



Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**Monday, 23 February 2009 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**



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 1st June 2009.

**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.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	1 - 3
4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	4 - 16
5. SPECIALIST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES	17 - 23
REPORTS FOR ACTION	
6. REGULATION 33 VISITS AND CLIMBIÉ AUDITS	24 - 36
7. WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10	37 - 40
PROGRESS REPORTS AND POLICY UPDATES	
8. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARE LEAVERS	41 - 44
9. STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT	45 - 58
PERFORMANCE MONITORING	
10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR 2008/09	59 - 159

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: 23rd February 2009

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 34(9).
- 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(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from 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 given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one 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 your 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 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: 23rd February 2009

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 Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 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.

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18th DECEMBER 2008

84. Halton Youth Service - Future Commissioning Arrangements - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People outlining proposals to secure improved outcomes for young people through the future commissioning arrangements of Halton Youth Service.

It was noted that, in June 2002, the Executive Board had agreed that:

- the principle of the Youth Service transferring to Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership; and
- that a first stage transfer would take place from September 2002 with staff seconded to the Connexions service. The second stage for transfer was to take place from April 2003.

In March 2003, the Board further approved the Partnership Agreement for the management of the Youth Service by Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership. This had proven to be successful with the Youth Service now demonstrating improved performance against National Performance Indicators. However, the contracted period for the commissioning of the Youth Service ended on 31st March 2009.

In 2006, the Government launched “Youth Matters”, a key policy directive which promoted a vision of integrated support structures and services for teenagers which promoted and sought to secure access to positive activities and high quality information, advice and guidance. This would be delivered within a framework of integrated and targeted youth support with local flexibility for service re-design.

As a consequence of youth matters, local authorities were responsible and accountable for Youth Policy in their area and were taking responsibility for integrated planning and commissioning of the full range of services for teenagers from universal activities through to more specialist and targeted support. This would, over time, enable universal and targeted services to work closely together to provide integrated support for young people and to improve outcomes for them.

In addition, Youth Matters also made it clear that the support and guidance services provided by Connexions should now “go local” so that they could be more

fully included and integrated with a whole range of services for young people and their parents and carers. It was intended that the “localisation” of Connexions services would be achieved through the development of an integrated Youth Support strategy at the local level, which would enable a greater coherence of service to young people and their parents/carers and provide greater efficiency in the way services were procured and delivered locally.

The guidance contained in Youth Matters had subsequently been confirmed in legislation through the Education and Inspections Act 2007 and would be further embedded in the forthcoming Education and Skills Act.

More recently, the publication of PSA Delivery agreements and, in particular, PSA 14 focused upon the objective to “increase the number of children and young people on the path to success”. Mechanisms for securing progress against the objectives contained in PSA14 included delivery of high quality opportunities and activities for young people to secure their engagement in positive activities and to include diversionary activities to prevent them engaging in “at risk” or anti-social behaviours in the community. Traditionally, this had been delivered through youth clubs but additionally was increasingly now being secured through more creative routes.

In April 2008, Ofsted had undertaken a joint area review of services to children and young people in the Borough. This inspection included further investigations in the areas of Health and Integrated Youth Support, particularly focused upon the impact of this provision on young peoples’ involvement in planning and delivery of local services, their engagement in youth work and in addressing the level of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The major strengths highlighted by the inspection were outlined within the report for Members’ information together with important weaknesses. Whilst focussing upon many positive developments, the report emphasised the need to locally progress to “determining a single management structure” and also to “review job tasks and identify a model best practice in order that skills and experiences of both personal advisers and youth workers operating in a broader range of settings could be more effectively utilised”.

Consideration needed to be given to the future commissioning of Halton Youth Service within the context of Youth Matters, PSA14 and the future commissioning arrangements for Connexions services. Steps were being taken to commission Connexions services across the City Region in partnership with five other Merseyside Local Authorities. At this stage, Halton Borough Council was the only local authority to have taken steps previously to commission external providers to deliver its Youth Service. As a consequence, it was not appropriate to include the commissioning of Halton’s Youth Service within the specification drawn up for the Connexions service. However, it was evidence that within the developing integrated Youth Support arrangements currently being drawn up that there would need to be a closer alignment if not integration of the Youth Service and Connexions workforce to secure maximum benefit of service support to young

people. As a consequence, it was proposed that the commissioning of Halton Youth Service was aligned with the process of commissioning of Connexions service and was secured within the framework of a single City Region commission with an additional local dimension specific to Halton. This would ensure the delivery of Connexions services and Halton Youth Service by a single provider.

REASON FOR DECISION

Arrangements for the future delivery of service to young people would affect all young people aged 13 – 19 in the Borough. It would also include the targeting of specialist services to vulnerable young people to enable them to access their universal entitlement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

It was intended that the new contractual arrangements would take effect from 1st October 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) steps be taken to secure future commissioning of Halton Youth Service;
- (2) existing arrangements for commissioning Halton Youth Service from Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited be extended to 30th September 2009;
- (3) commissioning of Halton Youth Service be separate but aligned with the commissioning of Connexions Service; and
- (4) the timescale for the contract should align with that of the Connexions Services and should cover the period 30th September 2009 to 31st March 2012 with an option of an extension to the contract for a further period of up to three years, with the contract accommodating an appropriate break clause in the event of poor performance or reduced financial capacity to commission this service to level previously agreed.

85. Connexions Transition – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing information on the arrangements for the future commissioning of “Connexions Services”

It was advised that, "Youth Matters" required by April 2008 responsibility for commissioning Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) and the funding that went with it be devolved to local authorities working through children's trusts, schools and colleges. Local authorities were expected to lead a genuinely collaborative approach and develop new arrangements for delivering IAG that clearly met the needs of young people in the area. These arrangements would be planned and implemented in a way that not only supported the delivery of the 14 – 19 learning entitlement but were integrated into a wider set of Youth Support Services for teenagers and their parents.

Local Authorities were responsible and accountable for Youth Policy in their area and were taking responsibility for integrated planning and commissioning of the full range of services for teenagers from universal activities through to more specialist and targeted support. This would enable, over time, universal and targeted services to work closely together to provide integrated support for young people and to improve outcomes for them.

"Youth Matters" also made it clear that the support and guidance provided by Connexions should now "go local" so that they could be more fully included and integrated with the whole range of services for young people and their parents and carers. It was intended that the "localisation" of Connexions services would be achieved through the development of an integration Youth Support Strategy at a local level, which would enable a greater coherence of service to young people and their parents/ carers and provide greater efficiency in the way services were procured and delivered locally. More recently, the publication of PSA delivery agreements, and in particular PSA 14, focused upon the objective to "increase the number of children and young people on the path to success".

On 25th March 2008 the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families wrote to local authorities notifying them of interim arrangements for the delivery of Connexions services and assessments for young people with learning difficulties from 1st April 2008. The Education and Skills Bill, currently before Parliament, proposed that legal responsibilities be brought into line by effecting transfer to local authorities of the statutory responsibility of Connexions services. Further details were outlined within the report for Members' consideration together with a number of arrangements that had previously agreed by the Board in November 2007 in preparation for implementation. Progress towards these arrangements had been overseen by a Transition Steering Group comprising of the Chief Executives of Halton, Liverpool and St. Helens; the Directors of Children's Services at Knowsley, Sefton and the Wirral; and the Chairman being the Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council.

In 2008 legal advice received by the participating local authorities indicated that the commissioning of Greater Mersey Connexions Partnership could only occur for 2008/09 and that EU Procurement Regulations would need to be followed from 2009 onwards. As a consequence, work had been underway to secure the

commissioning of Connexions services from 2009 – 2011. To assist in this work support had been secured from the Merseyside Efficiency Improvement Partnership (MEIP) which was funding consultants to advise on the details of the specification and procurement process. That work was nearing completion and the next stage would lead into procurement through a process of open competitive dialogue. Additional resources were being sought from the MEIP to fund the project management costs associated with this work.

For the period 1st April 2008 until 31st March 2009, arrangements had been in place for Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council to be the contract holding authority with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited on behalf of the six Merseyside Local Authorities. From the period of the new contract it was proposed that Halton Borough Council becomes the contract holding authority on behalf of the six Merseyside Local Authorities. Contracts would be held with the respective five local authorities to ensure prompt payment on a monthly basis to Halton BC for their share of the contractual commitments with the provider of Connexions Services. A model for this arrangement was already in place with Wirral MBC.

Halton's role in becoming the contract holding authority on behalf of the six participating local authorities would be undertaken on a cost neutral basis. Any costs incurred would be recharged to the participating six local authorities.

The currently contract was worth approximately £17.5m and was funded from the Local Area Agreement (LAA) single pot allocations of which had been confirmed until 30th March 2011.

Consideration had been given to the length of any new proposed contract and whether it should be limited by the period of the current funding round and it was proposed that, due to the scale of the contract, and the extensive preparations undertaken across the six local authorities, letting the new contract for the remaining period of ABG would represent poor value for money. It was therefore proposed that the new contract to be let should run from the period 30th September 2009 until 31st March 2012 with a further proposed option of extension from for up to three years. Contractually, an appropriate break clause would be included in the contract enabling it to be reduced or ceased subject to appropriate consideration of factors relating to performance or financial sustainability.

No changes in status would occur to the pension arrangements for staff as a result of Halton BC becoming the contracting authority with the provider. Wirral MBC would remain as the administering body for the Merseyside Pension Fund to which current employees of Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited contributed.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Arrangements for the future delivery of services to young people would affect all young people aged 13 – 19 in the Borough. It would also include the targeting of

specialist services to all vulnerable young people to enable them access their universal entitlement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

It was intended that the new contractual arrangements would take effect from 1st October 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the existing contract with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership be amended to cover the period to 30th September 2009, pending the completion of procurement processes;
- (2) the new contract for Connexions Services should cover the period 30th September 2009 to 31st March 2012 with an option of an extension to the contract for a further period of up to three years, but for the contract to accommodate an appropriate break clause in the event of poor performance or reduced financial capacity to commission the service to the level previously agreed;
- (3) Halton Borough Council be the lead authority for procurement of the new arrangements on behalf of the six participating local authorities; and
- (4) Halton Borough Council become the contract holding authority on behalf of the six participating local authorities from the City Region for the new contract when awarded with the appropriate cross authority commitments.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2009

91. OFSTED Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of Services to Children and Young People in Halton – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People regarding the outcome of the statutory Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of Children's Services in Halton undertaken by OFSTED. The APA had been published on 17th December 2008 and was attached to the report at Appendix 1 for Members' information. The APA drew on evidence from fieldwork undertaken by OFSTED including School Inspections; the Joint Area Review conducted in 2008; the Children and Young People's Plan; and other

inspectors' findings, along with the Council's own self-assessment.

The assessment had graded the Council in seven key areas ranging from 4 (outstanding) to 1 (inadequate). The gradings that the Council had received were outlined for the Board's consideration together with the findings of the inspectors in relation to:

- being healthy;
- staying safe;
- enjoying and achieving;
- making a positive contribution;
- achieving economic well-being; and
- capacity to improve/service management.

In conclusion, Halton's performance had been particularly impressive in that four grades of "outstanding" had been achieved in Safeguarding; Enjoying and Achieving; Making a Positive Contribution; and Capacity to Improve. The Board noted that Halton was the only Council in the North West to achieve this. However, given recent events of Haringey and specifically the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby P, it was noted that the Council continued to develop its services ensuring that they remained fit for purpose, particularly in the field of child protection. With this in mind, at the request of the Chief Executive, work was underway to review services for vulnerable children and young people and their families and how the Council continued to best meet their needs and a report was to be submitted to the Executive Board with recommendations for further improvements in working practices in due course.

It was noted that the Strategic Director – Children and Young People and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder were also accountable for some services that they did not directly run, such as those impacting on children and young people's mortality rates. In relation to this, the Board was advised that the Primary Care Trust had agreed to carry out all its commissioning within the framework of the Children's Trust that Councillor McInerney chaired.

The Portfolio Holder, Members and relevant staff were thanked for their hard work, professionalism and commitment in securing a massive improvement in Children's Services throughout the Borough.

Reason for Decision

Statutory reporting process.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Immediate.

RESOLVED: That the performance ratings arising from the Annual Performance Assessment of services to Children and Young People in Halton undertaken by OFSTED be noted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2009

96. Capital Programme 2009/2010 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing a summary of the capital programme for 2009/10 for the Children and Young People Directorate.

The total capital funding of £6,138,001, and how it was made up, was outlined within the report for Members' information, together with details of the works to be funded and any requirements, or opportunities to submit bids, in relation to this. In addition, it was noted that all local authorities had been provided with the opportunity to bid for capital projects up to £5m that created world class facilities for diploma lines of learning. Consideration was to be given to the projects that represented the best use of limited funding. The Council had made a bid, details of which were within the report, and it was noted that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) would be advising on which projects would receive funding at the end of March 2009.

