u></p> <p>The post of Project Implementation Manager has now been graded and needs to go to advert, Alison Upham is covering for the interim. A steering group has now been set up. The funding timeline needs to be monitored carefully, some services are already funded. 5 packages to be piloted by end of September using a brokerage system. It is important to demonstrate a robust response regarding service delivery.</p>	
3	Children’s Trusts Developments	
3.1	<p>TC briefed the meeting on the Alliance Board framework review, which has been in progress over the past 9 months. An away day was held to discuss the way forward and a new structure evolved from this, which was detailed to the meeting. The new membership for the Alliance Board, which has now had a formally agreed name change to Halton Children’s Trust, has now been agreed. This will operate at a more strategic level with a focus on setting priorities and the ability to influence change within Halton. The Executive Group and Service Delivery Partnerships will work to priorities set by the Children’s Trust Board, and the business of the Trust will now become more outcomes driven, with the aim of addressing entrenched issues within Halton.</p>	
3.2	<p>The new structure will enable the Trust to address how we commission and pool resource, with greater clarity on what is being spent in different areas. The structure will move the Trust from a partnership to a virtual organisation, which should encourage greater ownership of the Trust by partner organisations.</p>	
3.3	<p>It was suggested that some internal discussion needs to be held within Health to clarify changes to staff. The level of strategic support required to the Trust needs to be clarified with Managers. The first Executive Group meeting will be tasked with bringing partners together towards joint working. . Integrated business functions will be revisited and new priorities set by April 09 and the PCT will be involved in commissioning processes. GM expressed thanks to TC and TH for all their hard work.</p>	

4	Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit	
4.1	TC outlined the proposals for the Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit (JICU) and the key strategies behind it, which are based on multi agency resource as illustrated within the document circulated. The unit will be tasked with examining in depth a range of complex priorities, which will inform working towards a solution as detailed in the 4 phase/8 step plan.	
4.2	A multi-agency resource will need to be established to support the work of the Trust, and firm proposals will be agreed at the next meeting of the Children's Trust Board. Areas of work will be led by people with the most relevant expertise to specific areas. The current workforce needs to be clarified, duplication needs to be avoided and strengths of individual organisations established.	
4.3	Housing needs to be considered, in particular how services can be targeted to meet the needs of children with accommodation needs. It was suggested that the State of Borough report could be used as a good reference point to highlight areas of need.	
5	Future of the CYP Commissioning Partnership	
5.1	GM informed the group that the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is now becoming more strategic, therefore WNF commissioning activity which took place within this group can be completed in other areas, as ultimately it will need to go back to the LSP for key decision making. Rather than this Partnership functioning as a decision-making body as originally intended, key decisions have been taken outside the group. It was agreed that this work should now be co-ordinated via the Children's Trust Executive Group, which will now function as the SSP, and the Joint Intelligence Commissioning Unit. It was agreed that the CYP Commissioning Partnership be dissolved.	
6	WNF Commissioning Strategy	
6.1	MG highlighted to the group the key points from the report circulated earlier. A commissioning event was held on the 14 th July and outline proposals were given approval. These will go to the LSP meeting in November. Members are to ensure that there is involvement from CYP in each of the three priority areas:	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worklessness – to be incorporated into the NEET strategy, DS to lead on this within the Children's Trust. 3 million has been allocated in funding. Internal dialogue will be held within the Preventative Services Delivery Partnership. DS will then feed into this group, and LB will feed back into the Executive Group. 	DS LB
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol Strategy – LC to lead on this and feed into both Health and Preventative Services Delivery Partnerships. £1m in funding is available for this, £100k has already gone into research. Funding has gone into an "Arrest Adult Referral 	LC