All local authorities had also been provided with additional funds to invest in youth facilities with a further 50 local authorities receiving funding to target work and resources "to increase young people's participation in activities, provide facilities and bring young people and the community together" (Youth Taskforce Action Plan 2008). Additionally, Halton had submitted a My Place bid proposing the refurbishment of the Kingsway Health Centre. Approval had been granted by DCSF to carry forward the Youth Capital Fund plus Grant (£452k) to contribute towards the refurbishment costs of the centre if the bid was successful. If the bid was unsuccessful the grant would fund improvements at Upton Community Centre to enhance the facilities of young people there.

Reason for Decision

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the capital funding available for 2009/10 be noted; and
- (2) Full Council be recommended to approve the Schools Capital Programme 2009/10.

97. Primary Organisation – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing a summary of the current primary school organisation, the number of primary places, and the current and projected primary school numbers in Halton. In addition, the report updated Members on the Primary Capital Strategy including the drivers for prioritising future investment and process for revising and resubmitting the Strategy to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

It was noted that the Audit Commission and DCSF guidance recommended that there should be no more than 10% surplus provision across an authority and that schools should not have more than 25% surplus places. In Halton the level of surplus capacity in primary schools had varied over the last few years. Following revisions to the net capacity of a number of primary schools, there were 1400 surplus places across the Borough, representing a 12.6% surplus, and 8 schools had surplus capacity in excess of 25%.

Predicting the likely level of future primary provision using PCT live birth data and applying the previous rate of school admission to births, the future primary numbers were estimated to be on average 1462 per year, equating to 8% surplus capacity. Although this figure was below the recommended 10%, it was predicted that there would still be schools within the Borough with over 25% surplus capacity. In addition, although there were surplus places in some areas, in others there was a shortage of provision and so increases in school places to meet needs required exploration.

The Board was advised that the DCSF had set a target for Halton that 15% of primary schools in the worst condition should be rebuilt or taken out of use and that a further 35% should be remodelled to bring them up to 21st century standards. A range of key drivers, to be included in an investment matrix, had therefore been identified to support the delivery of the national targets and allow Halton to meet its local priorities, details of which were provided within the report.

In addition, the Authority would consider the suitability of its primary provision in relation to special educational needs and disabilities, unmet extended and community services need, health through improved dining and play provision, and access to ICT. Priority would also be given to removing temporary accommodation, increasing specialist accommodation and providing more flexible

learning spaces.

The Board was advised that the outcome of the assessment of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP), undertaken by Capita on behalf of the DCSF, had identified that further work was needed on the Strategy before any funding could be confirmed, and details of work to be undertaken to strengthen the Strategy was outlined within the report. However, it was noted that the vision and context of the Strategy had been assessed as sound.

Members were advised that the revisions to the Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the DCSF by the end of January 2009 along with the matrix for prioritisation and the priorities for the first four years of investment. Following further analysis of pupil places and projected numbers a detailed report was to be presented to the Board on the opportunities and options for future primary re-organisation.

Reason(s) for Decision

Following further evaluation of Halton's PCP it had been suggested that revisions be made to the original submission to strengthen this document prior to funding being approved.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

This was a DCSF requirement.

Implementation Date

The Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the DCSF by 31st January 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the current and proposed level of primary surplus places across the Authority be noted and a further more detailed report on the current and predicted capacity of each school be provided;
- (2) the key drivers for an investment priorities matrix as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report be agreed; and
- (3) the Strategic Director – Children and Young People be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Children and Young People, to make the revision to the Primary Capital Strategy required by the DCSF and resubmit the revised Strategy to the DCSF by the deadline of 31st January 2009.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29TH
JANUARY 2009**

xx. Connexions – Waiver of Procurement Standing Order (Part 2 Report)

xx. Primary Organisation – KEY DECISION

(NB above mins will be included once finalised and published.)

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd February 2009

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 Childrens Trust
Minutes of Board Meeting held on 26th November 2008
9.00am – 12.00pm, Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes

Present:

David Parr	Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
Councillor Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services
Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services (Chair)
Ged Flynn	Chair, 3 rd Sector Forum
Tony Crane	Organisational Development Manager, HBC
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Planning & Resources, CYPD
Kieran Gordon	Chief Executive, Greater Merseyside Connexions
Gus Van Cauwelaert	Head Teacher, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic College
Kevin Mothersdale	Partnership Director for Halton, Learning & Skills Council
Cleo Pollard	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
Tilly Heigh	Children's Trust Manager, CYPD
Eugene Lavan	Halton & St Helens PCT
Supt Craig Guildford	Superintendent, Cheshire Police
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area
Pat Grunwell	Principal, Riverside College Halton
Councillor Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority Representative
Audrey Williamson	Operational Director, Adults of Working Age, HBC

Item		Action
	TM updated the meeting on the new legal guidance regarding Children's Trusts. Directors will now be legally responsible for all children's services. The message being given from the Government is that everyone is responsible for the welfare of children. The next Children's Trust meeting will look at performance. All organisations who receive Government funding will be audited to see that money allocated for Children's services is spent appropriately.	
1.	Matters Arising	
1.1	Item 2.1, Local Area Agreement – The board have been asked to complete an action plan for the LAA, this is now complete. Exceptions will be looked at during the next Board meeting.	
1.2	Item 2.2, Government Children's Plan – Audit now complete, results will be fed back at Away Day	
1.3	Item 2.3, LSC – Report will go to Executive Board on 4 th December with	

<p>1.4</p> <p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p>	<p>recommendation to cluster with Greater Merseyside for post 16 arrangements. Report for members awaiting approval on 4th December. Due to migration of learners to neighbouring authorities it is important to keep close links.</p> <p>Item 3.7, Children's Trust Structures – amendments are now complete</p> <p>Item 3.15, Children's Trust Young Person representation – TH met with Vanessa Shaw from Youth Service, but Youth Cabinet are currently in transition and we are now awaiting their response.</p> <p>Item 5, JAR Improvement Plan – this was presented to the Executive group, and process issues are now being updated.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p>Current national initiatives and their potential impact on Halton</p> <p>Are We There Yet Report – GM and TM attended the report launch with Beverley Hughes in Liverpool. The document contains an audit toolkit to check how Children's Trusts are progressing. The report was not presented in a balanced way, however we are in line with Audit Commission requirements. It is important to stress that Children's Trusts will be made to work. Outcomes are a priority for the Children's Trust, and it is vital to set action plans and implement them. It is also important to establish purpose and illustrate what the Children's Trust has done so far. The PPB will be looking at attendance of Children's Trust meetings, and all members should be clear on their role within the Trust and feed back to their organisations. TC suggested simple guidance on what is a Children's Trust in Halton, as a means of raising awareness of what we do and how we function, to be presented in a positive way.</p> <p>Feedback from the Second Children's Plan Conference – GM gave feedback from the conference which was held last Tuesday. 2 documents were presented, the first of which was around the role of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member, which clarifies accountability. The second document is statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, which will make the Children's Trust a Statutory Body, with recommendations of relevant partners. This will include schools and Job Centre Plus. The report is outcomes focussed, and a summary report will be issued at the Away Day. The Board will be asked to read both reports</p> <p>Implications of Baby P case post Laming – The Government have completed an audit of Haringey Children's Services and a report will be issues soon. Also Lord Laming has been commissioned to do a review of his recommendations post Climbié report. There will also be a review of Safeguarding Boards and Children's Trusts.</p> <p>In Halton we have a strong relationship with the Police and Health bodies. Proposed areas for improvement are to create a virtual safeguarding unit of senior police, senior health staff and Paula St Aubyn. GM would like to consider this. The LGA have asked GM to do</p>	<p>TH</p>

	<p>a video link to talk about work being done in Halton, as it has been nationally recognised. TM and GM thanked all partners for their good work. IdeA have also approached us to work with other local authorities as a beacon to support them and learn from us, however the Children's Trust is taking a measured approach and working with colleagues to spread the message and support front line staff. Partners were asked to give similar support within their own organisations. It is also important to acknowledge schools.</p> <p>NS raised concern regarding information sharing for Halton Housing Trust and would welcome additional training for staff and collaborative working.</p> <p>AP raised concern that her organisation was having difficulty in accessing low-level support, though it was highlighted that we have the Common Assessment Framework in place to address this, and this system is dependent on engagement by individual agencies.</p> <p>CP felt that it should be the business of the Board to support parents also.</p>	
3.	<p>Priority Planning</p> <p>AM discussed priorities with the Children's Trust Board which have been identified for SMT to address. There are 8 priorities with key performance and key process measures identified. These are to be taken to the Away Day to decide which will be taken forward. Model to be produced via OBA process for addressing these issues. Wider outcomes and process issues to be identified as a collective. KG suggested that organisations will need to look at EDRs to see if they allow us to deal with working to new processes and address, as this will be necessary in order for us to do business as a virtual organisation. Further information requests or comments to be sent to TH by the 28th November.</p>	<p>TH</p> <p>ALL</p>
4.	<p>Specific Information</p> <p>4.1 <u>Children's Trust Executive</u> Positive meeting, though need to involve schools.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Parent Carer's Forum</u> Now targeting group outside children's centres. Aim is for parents to sit within Service Delivery Partnerships, though would need to keep universal aim. The group would like to contribute to consultation in priority setting. Representative parents from Parent Carer Forum to be invited to Away Day</p> <p>4.2 <u>Children & Young People's 3rd Sector Partnership (3SP)</u> Regarding representation it has been beneficial to appoint a Lead Engagement Officer, as there is a large proportion of 3rd Sector within Halton. 4 key points emerged from the last 3SP meeting; funding/commissioning, poverty, debts and how we embrace OBA, and</p>	<p>CP/AON</p>

	<p>Business planning beyond end of funding. 50 key providers are interested in skills development. 3rd sector are seeing themselves now as key partners. TM raised that from a council perspective the 3rd sector partnership is hugely important and a valued partner, with a large amount of funding given from the council. 3rd Sector partners will need to look at merging and ways of becoming sustainable.</p>	
4.3	<p><u>Health Board</u> PCT are currently developing a 5-year health strategy, and consultation is taking place to identify priorities. Children and families are key to this. Early years, risk taking behaviour in young people and service development are 3 key areas. This will give clear direction, which will link into LAA priorities and CYP Plan. New focus in strategic plan is investing in improving people's health and healthy lifestyles, and detecting illness earlier. This will account for 8% of overall budget. Children and young people will be at the heart of the plan. This is to go out to consultation on the website. TM expressed that he was pleased with progress.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Joint Intelligence & Commissioning Unit (JICU)</u> JICU developed as a result of JAR feedback. Main priority is how we best join up to function on core priorities. 5 key priorities have been identified and a function of how the JICU should look has been completed. Other partners have said they will co lead on the groups. Looking at possibility of key worker to act as lead on co-ordination of JICU, will come back to next Board meeting with some firm proposals.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) presented by GM</u> Anti Bullying Conference was held on the 21st November. Very successful, positive day which dealt with issues in the community. Thai Kickboxing not supported by HSCB as this is unregulated. Child death panel – no near misses to report. Scrutiny and Performance Subgroup – increase in exclusions from school. E-safety – issue regarding internet safety in school, to be looked at. Safer Recruitment working group set up within the Council. Information Sharing report – child protection plans and poor attendance being looked at. LADO – to be discussed with head teachers. Unborn children to be given case conferences.</p>	
4.6	<p><u>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Report</u> Children's Trust new structure has now been accepted by the LSP, GM will be representative. 34 out of 78 care leavers are currently NEET, Young Person representative gave talk to LSP to urge organisations to take on young people as part of workforce, and GM underlined this. Agencies have committed to 3 placements for care leavers. Also Local Authority has given commitment to 100 apprenticeships. KG raised the issue of LDD young people as they are not proportionally represented, and there are insufficient opportunities. Council now has policy in place to commit to care leavers and LDD employment opportunities.</p>	

5.	Information Sharing	
5.1	GM is now Youth Offending Team representative for Children's Trust Board	
5.2	APA results – 4 out of 6 categories 'outstanding' (embargo on this information until 17 th December)	
5.3	LSC have published priorities for 2009/10. Commissioning plan to follow.	
5.4	Representation from all faiths for the Children's Trust Board was raised. JK will be following up with schools, as agreed at Board meeting on 03/09/08. John Devine is representative at GONW for inter-faith. GF will approach him to see who might be the best person for Children's Trust Board representation. GF to update TH on this.	JK GF

REPORT TO: Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update PPB on the conduct of Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits and to set out proposals to strengthen reporting, scrutiny and Member involvement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) that training is provided to all PPB Members on Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits. This training should take place in a Pre-Meeting of the PPB in the early New Year;
- (3) that following training and CRB Checks a new and extended list of available Members is put together by PPB and a rota of visits and audits are agreed;
- (4) that following all visits and audits the reports provided and the responses made by relevant Managers should be reported to PPB and scrutinised twice a year;
- (5) that this reporting and scrutiny is led by the relevant Managers in Children and Young People's Directorate to strengthen accountability;
- (6) that all templates for auditing should be made available to Members electronically and responses to the audits should be recorded electronically; and
- (7) that the Board receive a regular monitoring report, on the progress made in respect of recommendations 2.2 – 2.6 above.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Regulation 33 of the Children's Home Regulations 2001 requires the Local Authority to carry out Children's Home Visits in order to: -

- Interview with consent children, their parents and relatives and carers in the Children's Home.
- Inspect the premises

- Review daily logs of events and records of any complaints
- Prepare a report on the conduct of the Home and the quality of care provided.