6.4	<p>Worker” post which was queried by the meeting . Concerns were raised about the voice of children and young people not being heard, MG to take this back to the LSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti social behaviour – Gareth Jones currently sits on the SSP and Dave Williams and Paul Boyce also represent the Youth agenda. Emphasis is to be on YOT, children in need and targeted youth support, as this is the key link. LB to discuss links with services with PB. Funding for this area is £1m. 	<p>MG</p> <p>LB</p>
6.5	<p>LC fed back that there is an issue with capacity to undertake services for WNF. LC had met with Shelah Semoff last week to discuss a new model. Shelah has agreed to take this forward to Rob McKenzie and the LSP to suggest the LSP resources additional capacity via a service level agreement.</p>	
7	AOB	
7.1	<p>Debbie Garner queried whether existing CAMHS staff contracts can be renewed. LC fed back that this will be agreed by Specialist Services and the PCT will be informed.</p>	
7.2	<p>MG informed the group that there will be a report going to LSP regarding refreshing the Community Strategy Targets. SSPs will be asked to produce action plans. TH to forward a copy of her report on the CYP plan to MG.</p>	TH
7.3	<p>LB informed the group that work on future commissioning on Connexions services is underway. Shared services will be looked at, including who will be the provider, across 6 authorities. LB will be leading on the process.</p>	LB
7.4	<p>JP informed the group that LC has now been seconded to a new post, and Elaine Roberts-Smith will be covering her previous role.</p>	
7.5	<p>DE informed the meeting that the PCT will be rolling out the Baby Welcome award, which is to promote breastfeeding. It was suggested that a Council policy on breastfeeding would be helpful to the process. LB and Peter Barron would be the key leads on this, Sue Millner to be asked to produce a report for COMT, mapping ap out actions to be taken.</p>	
7.6	<p>GM thanked the group for their work and clarified that this was the final meeting of the CYP Commissioning Partnership</p>	

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 3rd November 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Question and Answer Session

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board will be invited to participate in a question and answer session with Councillor McInerney Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

REPORT TO:	Children & Young People's Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	3 rd November 2008
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children & Young People
SUBJECT:	Transitions for Children in Care
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview of the issues that impact on Children in Care and their experience of transition from care into adult life.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members

- Note the content of the report
- Consider how they can take forward their role as Corporate Parents.
- Consider how to strengthen the scrutiny function to ensure that Officers and Partner agencies are held to account for the support provided to Children in Care as they make the transition into adult life.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 There are 148 Children in Care in Halton and 78 care leavers. The population of Children in Care has remained consistent over a number of years as a result of the emphasis placed on supporting families and seeing care as a final positive choice for children and young people. Children who come into care in Halton do so only after all other options have been fully explored and exhausted.
- 3.2 All children who come into care have a clear plan, which considers the needs of the individual child and how these needs can be matched to an alternative carer and other service provision. The health and well being of the child drives the care planning process.
- 3.3 In the vast majority of cases, the plan is in the form of a Care Order, which gives the Council parental responsibility for the care and welfare of the individual child until they are 18 and are able to live independently.
- 3.4 All Care plans are subject to regular review and to external scrutiny by an Independent Review Manager (IRM)
- 3.5 A central consideration in the care planning process is the need to help the child cope with their past and plan for their futures. This is relevant at all

stages in a child's life in care but has particular relevance when preparing for independent living.