3.2 Appendix 1 sets out the template to be used for report writing.

3.3 The regulations require someone who does not hold Line Management responsibility for the Home to carry out the visit and in order to ensure objectivity.

3.4 Department of Health Guidance suggests that Elected Members should consider the desirability of making Regulation 33 Visits in order to demonstrate and carry out their role as Corporate Parents. In Halton it has been agreed that Members should carry out Regulation 33 Visits. Ofsted check that visits are being carried out during their inspections of Children's Homes. During the recent inspection of Inglefield OFSTED inspectors have raised issues about the timing and quality of Regulation 33 visiting. It is essential that visits take place when children are present.

3.5 Climbié Audits were introduced in 2004 following the death of Victoria Climbié. The purpose of the Audit is to:-

- Ensure that staffing levels are suitable
- Check that workloads of individual workers are appropriate
- Ensure that referral management processes are sound and secure
- Check on the performance on the Duty Teams
- Track the progress of implementation of Integrated Children's System (ICS)

Members carry out these Audits on a quarterly basis and the report is provided to the relevant manager for a response. See Appendix 2.

3.6 In both cases there is an expectation that an overview of the key issues would be made available to PPB for scrutiny.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The requirements set out in this paper are derived from legislation and regulations. The Council is required to implement this legislation and regulations and inspections will investigate compliance.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are three issues, which need to be addressed to strengthen the conduct of Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits reporting mechanisms scrutiny and Member involvement.

5.2 Firstly, there have been difficulties engaging Members to carry out the visits and audits. Re-running the training provided to Members and extending the number of Members who are available to carry out the audits can overcome this problem. All Members involved in Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits must have Enhanced CRB Checks.

5.3 Secondly, reporting on and responding to the visits and audits is carried out but is to the relevant Manager in the service area. Consequently insufficient understanding of the issues that have been identified in the visits and audits has been developed to PPB and other relevant forums.

5.4 Thirdly, Regulation 33 Visits are not carried out electronically and this is proving to be problematic. So proposals:-

- That training is provided to all PPB Members on Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits. This training should take place in a Pre-Meeting of the PPB in the early New Year.
- That following training and CRB Checks a new and extended list of available Members is put together by PPB and a rota of visits and audits are agreed.
- Following all visits and audits the reports provided and the responses made by relevant Managers should be reported to PPB and scrutinised twice a year.
- That this reporting and scrutiny is led by the relevant Managers in Children and Young People's Directorate to strengthen accountability.
- All templates for auditing should be made available to Members electronically and responses to the audits should be recorded electronically.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

All Children in Care and Children in Need are subject to regulated service provision. Regulation 33 visits and Climbié audits provide Members with a practical opportunity to demonstrate their Corporate Parenting responsibilities for these children by checking that the standards of services are sufficient and the voice of children is heard directly by locally elected people.

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 RISK ANALYSIS

If Regulation 33 visits and Climbié audits are not conducted and scrutinized effectively, the Council will be in breach of the law and regulations.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

All Children in Care and Children in Need are at risk of disadvantage and are therefore a priority group for the Council and its partner agencies.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children's Home Regulations	Grosvenor House	Chris Taylor



HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES DIRECTORATE

Children's Homes Regulation 33 Visit – Care Standards Act 2000 section 23 (1)

Name of Home:

Date of Visit:

Duration of Visit:

Staff Present:

Young People Present (Initials):

Person conducting this visit:

Please check that all records are complete, accurate, legible and up to date.

Please check Physical Intervention file, Additional Measures of Control file, and Complaints file each month, and endeavour to speak to the young people.

Please ✓ if checked this month	Schedule of Inspection Procedures	Comments	Action Required / Recommendations
	<p>Are there any outstanding requirements or recommendations from last Reg. 33 or Ofsted Inspection?</p>		
	<p>Admission and Discharge Book</p> <p>Are all admissions planned or have there been any emergency admissions?</p> <p>Have policies and procedures been followed?</p> <p>Is the last admission a good match with the existing residents?</p>		

	<p>Records of Physical Intervention</p> <p>If staff have been involved in physical intervention, are they trained in this technique?</p>		
	<p>Records of Sanctions / Positives</p> <p>Do these seem fair and just?</p>		
	<p>Records of Comments, Compliments and Complaints</p> <p>Date of last entry? Have complaints been fully addressed and resolved?</p>		
	<p>Medication Book / Charts</p> <p>Are these signed and legible?</p>		
	<p>Health & Safety Recording Systems</p> <p>Food Standards Agency File (including fridge / freezer temperatures etc)</p> <p>COSHH records</p> <p>Building log book / Gas / electric / water checks</p>		

	<p>Accident Book</p> <p>Are there any patterns of recurring accidents?</p>		
	<p>Fire Safety Book</p> <p>Have all weekly tests been carried out?</p> <p>Date of last fire drill?</p> <p>During the past year has at least one drill been done during sleeping hours?</p>		
	<p>Visitors Record Book</p> <p>Is this up to date with times recorded of when visitors left?</p>		
	<p>Staff Hand-Over Book / Forms</p> <p>Are these complete with staff signatures?</p>		
	<p>Daily Logs</p> <p>Log Book / Sheets</p> <p>Communication Book</p> <p>Diary</p> <p>Menus – are they nutritious and varied?</p>		
	<p>Staff Rotas</p> <p>Is there adequate staffing for the various situations?</p>		

	<p>Premises: Structural</p> <p>Is there any repair work still outstanding?</p>		
	<p>Premises: Fixtures and Fittings and Decoration</p> <p>Are these in a reasonable state of repair?</p> <p>Does the house appear warm and welcoming?</p>		
	<p>Premises: Gardens and Outbuildings</p> <p>Is the fence in a reasonable state of repair?</p> <p>Has the grass been cut?</p> <p>Does the garden appear looked after?</p>		
	<p>Discussions with Young People</p> <p>Consider the following possible subject areas:</p> <p>Activities / Interests</p> <p>Do they take part in house meetings?</p> <p>Being Healthy</p> <p>Staying Safe</p> <p>Enjoy and Achieve</p> <p>Make a Positive Contribution</p> <p>Achieve Economic Well Being</p>		

	<p>Discussions with Sta</p> <p>Consider the following possible subject areas:</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Supervision</p> <p>Staff / Team Meetings</p> <p>Annual Leave</p> <p>How do staff support young people with their education?</p> <p>How do staff support young people with contact?</p> <p>Do staff have any other comments?</p>		
	<p>General Recommendations</p>		
	<p>Any Other Issues</p>		

Signed:

Date:



Appendix 2

CLIMBIE VISITS TO CHILD CARE TEAMS

Lord Lamings Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbie resulted in a range of recommendations. One of these (Social Care Recommendation 41) states that

“Arrangements must be made for senior managers and councillors to regularly visit intake teams in the childrens services department and to report their findings to the Chief Executive and Social Services Committee” (para 5. 193)

Local Procedure

1. Within Halton it has been agreed that the 3 x Child Care Teams (CCT 1; CCT 2; based in Grosvenor House Runcorn and CCT 3 based in John Briggs House Widnes) will be deemed ‘intake teams’ for these purposes as they are the teams dealing with new referrals.
2. Visits will be undertaken to each team quarterly, with the Divisional Manager for Children In Need, where appropriate.
3. Visits will last approximately 1 hour and consist of: -
 - i) Discussion with Principal/Practice Manager(s)
 - ii) Discussion with team members (as available)

Within the above discussions the following issues will be considered:-

- iii) Staffing situation (vacancies/experience/skills/attendance levels)
 - iv) Workloads and performance monitoring (Outcomes for children)
 - v) Referral monitoring and management systems
 - vi) Staff support systems, eg IT, office accommodation, communication
4. Elected members will record the key issues from the visit on the attached electronic proforma and send to the Operational Director for Vulnerable Children, for a response by the Divisional Manager, Children In Need
5. The Divisional Manager for Children In Need will collate the information for these reports and present them to Children and Young People PPB on a 6 monthly basis (copy to Chief Executive).



Appendix 2

**HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE
VULNERABLE CHILDREN DEPARTMENT
CHILDREN IN NEED DIVISION**

CLIMBIE VISITS TO TEAMS

1	<p>Team Name:</p> <p>Team Location:</p> <p>Principal Manager:</p> <p>Visit Completed by:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Accompanied by:</p>
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2	People spoken with: - Managers: Staff: Others:
3	i) Workload issues/Performance: ii) Referral monitoring & Management Systems: iii) Staffing Issues (Experience/Skills/Attendance levels): iv) Any Other Issues:

Signature:.....

Date:.....

.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

.....

4	Feedback from Divisional Manger/Operations Director:
----------	---

Signature: **Date:**

Please forward the completed for to Paul Boyce (Operational Director – Children’s Services) for a response by Nigel Moorhouse, Divisional Manager Children In Need)

REPORT: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board Work Programme 2009/10

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

1.1 The key task is for Board Members to decide on a work programme of 2 or 3 Topics to be undertaken in the next municipal year.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: that the Policy and Performance Board finalise Topics to be included in the Board's 2009/10 work programme.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 – Topic selection checklist.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's priorities are further developed through the 2009/10 scrutiny topics.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009/10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009/10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009/10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009/10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009/10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The main risk is in terms of capacity to undertake the work. This may be managed in the eventual selection of topics to be considered.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

All topics finally selected will take into account equality and diversity implications.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
Topic Selection Checklist

This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More “yeses” indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
<i>Why? Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme</i>		
1	Is the Topic directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton's 5 strategic priorities & related objectives/PIs, and/or a key central government priority?	
2	Does the Topic address an identified need or issue?	
3	Is there a high level of public interest or concern about the Topic e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been identified through performance monitoring e.g. PIs indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?	
6	Is the Topic area likely to have a major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some recent development or change created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be significant risks to the organisation and the community as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic?	
<i>Whether? Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic</i>		
9	Scope for impact - Is the Topic something the Council can	

	actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
10	Outcomes – Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
11	Cost: benefit - are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs, making investment of time & effort worthwhile?	
12	Are PPBs the best way to add value in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
13	Does the organisation have the capacity to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
14	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the time available?	

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23 February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Employment Opportunities for Care Leavers

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide PPB members with:

- an update on the current situation for Care Leavers;
- information about proposals for the future.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) PPB note the contents of the report; and
- (2) PPB members provide support for the proposals.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Although there has been some improvement, it has been known for some time that young people who leave care are over represented in the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures in Halton.
- 3.2 Connexions data shows that in November 2006, only 20% of 19 year old care leavers were in some form of education, employment or training. In November 2007, the figure was 39% and by November 2008, it was almost 45%. Whilst an improvement, this does not compare favourably with over 62% of the general 19 year old population who are in EET in Halton.
- 3.3 Research and experience show that young people who are in care often under achieve compared with the general population. A significant proportion of care leavers have few or no qualifications. They may have experienced a number of both placement and school moves and their low self- esteem and mistrust of adults can act as a barrier to enjoyment of school and educational success.
- 3.4 As a Corporate Parent, Halton Borough Council recognised some time ago that additional support was needed for care leavers to help them to access and sustain education, employment and training opportunities.
- 3.5 Additional resources were put in place to support the education of children in care through the Education Support Team. The focus of this

service is to help young people to achieve their full potential within the education system.

- 3.6 The Council also implemented an Employment Policy for care leavers in recognition that, as a major employer in the Borough and as the Corporate Parent of care leavers, there was a responsibility to help and support these young people into employment.
- 3.7 Unfortunately, the Employment Policy has had little impact. No care leaver has ever been successful in obtaining full time and permanent employment with the Council.
- 3.8 Temporary funding (NRF) has, in the recent past, been used to help care leavers to be prepared for employment and to experience paid work experience.
- 3.9 In the past 12 months, 7 care leavers have received employment training/experience. One of those went on to become an Administration apprentice within the Children and Young People Directorate. None of the others went into full time or permanent jobs. No care leavers are employed full time and permanently by the Council.
- 3.10 The Government's Care Matters agenda and the recent Children and Young Person's Act 2008 emphasise the role that Corporate Parents should play in securing the best possible outcomes for Children in Care. This includes helping them to secure appropriate employment.
- 3.11 In order to improve the situation in Halton, a dedicated apprenticeship scheme for care leavers has been agreed. This will involve 10 apprenticeships being made available within the Council and partner agencies, involving a range of employment areas.
- 3.12 A temporary post will be created to provide the co-ordination necessary to achieve this. The post-holder will work alongside colleagues in Enterprise and Employment, Connexions and Young People's Team to identify 10 placement opportunities and to then provide the support to both employer and young person.
- 3.13 It is hoped that, at the end of the apprenticeship, there will be permanent jobs made available to the young people involved.
- 3.14 The apprenticeship scheme will commence in April 2009.
- 3.15 In addition to this scheme, the existing Employment Policy for Care Leavers will be reviewed to identify and address any barriers for care leavers.
- 3.16 The full costs of the apprenticeship scheme will be met by WNF monies and some external funding until 2011.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals are consistent with National policy, the Care Matters Agenda, and Halton's Multi-agency strategy for Children in Care.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals are consistent with the Council's responsibility as a Corporate Parent and with the aims of the NEET Strategy Group.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The proposals are consistent with ensuring the best possible outcomes for children in the care of the Council and in promoting their life chances.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The introduction of the apprenticeship scheme and the revision of the employment policy will contribute to care leavers having better access to employment and will enhance their skill and qualification levels.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Improved access to EET opportunities will contribute to the emotional and physical well being of care leavers.