- 3.6 From the age of 14 all Children in Care are encouraged to think about leaving care. This process is known as Pathway Planning. The Pathway Plan considers what skills the young person will need to live independently, the support they will need along the way and critically where to live and what to do. In Halton responsibility for Pathway Planning is taken forward by a Young Peoples Team, managed in Social Care but made up of professionals from Connexions, the Third Sector, Social Care and Health.
- 3.7 All Members and Senior Officers of the Council are Corporate Parents. This responsibility is set out in regulations and all Members received a letter from the then Secretary of State Frank Dobson outlining their role. In essence the expectation is that Members take the same level of interest in the welfare of Children in Care, as they would do if the child were their own.
- 3.8 Members have previously received a briefing on their role as Corporate Parents from Yolanda Corden (Interim Operational Director Specialist Services) in July 2007.
- 3.9 Regulation 33 visits, membership of the Children in Care Council, the Fostering and Adoption Panels, Climbie audits, and the policy for the employment of Children in Care by the Council are examples of how this responsibility works in practice.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a lot of strengths in the support provided to Children in Care as they make the transition into adult life. All Children in Care have a social worker, clear plans, good support from a range of services and many young people make a success of their lives when they leave care.
- 4.2 There is however a number of issues that impact on Children in Care as they start to live independent lives.
- 4.3 The average age at which children in Halton leave care is 17.5. This is older than it was 2 years ago but is still a lot younger than in the general population, who on average leave home at 24. Many of us will know from personal experience that leaving home is not an event and is more of a process. How many of us still go home for a meal, advise, and support? Children in Care find this continuity of support very difficult to achieve. When you consider the circumstances, which have contributed to the need for a child to come into care, it is not surprising that many young people find this transition extremely difficult to cope with.

4.3 ACTIONS

- i). The Children in Care Strategy (Appendix 1) and JAR improvement plan identify the actions required to address the areas for improvement

identified in the JAR and in the Care Matters Change for Children program. Care Matters sets out a new deal for Children in Care and for care leavers. This new deal provides many challenges for the Council and the Children's Trust but in many ways provides us with a real opportunity to get things right.

- ii). We will need to improve the continuity of planning for children as they leave care and delay the "event" until the young person is ready to leave home. Extending the offer for young people to stay with their carer until they are 21 is the beginning of this process. Whilst this will cost money and may impact on the availability of placements for other children this is an essential first step to improving outcomes for Children in Care. A feasibility exercise is currently being undertaken in social care as part of the development of a placement strategy for Children in Care.
- iii). Social care teams will need to be reconfigured to avoid the transfer of case management when a young person reaches the age of 16. A more suitable age would be 13/14 as this is a time when all young people start to consider their futures as they decide on the Key Stage 4 options.
- iv). The Council and Children's trust will need to fully implement the Care Leavers employment policy, which guarantees care leavers a job or an entitlement to ongoing training and learning. All Directorates in the Council, the LSP and Children's Trust will need to commit to this policy. The support services required to enable young people to engage with this offer are managed by social care.
- v). The Council, LSP and Children's Trust will need to secure from local housing trusts and registered social landlords a range of accommodation sufficient to give a choice to care leavers about where they live.

4.4 The recent Corporate Parenting conference held on the 10th October reaffirmed these actions and highlighted the need for these actions to be owned not just by social care professionals but by all those who work with our children and have a responsibility for their parenting.

4.5 **NEXT STEPS**

- The Corporate Parenting conference is rerun in February 2009 for all Members, Senior Officers in the Council, LSP and Children's Trust, Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors. This event would ensure that all these key people are made aware of their role and responsibilities with regard to Children in Care, and are able to explicitly identify how they intend to take forward their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- Members scrutinize the implementation of the Children in Care Employment Policy to ensure that care leavers are given every opportunity to find employment in the Council, LSP and Children's Trust partner agencies.

- Members scrutinize the provision of accommodation for care leavers and in particular the reasons why care leavers live in temporary accommodation.
- Members scrutinize the implementation of the Children in Care Strategy and JAR improvement plan.

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 citizens of the Borough who have the same rights as any other child or young person. Their welfare and safety is central to all Council priorities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Children in Care do less well in their education than the majority of children and young people. Ensure good educational outcomes and proper access to training and employment is the acid test of Corporate Parenting.

6.2 A Healthy Halton

Children in Care experience poorer health than the general population. The emotional resilience of Children in Care is critical to a successful transition into adult life. The proportion of care leavers who are teen parents or expectant mothers is significantly higher than in the general population.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Children in Care and care leavers should be considered as a disadvantaged group given the outcomes they experience

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Care Matters-Change for Children	Children and Young People's Directorate Grosvenor House Halton Lea Runcorn WA7 2WD	Christine Taylor Divisional Manager Children in Care