6.4 A Safer Halton

It is anticipated that greater involvement in EET activities will raise the aspirations and achievements of care leavers, providing constructive and long-term options.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Increased numbers of young people engaged in EET will enhance their own and the borough's economic environment.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no significant risks associated with the proposals.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Improving the life chances of children in care and care leavers through better access to EET opportunities will contribute to ensuring that the needs of this vulnerable group are met.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children in Care Strategy		Christine Taylor
Care Matters	DCSF website	Christine Taylor
Children and Young Persons Act	DCSF website	Christine Taylor

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23 February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report

WARDS:

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of the SACRE 2007/08 Annual Report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the report be received.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

It is a requirement of each SACRE to submit an annual report to The Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA). The report includes findings of the 2007/08 Annual Return from Halton's schools.

The hard work and dedication of all our schools, to maintain and further develop the high standards reached in Religious Education should be acknowledged.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The report examines the findings by which Halton and their partners met the needs of young people in the Borough for Religious Education during 2007/2008.

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

To ensure effective provision of RE and Collective Worship in all Halton's schools.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The key risk is failure to improve the quality of educational outcomes in Religious Education in Halton. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance, and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Educational attainment and entitlement is central to 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


Document

Place of Inspection

Contact Officer



**SACRE
ANNUAL REPORT
2007 / 2008**

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**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Children & Young People's Directorate

**HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE**

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

Foreword

It is my pleasure to inform you of the work of the Halton SACRE.

The Halton SACRE continues to work in partnership with the Local Authority, Headteachers and teachers to enable us to monitor and support the provision of religious education and collective worship throughout Halton.

Last year was the second year of our new Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which came into force on 1st September 2006. Feedback from schools suggests that the new syllabus has helped to raise the profile of Religious Education and that the new syllabus itself is working well in schools. In particular teachers seem to appreciate the increased flexibility that the new syllabus allows, whilst still ensuring breadth and balance and that all statutory requirements are met.

The SACRE through its work continues to encourage, develop and celebrate religious education with the children and young people in our schools. It is also keen to promote wider understanding and awareness of the faiths, beliefs and cultures of others.

Ofsted inspection reports and monitoring by SACRE through the new RE Annual Return suggest that the quality of RE and Collective Worship in Halton Primary schools is always at least satisfactory and usually good or better. Ofsted reports have, in previous years, raised concerns in some secondary schools but the Annual Return for 2007/08 suggests that, in all but one school, these issues have been addressed and that overall the picture in secondary schools is positive. Indeed, Key Stage 4 results in 2008, in Religious Education GCSE, were the best ever achieved in the borough and, when viewed in the context of Halton's socio-economic profile, compare favourably with attainment nationally.

Councillor M Dennett
Chair, Halton SACRE
December 2008

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Religious Education in Halton Schools
- 1.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus
- 1.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus
- 2.0 Standards in Religious Education and Collective Worship
- 2.1 Inspection Reports
- 2.2 Main findings from Ofsted Inspection Reports
- 2.3 Examinations in Religious Studies
- 3.0 Teaching Methods, Materials and Training
- 4.0 Collective Worship
- 5.0 Complaints concerning Religious Education and Collective Worship
- 6.0 Determinations
- 7.0 Links with other Agencies

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Findings of the Annual Return 2007/08
- Appendix 2 Membership of the SACRE
- Appendix 3 List of Organisations to which the SACRE report is sent

1.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HALTON SCHOOLS

1.1 Locally Agreed Syllabus

The current Halton Agreed Syllabus came into force on 1st September 2006 and has now been in operation, therefore, for just over two years. The new Agreed Syllabus is based firmly and deliberately on the non-statutory national framework for religious education published by QCA in 2004, amended to reflect the particular needs of pupils in Halton.

The new syllabus, like the framework, is intended to be robust enough to define and defend the knowledge, skills and understanding that is the entitlement of every pupil, but at the same time flexible enough to give teachers the scope and creativity to teach religious education in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the children and young people in their setting.

The syllabus includes a new requirement at KS4 that RE should be delivered for all pupils through a Syllabus leading to accreditation approved by QCA. This is strongly recommended in the QCA Framework. This requirement took effect from September 2008.

1.2 Monitoring the Agreed Syllabus

Information within the Annual Return and other feedback from schools suggests that the new Agreed Syllabus has been well received in the schools for whom it is the appropriate syllabus (i.e. Community schools). Teachers in particular appreciate the increased flexibility that the new syllabus allows whilst still ensuring breadth and balance and that statutory requirements are met. The SACRE continues to meet its statutory responsibility for monitoring the Agreed Syllabus through the scrutiny of Ofsted inspection reports, through the work of the Children and Young People's Operational Plan and now through the RE Annual Return.

This monitoring continues to indicate that the Agreed Syllabus has supported schools well in their delivery of religious education, providing a framework for medium and short term planning and making a significant contribution to raising standards. The SACRE also monitors closely the quality of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) provision in our schools. Overall the provision is almost always at least satisfactory and mostly good or outstanding.

The SACRE is pleased to note from inspection reports that in most schools collective worship makes an important contribution to promoting spiritual development.

2.0 STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1 Inspection Reports

An evaluation of 29 school Ofsted Inspection Reports (2 nursery, 4 special, 21 primary, 2 secondary) for 2007/2008 was undertaken by the LA on behalf of the SACRE.

2.2 Main Findings from 2007/08 Ofsted inspection reports

Findings from the scrutiny of Ofsted reports for the year 2007/2008 suggest the following:

- All schools for whom it is the appropriate syllabus (i.e. Community schools) follow the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- In all schools, Collective Worship was in line with legal requirements and in most cases made a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development
- In all schools the quality of SMSC provision is at least satisfactory and in most cases good or better.

2.3 Main Findings from 2007/08 Annual Return

In this the first year of the Annual Return a 91% response rate was achieved.

Findings from the scrutiny of the Annual Return for 2007/08 suggest the following:

- The overall effectiveness of RE and Collective Worship by schools' self evaluation is judged to be outstanding in approx. 1/3 of the schools that responded and good or better in 2/3 of the schools that responded to the annual return
- From the responses received the vast majority of schools meet their statutory requirement of the daily act of worship
- The vast majority of schools that responded have procedures in place for regular monitoring and provision for RE and Collective Worship
- All KS1 and 2 schools that responded meet the requirements on the minimum recommended RE entitlement
- Only one KS3 / 4 establishment that responded did not meet the minimum recommended RE entitlement
- The vast majority of schools that responded to the return allocate an adequate budget for provision of RE
- 65% of schools that responded to the questionnaire follow the Halton agreed syllabus.
- The vast majority of schools that responded have a policy on the teaching of RE, Collective Worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- In only one school that responded the quality of RE was judged to be inadequate and some support is already in place – SACRE is pursuing the possibility of further support.

2.4 Examinations in Religious Studies

GCSE Full Course

The number of pupils entered for full GCSE examinations in religious studies for the period 2005 to 2008 is as follows:

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of candidates	408	381	446	382
% of pupils aged 15+ entered	25.29	24.34	27.23	23.39
% of candidates gaining A* - C	42.6	47.2	57.4	61.0
% of candidates gaining A* - G	93.6	94.8	97.3	97.1

Attainment at percentage of entry gaining Grades A* - C improved from 42.6% in 2005 to 61.0% in 2008. The A* to G % has increased from 93.6% in 2005 to 97.1% in 2007.

The 2007 national data (provided by the National Consortium for Examination Results - NCER) comparative information is detailed below. The 2008 national data will be available shortly.

Total entries	140,131
% of pupils aged 15+ entered	23.67 %
% of candidates gaining A* - C	69.3 %
% of candidates gaining A* - G	98.2 %

National Subject Residual for RE

This is produced by NCER by calculating a pupil's average attainment across all entries and then how the pupil in any one entry differs from this average attainment. When these averages and differences are built up to school, LA or National level it produces subject residuals. The calculations use the section 96 points scores which is 6 points per grade. The national and Halton full GCSE RE figures are provided together with the adjusted LA residual. In 2005 the overall adjusted LA residual was -3.23 which means that of the pupils who sat GCSE Religious Studies their performance overall was half a grade lower in GCSE RE compared with their overall GCSE average score when compared to national results. In 2008 the LA adjusted residual was -2.29 which means that the overall grade in GCSE RE was 2.29 points lower than the national overall average GCSE score for those pupils taking GCSE RE which is equivalent to less than a half a grade.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
National	+0.42	+0.58	+0.80	-0.65
Halton	-2.81	-2.38	-0.47	-2.94
Adjusted LA Residual	-3.23	-2.96	-1.27	-2.29

GCSE Short Course

Again, overall performance is significantly improved in 2008 compared with 2007.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of candidates	480	698	391	426	496
% of pupils aged 15+ entered	28.19	43.27	24.98	26.01	30.37
% of candidates gaining A* - C	25.4	41.1	35.0	45.3	57.3
% of candidates gaining A* - G	88.5	91.1	94.9	97.2	97.4

'A' and 'AS' Level

In 2008 there were 7 entries for the Religious Studies A level, with all 7 candidates gaining grades A – E. The grade breakdown was 2 Bs, 4 Cs and 1 D.

There were 4 entries for the Religious Studies AS level with all 4 candidates gaining grades A – E. The grade breakdown was 1 B, 2 Ds and 1 E.

3.0 TEACHING METHODS, MATERIALS AND TRAINING

3.1 The SACRE, in conjunction with the LA seeks to support RE teachers in improving their teaching skills and subject knowledge through the promotion of CPD in relation to RE.

SACRE's commitment to promoting religious education which acknowledges and celebrates other faiths, beliefs and cultures, is still central to its work. The SACRE, therefore, welcomes the LA's efforts to broaden the monocultural nature of Halton. Race awareness training and multicultural education which includes a focus on awareness of other faiths continues to be made available.

A section for Religious Education has been created on the Halton Learning Grid website. This contains curriculum and teaching materials, places of worship available for educational visits and other useful contacts and information. A directory of good practice within the borough enables RE teachers seeking professional development to identify and contact other quality assured practitioners in order to benefit from their expertise. Quality assured externally provided CPD opportunities (e.g. conferences / courses for RE teachers) are promoted throughout the Authority.

4.0 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 The SACRE is aware of NASACRE's research in this area and is keen to promote good quality collective worship. Scrutiny of Ofsted reports has demonstrated that the provision of collective worship is always at least satisfactory and usually good and makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development. The SACRE, in conjunction with Halton Borough Council, continues to promote effective collective worship.

5.0 COMPLAINTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

5.1 There have been no formal complaints to the LA in respect of RE or collective worship.

6.0 DETERMINATIONS

6.1 The SACRE has not been called upon to make any determinations concerning collective worship.

7.0 LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

7.1 The SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education and has received appropriate correspondence during the year to update its knowledge of the work of NASACRE.

APPENDIX 1 - FINDINGS OF ANNUAL FEEDBACK FORM FOR HALTON SACRE 2007/08

These findings relate to 60 schools (91%). It did not include nursery schools.

SECTION A – FACTUAL INFORMATION**1. Number of schools that have a policy on:**

- the teaching of RE
- collective worship
- spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

	No.	%	No.	%	
YES	58	97	NO	2	3
YES	57	95	NO	3	5
YES	45	75	NO	15	25

2 Syllabus used

	No.	%	No.	%	
Halton Agreed	39	65	Chester Diocese	2	67
Liverpool Diocese	3	60	Shrewsbury Diocese	7	100
Liverpool Archdiocese	7	100	Indicated other syllabuses only	4	7

- Others AQA (linked with Halton Agreed), QCA, LCP, 'Here I Am', Blackburn, KS4 EDEXCEL specification A Unit C & Unit J Catholic Christianity and Religion and Life based on Catholic Christianity

Some schools used more than one syllabus, one establishment indicated they used none and 4 indicated none of the syllabus specified but indicated others were followed.

3 Is the minimum recommended RE entitlement fulfilled**Minimum recommended RE entitlement (5%)**

KS1 36 hrs. per year KS3 45 hrs. per year
KS2 45 hrs. per year KS4 40 hrs. per year

	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
KS1	YES	46	100	NO	0	0
KS2	YES	47	100	NO	0	0
KS3	YES	12	92	NO	1	8
KS4	YES	11	92	NO	1	8

4 Systematic approach to recording assessment of pupil progress in RE in relation to the Agreed Syllabus/national framework levels

YES	47	78	NO	13	22
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5 a) Budget allocation for RE

YES	49	82	NO	11	18
-----	----	----	----	----	----

b) Average spend on RE each year (e.g. resources, trips to places of religious interest, visitors etc.)

- As needed/variable
- Under £500
- £501 to £1000
- £1001 to £2000
- Over £2001

	No.	%
	6	10
	28	47
	6	10
6 (inc. 3 sec. Schools)		10
6 (inc. 3 sec. Schools)		10

6 Regular monitoring, review and evaluation of RE provision in your school	No.	%	No.	%
	YES	56	93	NO 4 7
7 Provision for a daily act of collective worship in line with statutory requirements	YES	58	97	NO 2 3
	YES	51	85	NO 9 15

SECTION B – SELF EVALUATION JUDGEMENTS

No. & % schools that used these for evidence	Quality of RE curriculum provision		Quality of teaching & learning in RE		Standards of attainment & achievement in RE		Quality of collective worship	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ofsted section 5	27	45	23	38	23	38	23	38
*Ofsted section 48	16	70	16	70	17	74	19	83
Scrutiny of pupil work	31	52	28	47	31	52	14	23
Lesson observations	27	45	30	50	26	43	18	30
Pupil progress data	19	32	18	30	24	40	11	18

* relates to 23 schools)

Other evidence

Record of Achievements, Scrutiny of teacher planning, Creative Curriculum including RE where possible, monitoring programme, monitoring and evaluation mtgs., assembly monitoring / record /observation, pupil behaviour and social development, co-ordinator evaluation/discussion with foundation governors, scheme of work reviews, SDP 2008/09, pupil/parent feedback, pupil interviews,

Judgement grade	Quality of RE curriculum provision		Quality of teaching & learning in RE		Standards of attainment & achievement in RE		Quality of collective worship	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Grade 1 - outstanding	20	33	16	27	17	28	18	30
Grade 2 - good	24	40	28	47	20	33	25	42
Grade 3 - satisfactory	12	20	12	20	19	32	13	22
Grade 4 - inadequate	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	0

Judgement grade	Overall effectiveness of RE and collective worship	
	No.	%
Grade 1 - outstanding	17	29
Grade 2 - good	25	42
Grade 3 - satisfactory	14	24
Grade 4 - inadequate	1	2

3% of schools that responded did not give a grade for any of the categories above.

APPENDIX 2

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE HALTON
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2007/2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

GROUP A – CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND OTHER RELIGIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mr D Hemington (Vice Chair)	Catholic	The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Runcorn
Mrs Anne Maxfield	Methodist	8 Ludlow Crescent, Runcorn WA7 4XH
Miss J Coughlan	Catholic	St Bede's Catholic Infant Schools, Widnes

GROUP B – THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mrs J Dutton	Runcorn All Saints Church of England Primary School, Runcorn
Miss H J Priestley	Hale Church of England Primary School, Runcorn
Ms Jan Brown	229 Heath Road South, Weston Village, Runcorn WA7 4LY

GROUP C – TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mrs C Lawrenson	Ditton Church of England (VC) Primary School, Widnes
Mr P Smalley	Fairfield High School, Widnes
Mr D Stubbs	Ashley School, Widnes

GROUP D – LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Cllr. M Dennett (Chair)	10 Leinster Street, Runcorn, WA7 1ER
Cllr. T McInerney	9 Tuscan Close, Widnes, WA8 9RE
Cllr. C Rowe	101 Heath Road South, Runcorn, WA7 4QH

OFFICERS

Professional Advice	Adrian Hallett, School Standards & Effectiveness Officer, Children and Young People's Directorate
Clerk	Caroline Armstrong, School Improvement Support Manager, Children and Young People's Directorate, 1 st Floor Dee Building, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2WD

MEETINGS DURING 2007/2008: 6 December 2007 and 1 May 2008

APPENDIX 3

Distribution

The SACRE report is sent to the following:-

- Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
- Halton Schools
- Members of Halton SACRE
- Diocesan Education Authorities
- Members of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

REPORT TO: Children & Young People PPB

DATE: 23 February, 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for 2008/09

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE 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;

- Business Support & Commissioning
- Preventative Services
- Specialist Services
- Universal & Learning Services

A directorate overview report is also provided

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & 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 IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The quarterly performance monitoring reports demonstrate how services are delivering against the objectives set out in the relevant service plan. Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross-cutting activities being reported means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the priorities listed below;

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

6.6 Corporate Effectiveness and Efficient Service Delivery

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

N/A

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
N/A		

Children and Young People Directorate

Quarter 3 2008-09 Overview Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the directorate for the period ending 31st December 2008.

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 The following key developments have impacted on the work of the Directorate during the quarter;

- The development of the National Challenge programme to ensure that by 2011 every school in England has at least 30% of students achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths. LA in partnership with the schools has developed a plan to be submitted to DCSF to release the funds to support the programme. (*Universal and Learning Services Plan*)
- National Strategy Team visited Halton in December to review and agree actions need to implement the recommendations from the review of Teenage Pregnancy services. A number of actions have been identified across the key strands of Strategy, Data, Communication, and Implementation. (*Preventative Services Plan*)
- Children and Young People Act received royal assent in November and introduces new requirements in respect of Children in Care. These include an increased responsibility to place children within their home area, increased choice of accommodation, extension of the role of Independent Visitor to all children in care, establishment of the statutory role of Designated Teacher in each school, bursaries for young people in higher education and not disrupting children's school placements at key stages. Work has commenced on introducing these requirements. (*Specialist Services Plan*)
- In November the authority had prepared and submitted its Strategy for Change Part 2 (SfC2). This document describes how the authority, along with its key stakeholders intend to achieve its vision. It was developed by working in partnership with headteachers of secondary and special schools, external consultants and other key stakeholders and through the BSF Workstreams such as ICT and Technical. In addition, the Strategy for Change for each secondary and secondary special school was included in its appendices. (*Business Support and Commissioning Plan*)

3.0 Emerging Issues

- 3.1 The following emerging issues have been identified and will have an impact on the work of the Directorate;

- There is some concern that the Level 1 diploma is not meeting learner perceptions with too much emphasis on theoretical aspect of the

Construction and Built Environment, this is emerging as a national issue. (*Universal and Learning Services Plan*).

- The Education and Skills Act 2008 changes the definition of an independent school. This may have implications for many alternative provision providers and reduce the flexibility available in placing young people. We are in consultation with the DCSF about this but potentially it could result in a KS4 PRU whose provision is subject to multiple OfSTED inspections. It also has the potential to reduce the number of providers available in the pre-16 sector. (*Preventative Services Plan*)
- The publication of the Serious Case Review and the revised Ofsted inspection of Haringey have created an increased level of anxiety across agencies in child protection work. There is potential for this anxiety to impact upon child protection plans and the wider management of risk to children. However multi-agency dialogue and working remains strong, and the Safeguarding Children Board has put a strategy in place to address the increased level of anxiety, particularly evident amongst frontline staff, which Baby P has provoked. A reported outlining the implications for Halton and actions required will be submitted to all relevant Boards during the next quarter. (*Specialist Services Plan*)
- There is a requirement for all Children's Trusts to undertake an assessment of progress towards an integrated workforce using the 'One Children's Workforce' tool. This will be a major project requiring input from all agencies and will run in parallel with a review of the Integrated Workforce Strategy for Children's Services. A project group has been established to lead this work and an initial report from the tool will be submitted to the Children's Workforce Development Council in June 2009. An action plan will be developed and implemented based on the findings of the assessment process. (*Business Support and Commissioning Plan*)

4.0 Service Objectives / Milestones

4.1 The majority of service objectives within the directorate are being delivered as planned and most notably positive progress has been made in regards to:-

- Numbers of SEN children accessing targeted support in mainstream settings has increased due to the reinvestment in capacity building with the mainstream sector. A number of initiatives have been funded and are outlined within the ULS plan. (*Service Objective ULS1*)
- Following a successful pilot the joint project with the health sector to reduce non-attendance at schools due to chronic health issues has now been rolled out to a number of primary schools with a focus on those schools with high persistent absence rates. In addition all pupils in the persistent absence cohort now have a multi-agency intervention plan. (*Service Objective PS5*)
- Revised accommodation strategy for care leavers has been implemented with a number of specific actions implemented. 2 starter flats have been secured from Halton Housing Trust and 2 further flats will be made available year on year from 2009. This has helped lead to a 6% reduction in the number of care leavers in temporary accommodation during the quarter (SSLI2). (*Service Objective SS6*)

- CYP database has been developed to further support analysis relating to narrowing the gap and vulnerable groups, which will inform the targeting of resources. There are currently over 30 ICT projects within the Directorate that all running to their agreed timetables. (*Service Objective BSC5*)

Of those objectives that have not progressed as planned those of most concern at this stage are;

- Young Peoples sexual health services identified as a priority for additional funding provided for contraceptive services. Review currently being undertaken this will link to Teen Drop In's and extended services in schools although timescales have slipped slightly. (*Service Objective PS8*)
- There have been some difficulties in implementing a departmental medium term financial plan and the timescale has slipped from September 2008 to March 2009. (*Service Objective BSC2*)
- Review of administrative support in Specialist Services has been put on hold pending the efficiency review and will therefore not be implemented by March 2009. The initial report proposing a support structure was agreed and this will be put forward to the efficiency review. (*Service Objective BSC5*)
- The impact of Job Evaluation on recruitment and retention in some areas has been significant. A number of these issues cannot be resolved while the appeals process is ongoing and we will continue to work with Corporate HR and the unions to progress. (*Service Objective BSC5*)

5.0 Performance Indicators / Targets

5.1 The majority of performance indicators within the directorate are on target and most notably positive progress has been made in regards to:-

- NI92 Achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage has reduced from 33.8% to 30.4% well ahead of the target for the year of 31.7%. This is a critical indicator in narrowing the gap for vulnerable children. (*ULS plan*)
- NI86 Secondary Schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour. Performance has hit the target of 87.5%, of the 8 mainstream secondary schools 2 have been judged as outstanding, 5 good and 1 as satisfactory in their most recent inspections. (*PS Plan*)
- SSLI2 % of Care Leavers living in temporary accommodation has reduced from 35% to 29% during the quarter. (*SS Plan*)
- BSC LI6 % of training evaluation forms rating the course good or better has been maintained at 100% for all course delivered or commissioned through the Directorate. (*BSC Plan*)

Of those performance indicators within the directorate that are not on target those of most concern at this stage are;

- NI89 Schools in Special Measures has increased to 2 against a target of none following an inspection on Weston Primary in October. We are working closely with the school to support them in making progress as quickly as possible. Recent monitoring reports indicate that good progress is being made at Simm's Cross Primary and we are hoping that the school will come out of special measures as a result of the next inspection visit. (*ULS plan*)
- NI117 NEET continues to be an issue with a further increase during the quarter. A number of factors are impacting on this indicator including the economic downturn, method of calculation using destination rather than residency, and the quality of Post-16 provision available in Halton. (*PS Plan*)
- NI148 Care leavers in EET is an ongoing issue with only 21% of the cohort being in EET at their 19th birthday. The numbers involved are small and can be impacted on by a number of factors including disability, pregnancy and mental health issues. Apprenticeship schemes are being developed through WNF and a target of 30 apprenticeships for care leavers over the next 3 years has been agreed by the LSP. (*SS Plan*)

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People
SERVICE: Business Support & Commissioning
PERIOD: Quarter 3 to period end 31st December 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Business Support & Commissioning third quarter period up to 31 December 2008. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Building Schools for the Future

By 19th November 2008 the authority had prepared and submitted its Strategy for Change Part 2 (SfC2). This document describes how the authority, along with its key stakeholders intend to achieve its vision. It was developed by working in partnership with headteachers of secondary and special schools, external consultants and other key stakeholders and through the BSF Workstreams such as ICT and Technical. In addition, the Strategy for Change for each secondary and secondary special school was included in its appendices.

An outline of how the authority intends to procure the BSF Programme, the prioritisation for investment and how the Programme will be phased was included within the Strategy. The options for each school site were also detailed along with a scoring matrix to allow identify the "control option" i.e. most appropriate and affordable option for each school. Information is also included on how ICT will be managed in the future and the costs and implications this will have on both schools and the authority. The Strategy also includes a statement as to how the Council will fund the BSF Programme.

2.2 Halton High (Proposed Academy Development)

On 9th October 2008 a meeting was held between the Local Authority representatives, two Office of the School Commission (OSC) representatives, Ian Cleland, the Chief Executive, Director of Education of Ormiston Education and Professor Wheeler Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Chester. Following this meeting on 12th November 2008 the Department for Children Schools and Families

(DSCF) issued at Statement of Intent. The Statement of Intent confirmed that the Authority and the sponsors had met and would now like to develop an Expression of Interest document. The letter also indicated that the DSCF were looking to establish the Academy by September 2009.

The Sponsors and the Council then began to work together to prepare a formal Expression of Interest for Ministerial approval, making the case for an Academy. DSCF appointed a Project Lead DCSF for the Halton Academy. In addition, to support the development of the Expression of Interest (EOI) the DCSF have appointed an Expression of Interest Consultant. The consultants role is to challenge, advise and support the production of the Expression of Interest.

2.3 Primary Capital Strategy

The outcome of the assessment of the Primary Capital Strategy was sent to the authority in November 2008. The assessment which had been undertaken by Capita on behalf of the DCSF identified that further work was needed on the Strategy before any funding could be confirmed. The vision and context of the Strategy were assessed as sound however, the following work is being undertaken to strengthen and revise the strategy:

- detailed data and analysis on pupil numbers, standards and ICT provision, extended schools and early years provision and condition, suitability and capacity of schools;
- an outline of the strategy to achieve transformational change;
- the links to national and local priorities;
- how ICT will be embedded and procured;
- the approach to raising standards and to design;
- the Programme Management arrangements;
- the matrix to identify investment priorities;
- Investment priorities for the first four years (only the first two years were identified in the original submission; and
- Evidence of consultation.

A consultant from 'Place' consultancy was assigned to Halton in December 2008 to support the revision of the document. It was agreed that the consultant would review and provide feedback on revisions to the Strategy prior to its re-submission.

2.4 ICT Projects

There are a number of major ICT projects in progress at the moment and all are progressing well. The ContactPoint project is in the later stages of development and we will be going live in late January 2009. We are focusing on Halton's case management systems and data quality issues - all milestones for the project are being achieved.

The Computers for Schools Project is designed to put computers with internet access into the homes of pupils living in Super Output Areas (areas of high deprivation), in receipt of Free School Meals and without

computers/internet access. The project is also being extended to provide computers with internet access to all Children in Care aged 11 to 15 in September.

The Carefirst6 project is also progressing well - all database and application servers are installed. The Database servers are now being used within the live environment. The Application Servers are currently not live but the Carefirst6 system build is being completed. The roll out of Carefirst6 will start at end of February 2009.

2.5 Children's Trust

A Children's Trust awayday was held in December to work on the further development of the Trust arrangements and agree high-level priorities. Three priorities have been agreed; Health inequalities, Narrowing the gap, and NEET. The service delivery partnerships of the Children's Trust will be focused on these priority areas. The Executive Group has now been established and the chairs of each of the three Service Delivery Partnerships agreed.

The development of a Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit (JICU) to support the work of the Children's Trust is progressing well. It is proposed that there will be four key strands of the JICU; Workforce Development, Intelligence, Trust Management, and Commissioning. Lead officers have been assigned to each of the four strands and they are now working on proposals for the Unit.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Building Schools for the Future

An Outline Business Case for BSF must be prepared, agreed and submitted by 22nd April 2009. This document should summarise all the projects within the programme and outline the feasibility and option analysis that has been undertaken. It must confirm the funding, sample schools and scope of the Local Education Partnership. It must also specify the type of ICT provision to be procured, the design arrangements. The formal agreements outlining each schools contribution to the Programme must be in place. The affordability and value for money of the Programme must be demonstrated and confirmed by the authority.

Prior to its submission the Outline Business Case must be agreed by; the Planners, Diocese, Learning and Skills Council, Section 151 Officer, Executive Board, Sport England, Governing Bodies, Warrington Borough Council (if Joint Local Education Partnership) and Academy Sponsors.

3.2 Admissions/Zoning

As part of the secondary re-organisation process it was agreed that catchment zones would be introduced in Widnes. As agreed the authority is now consulting on the implementation of catchment zones for

Wade Deacon High School and The Bankfield School for the September 2010 and subsequent intakes.

Two options have been put forward for consultation, one placing the Westbank area of Widnes in Wade Deacon's catchment zone, the other placing the Westbank area in The Bankfield catchment zone. The proposed zones have been determined based upon the pupil population (part, present and forecasted), socio economic profiling and school capacity. Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College will continue to serve the Catholic Community in Widnes.

The consultation commenced the week beginning 5th January 2009 and will cease on 28th February 2009. Halton's Admission Forum will consider any responses and will put forward a recommendation to the Council's Executive Board to make a determination before 15th April 2009.

3.3 Primary Capital Strategy

By 31st January 2009, the Primary Capital Strategy for Halton will be revised, strengthened and resubmitted to the department for approval. The Strategy will provide more detailed baseline analysis on the primary provision in Halton, clearly express the long term aims of the strategy and how transformational change will be achieved. It will outline the current and future level of surplus provision and the steps the authority will take to address over and under-capacity. It will also provide a matrix on the prioritisation process for primary capital funding.

3.4 ICT Projects

As outlined in the DCSF 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. UniServity have been chosen as the system that was the most suitable for all schools across the Borough following a pilot that tested out a number of alternatives. We are planning the transformation to having an integrated Managed Learning Environment whereby the Virtual Learning Platform will become interoperable with the schools Management Information Systems - this will be in place by August 2010.

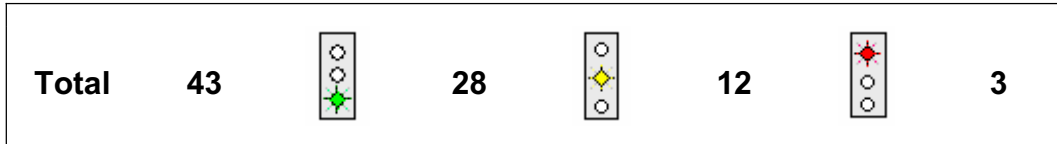
The CareFirst 6 implementation is now underway. A full and detailed Business Process re-engineering exercise is nearing completion. This process is being undertaken by ICT Services Business Process Team and will ensure that we get the most out of the CareFirst 6 implementation. The Project Manager has identified the need for a dedicated resource for CareFirst 6 training and the need for the trainers to work in the project team and be responsible for training and assisting with the development of both CareFirst 6 and CareAssess.

3.5 Workforce Development

There is a requirement for all Children's Trust to undertake an assessment of progress towards an integrated workforce using the 'One

Children’s Workforce’ tool. This will be a major project requiring input from all agencies and will run in parallel with a review of the Integrated Workforce Strategy for Children’s Services. A project group has been established to lead this work and an initial report from the tool will be submitted to the Children’s Workforce Development Council in June 2009. An action plan will be developed and implemented based on the findings of the assessment process.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

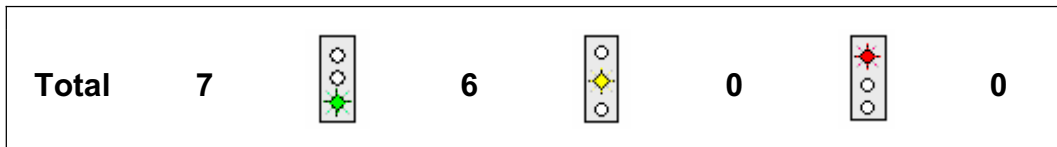


Of the 43 milestones for the service, 28 are on track for completion, or have already been achieved. There is some doubt around 12 of them, and it is likely that 3 will not be completed within the specified timeframe. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

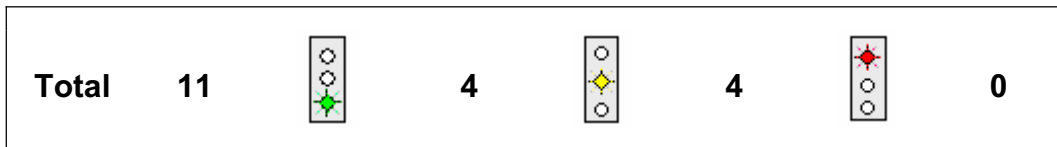
Nothing to report in this quarter.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Of the 7 key indicators for the service, six are on target. One indicator relating to sickness absence (BPR LI12) will not be reported until quarter 4 due to the implementation of a new data collection arrangement. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Other performance indicators are routinely reported in quarters 2 and 4. This quarter, 4 other indicators are being reported by exception, for further details, please refer to Appendix 3. Of the remaining 7 key indicators are 4 on track, and 3 cannot be reported as data is not yet

available.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

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

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2007/08 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 DATA QUALITY







The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data. Where data has been estimated, has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.






11.0 APPENDICES

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









Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
BSC 1	To transform the learning community	Complete Secondary Re-Organisation actions, Mar 2009		Proposal to establish a joint faith school at St Chad's approved. SEN unit review commenced. Further re-organisation required for Runcorn schools.
		Enter Wave 6 Building Schools for the Future, May 2008		Completed
		Agree Primary Capital Strategy, June 2008		National assessment of Primary Capital Strategy was that it required further work. Strategy is to be resubmitted by end of January 2009
		Agree Phase 3 Children's Centres, Mar 2009		Agreement given to carry forward capital allocation. Plans are currently being developed for Phase 3.
		Complete BSF Strategy for Change Part 1 and 2, Nov 2008		Strategy for Change Part 1 and 2 completed and submitted to the Partnership for Schools
BSC 2	To deploy resources effectively and efficiently	Implement medium term Financial Plan, Sep 2008		To be developed by March 2009
		Implement revised Gershon efficiencies, Sep 2008		Currently on target to achieve Gershon efficiencies
		Re-align resources to meet priorities through service review, Mar 2009		Priorities to be agreed by Children's Trust January 2009




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Identify alternative funding sources, Mar 2009		Opportunities to pool funding with Children's Trust partners are being explored through Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit
		Develop exit strategy for short term grants, Sep 2008		Confirmation received of grant funding levels for 2009/2010. WNF funding and projects to be determined
BSC 3	To improve management of sickness absence	Review sickness absence data collection process, Mar 2009		Sickness absence data has been reviewed and a regular reporting mechanism to SMT set up. This is being matched against data from the Trent system.
		Establish a baseline position based on the new system, Mar 2009		Baseline position has been established using the 2007-08 data.
		Ensure consistent sickness absence management across the Directorate, Sep 2008		Sickness absence policy has been re-circulated to managers and this will be reinforced by corporate training for managers.
		Return to work interviews to be completed for all absences during the year and analysis of information used to inform workforce planning		Return to work interviews are being completed, however the way in which they are conducted needs more standardisation. This will be included in the corporate training for managers.
BSC 4	To develop and support information requirements for the Directorate	Fully populate the CYP database with details of CYP vulnerabilities, Jan 2009		As at Sept 2008 all school census learner identifiers are included in the CYP database.

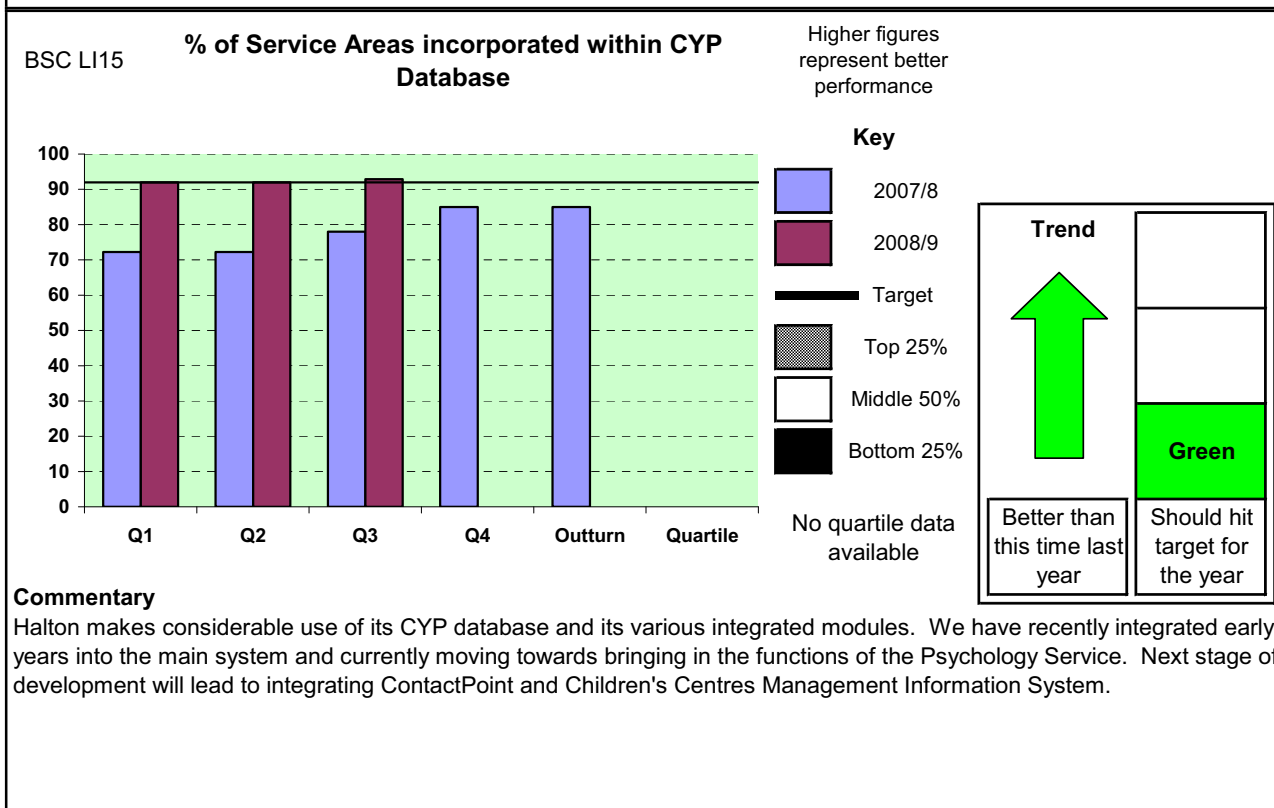
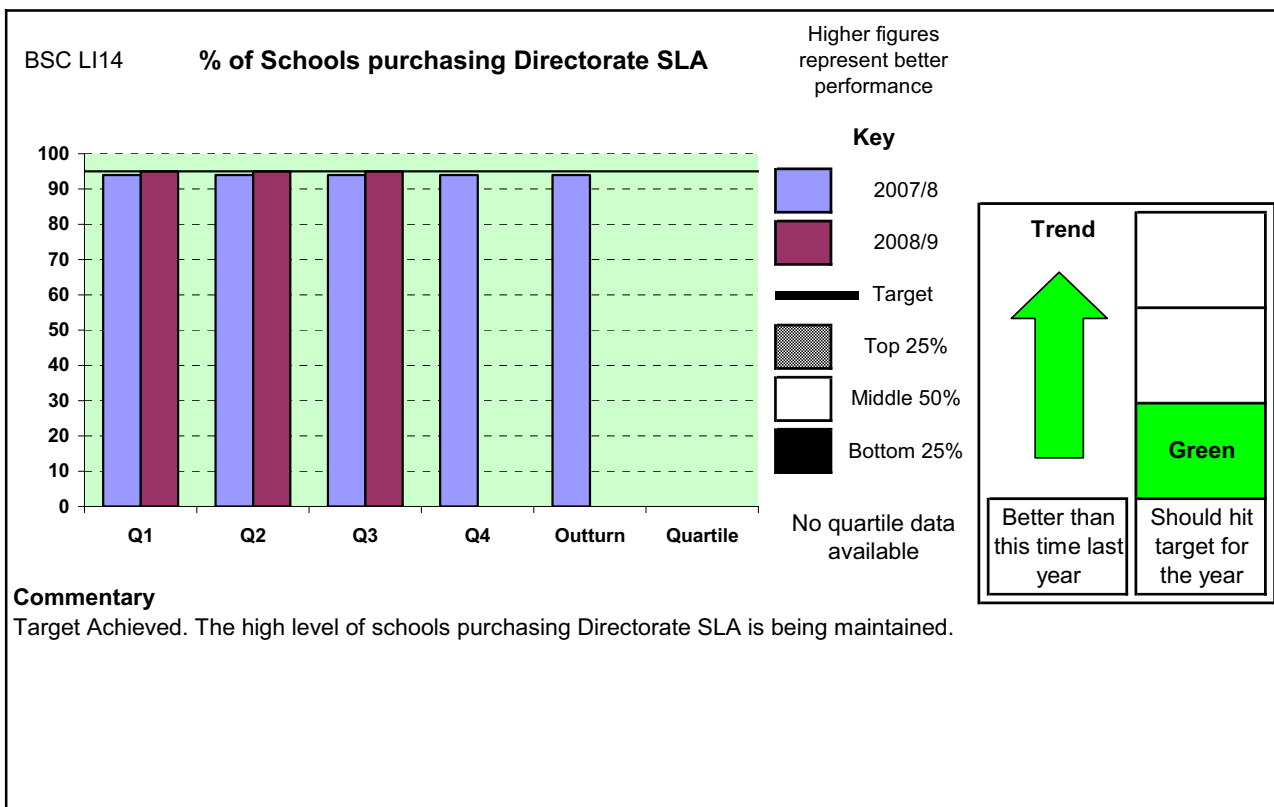
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Develop systems and analysis re 'narrowing the gap for vulnerable children' , Mar 2009		As at Sept 2008 performance data for Foundation Stage Profile through to Key Stage 5 is being analysed to produce narrowing the gap reports
		Provide web access to the CYP database using the Tribal synergy module, Mar 2009		A trial project is currently in place
		Develop systems to enable inter capability between the CYP Database and Social Care Databases to provide improved data analysis, Mar 2009		Discussions taking place with Tribal and OLM to identify and develop software solutions that will enable real time interoperability between the CYP and Social Care Database.
		To implement all major ICT projects for the Directorate within agreed timescales		Currently over 30 ICT projects are in various stages of development and all are running to their agreed timetables.
BSC 5	To recruit and retain a fully staffed, trained and motivated workforce.	Review and implement Directorate Recruitment and Retention Strategy, Sep 2008		Strategy has been reviewed with a focus on hotspot areas such as social workers and educational psychologists. This is one of the priority work-streams identified in the Integrated Workforce Strategy.
		Provide programme of training to meet requirements highlighted in Personal Action Plans		Wide ranging programme of training is in place and was developed based on requirements from PAP's. The information from this years PAP's will inform the programme for 2009-10.

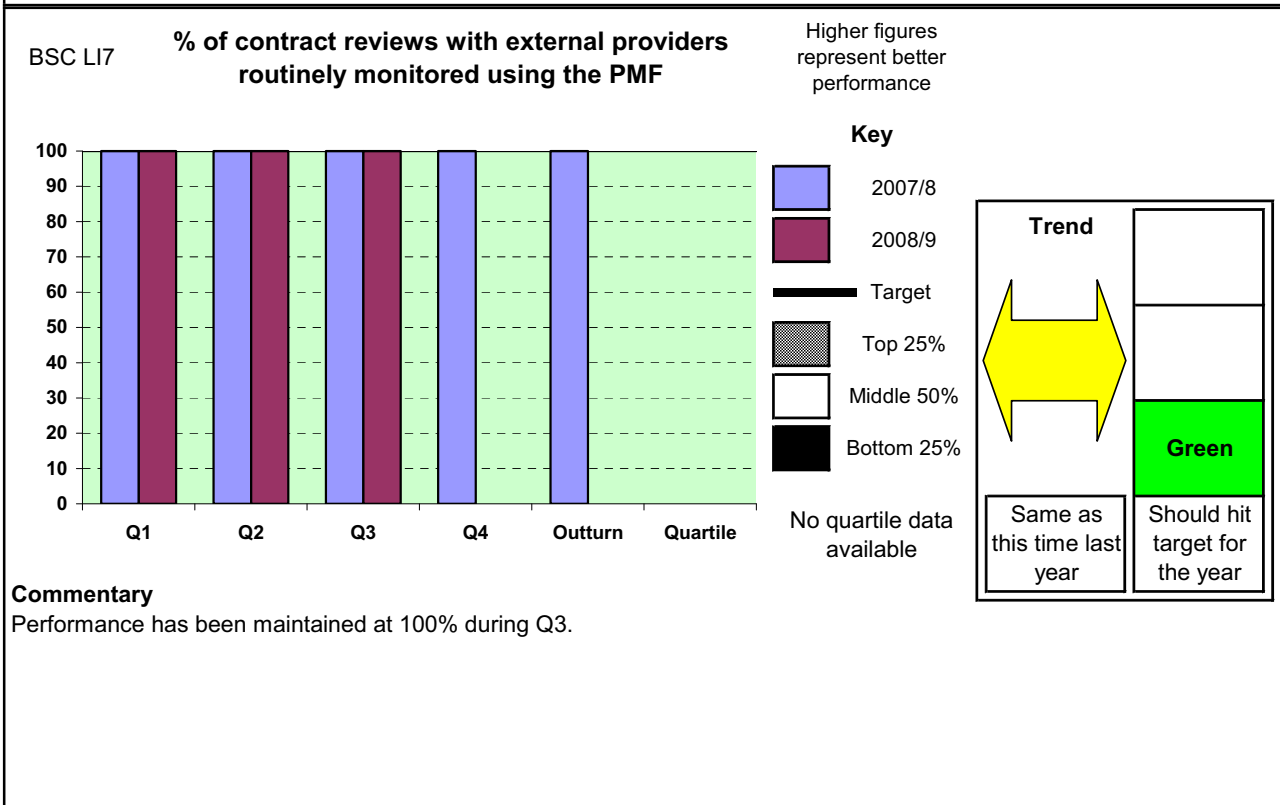
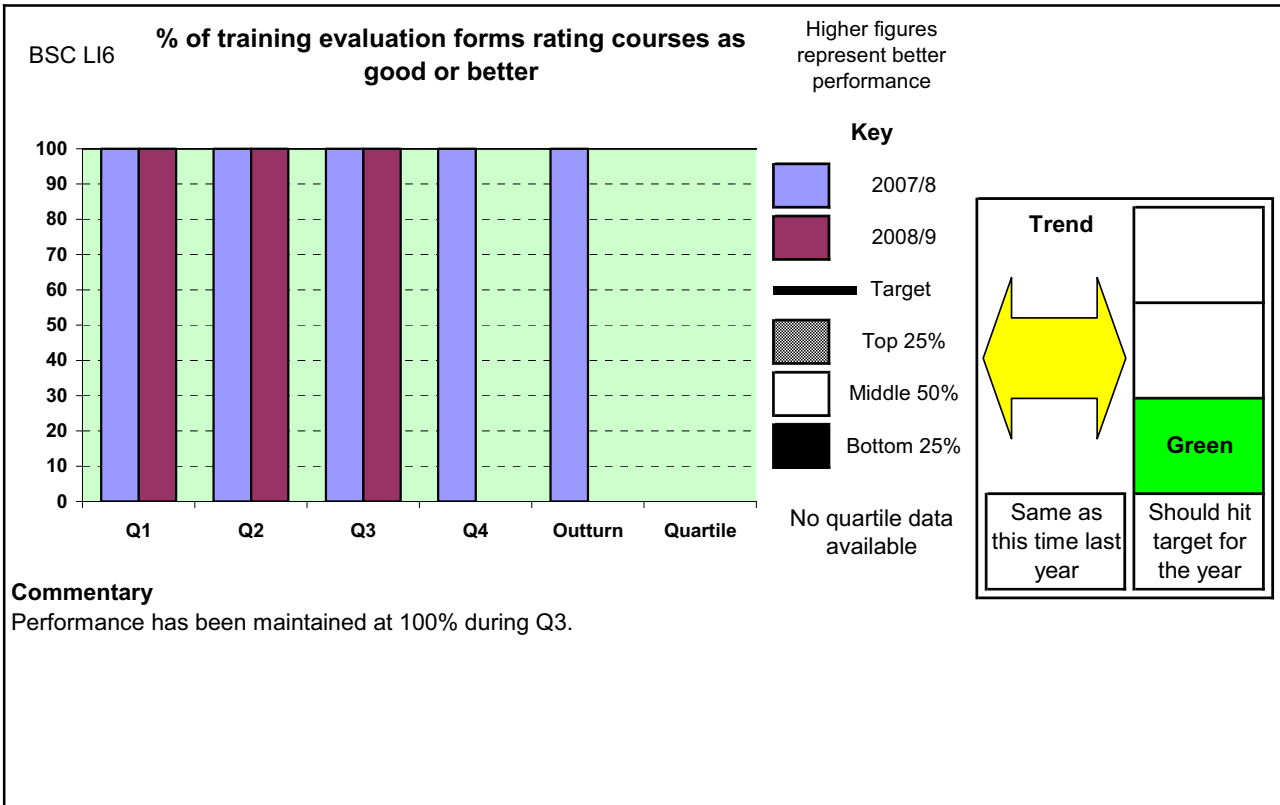
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Implement new process of exit interviews to inform recruitment and retention strategy, Sep 2008		Exit interviews have been piloted with specific groups of staff and now need to be rolled out across the Directorate.
		Complete review of administrative support to Specialist Services, Mar 2009		Review report has been completed however any implementation is put on hold pending the corporate Efficiency Review.
		Establish an action plan to minimise the the impact of Job Evaluation on recruitment and retention, Sep 2008		The impact of JE on recruitment and retention in some areas has been significant. A number of the issues cannot be resolved while the appeals process is ongoing and there is a need to work with Corporate HR and the unions to progress this further.
BSC 6	To develop performance management to meet the needs of the Directorate	To review local measures and establish systems to meet new national requirements of 'Strong & Prosperous Communities' White Paper, Mar 2009		Performance framework has been reviewed and new system proposed as part of the Children's Trust arrangements.
		To start to integrate performance management across the Children's Trust, Mar 2009		Proposals for the integration of performance management arrangements have been developed for consideration. This will done as part of the JICU development

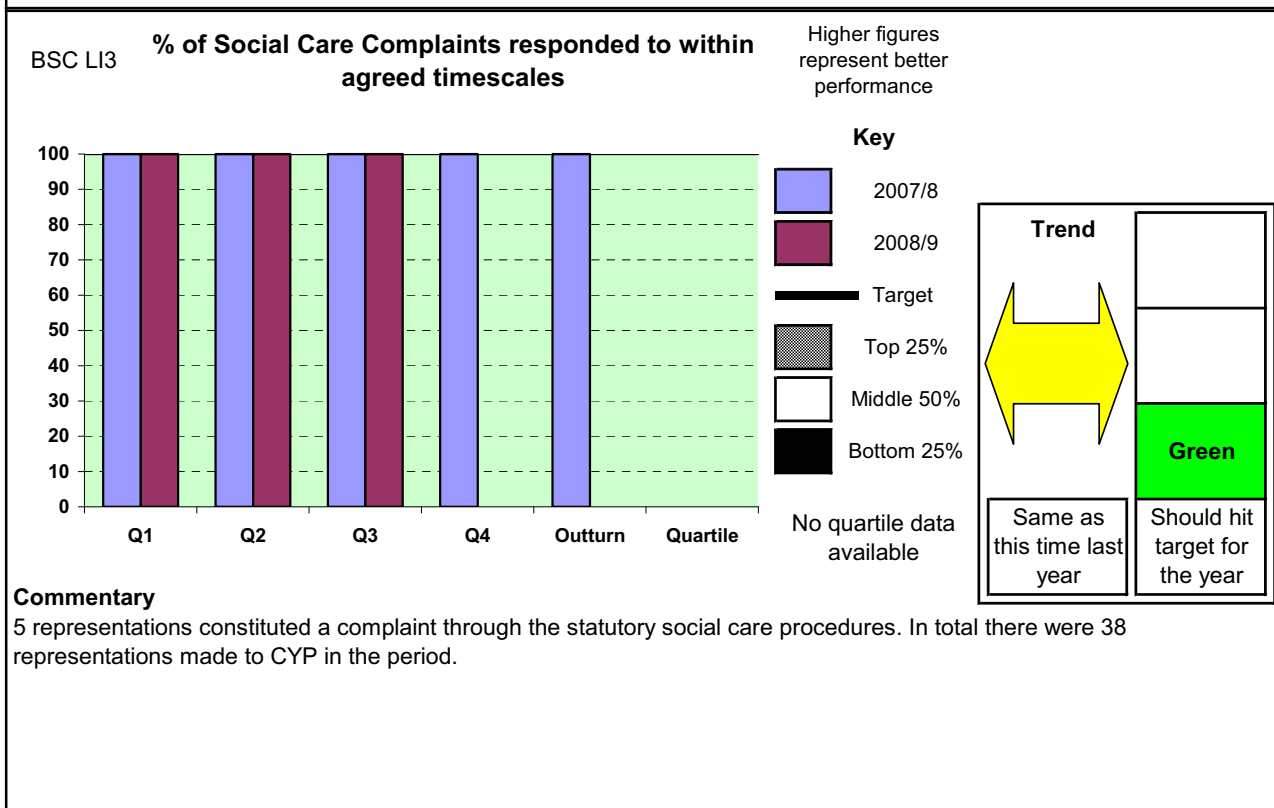
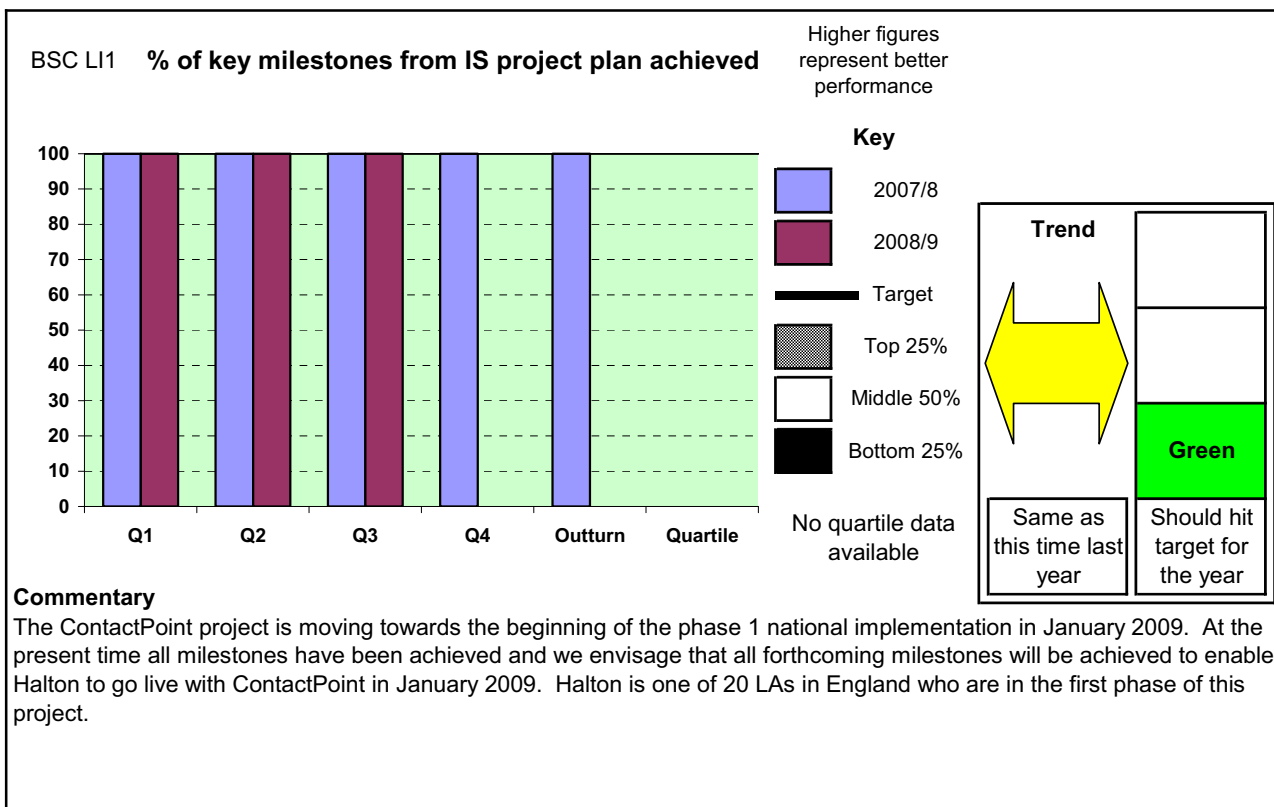
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To complete Strategic Needs Analysis on 2 service areas to inform commissioning, Mar 2009		A framework for the completion of SNA's has been established. However it is likely in the future that the process will focus on localities rather than service areas.
		To co-ordinate performance management of the CYPP priorities and report to Alliance Board, Mar 2009		Performance monitoring arrangements have been set up to enable reporting against the CYPP priorities.
BSC 7	To develop integrated joint commissioning of services	To integrate the commissioning function across all Children's Trust services, Mar 2009		Proposals for the integration of commissioning arrangements are being considered as part of the development of the Children's Trust Structure.
		To monitor contract compliance of all commissioned services identifying specific actions for service development, Mar 2009		Contract compliance is monitored through the Halton PMF and the information gathered used for service development.
		To complete the first phase of implementation of the Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework, Mar 2009		Implementation is progressing well and on target
		Review the impact of all commissioned services against the CYPP priorities, Mar 2009		A system to review impact is being developed. This is a complex area of work and there may be some capacity issues with the timescale.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
BSC 8	To ensure equality and diversity issues are considered in the development of new services, policies and procedures	Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out on all policies and service areas, Mar 2009		A rolling programme of EIA's has been established and will be monitored by the Children's Trust E&D group. More robust EIA's are required so training will be developed and rolled out.
		Directorate equality plan to be reviewed, Sep 2008		Completed
		To embed stakeholder engagement and participation, Mar 2009		Processes for embedding stakeholder engagement and participation are being developed
		To offer all new staff training in Diversity as part of their induction, Mar 2009		Diversity training is part of the induction for all new staff
BSC 9	To improve communication with all stakeholders	Implement Directorates Communication Strategy, Sep 2008		Still awaiting corporate Communication Strategy to enable progress on this milestone.
		Increase the number of positive new stories about CYPD, Mar 2009		Numbers are increasing.
		Ensure CYPD link is published and circulated to agreed timescales during the year		Publications being delivered to agreed timescales.
BSC 10	To support the integration of services through the establishment	Agree and implement a structure for the Children's Trust, Apr 2008		A structure has been agreed meeting the statutory requirements

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
	of a Children's Trust	Facilitate the work of the Trust by co-ordinating the completion and regular monitoring of Business Plans for each area of the structure during the year		Business Plans cannot be developed until the new structure is operational. A framework for the plans is currently being agreed.
		Establish a system to evaluate the outcomes of CAF's, Sep 2008		A system is in place, although evaluation is limited due to the capacity within the Trust team.
		Provide a programme of integrated working training to ensure all relevant staff have received mandatory training, Mar 2009		Programme of integrated working training for the year in place to ensure all staff receive mandatory training










Key performance indicators not reported this quarter;

BPR LI 12 - % days lost to Sickness Absence

A new system for data collection is being implemented and the indicator will be reported in Q4

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 3	Progress	Commentary
Fair Access						
BPR LI8	% of Equality Impact Assessments completed	70%	100%	80%		There are still a number of EIA's outstanding however it is expected they will all be completed before the end of the year
BPR LI21	Number of Service Areas subject to Strategic Needs Analysis	N/a	4	2		The complexity of Strategic Needs Analysis has lead to some capacity issues. Localities and Preventative Services have had SNA and we may base future developments around the Locality model rather than specific service areas.
Quality						
BPR LI5	Number of "positive" news stories published in local media about the Directorate	278	300	130		It is unclear whether we are likely to achieve the target.
Service Delivery						
BPR LI2	Number of people accessing the CIS Kiosks at Children's Centres	380	400	Refer to comment	-	Due to a lack of funding, the Kiosk has been removed.

BUSINESS SUPPORT & COMMISSIONING DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2008**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	2,718	2,039	1,924	115	1,924
Premises Support	618	164	164	0	164
Premises Other	9	6	6	0	6
Supplies & Services	661	418	395	23	404
Transport School / College	1,260	596	596	0	596
Transport	55	41	35	6	35
Central Support	736	0	0	0	0
Service Recharges					
Transport Support	168	0	0	0	0
Service Recharges					
Commissioned BSF Work	877	657	628	29	628
Asset Charges	5,779	0	0	0	0
Standards Fund Expenditure	11,365	8,824	8,824	0	8,824
Area Based Grant Expenditure	3,733	2,792	2,792	0	2,792
School Contingency	1,094	0	0	0	0
SEN Contingency	220	0	0	0	0
NQT Contingency	146	0	0	0	0
Teachers Pensions	579	402	342	60	342
Teachers	326	245	35	210	35
Redundancies					
Non Delegated Support	96	40	38	2	38
Revenue	-620	0	0	0	0
Contribution from Reserves					
Total Expenditure	29,820	16,224	15,779	445	15,788
Dedicated Schools Grant	-8,817	-6,613	-6,613	0	-6,613
Standards Fund Grant	-11,245	-8,434	-8,434	0	-8,434
Area Based Grant	-3,646	-2,734	-2,734	0	-2,734
Other Grant	-84	-50	-50	0	-50
Schools' Contribution to BSF	-300	-300	-300	0	-300
Reimbursements	-36	-27	-29	2	-29
School SLA Income	-390	-367	-367	0	-367
Total Income	-24,518	-18,525	-18,527	2	-18,527
Net Expenditure	5,302	-2,301	-2,748	447	-2,739

Comments on the above figures:

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

The budget for employees is currently below budget profile primarily due to vacancies in the Finance & Resources, Children's Information Service, Departmental Support and Planning and Performance sections.

The Teachers pensions and redundancy budget is currently under budget profile, but they can be volatile budgets and at this stage it is difficult to predict the year end position.

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

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES 2008/09

As at 31st December 2008

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
YMCA NEET Solutions	11	8	0	8	0
Neglect	125	94	42	52	42
Barnardos Missing from Home	70	52	0	52	0
Teenage Pregnancy	45	34	45	(11)	45
Portage	48	36	35	1	38
Attendance	66	49	54	(5)	54
HITS	50	37	60	(23)	60
Care Leavers	56	42	11	31	11
Connexions – NEET	74	55	0	55	0
Access to Learning & Employment	10	7	8	(1)	12
Canal Boat Adventure	58	44	25	19	25
Improved Education for Vulnerable Youngsters	57	43	3	40	9
Kingsway Literacy Development	355	266	205	61	205
Youth Activity	82	62	43	19	43
H9P Dowries	10	7	8	(1)	10
Action for Children	31	23	63	(40)	63
NVQ Project					
YSIP	15	11	0	11	0
Total LSP	1,163	870	602	268	617

Comments on the above figures:

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below budget profile.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the 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 Working Neighbourhood Fund grant is spent during the year.

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG PEOPLES DIRECTORATE

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2008

	2008/09 Capital Allocation	Allocation To Date	Actual Spend To Date	Total Allocation Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Asset Management Data	5	3	0	5
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Runcorn All Saints Capital Repairs	22	16	0	22
	1,667	1,558	1,558	109
Cavendish & Brookfields Primary Capital Programme	1,474	1,427	1,427	47
School Access Initiative Schemes	50	38	0	50
Sure Start – Children's Centre's	245	184	30	215
Sure Start – Childcare	549	412	229	320
Contingency	546	410	164	382
Play-builder Halton Brook	441	331	0	441
Play-builder Gorsewood	50	37	0	50
Play-builder Spike Island	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Town Hall Park	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Hale Park	50	37	9	41
Play-builder Crow Wood	40	30	16	24
Total Capital Schemes	80	60	0	80
	5,314	4,614	3,433	1,881




Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes with no actual expenditure up to the end of Quarter 3.

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 financial year end.

Any under-spend on Sure Start Children's Centre's and Childcare schemes can be carried forward to the next financial year 2009-10.

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: Preventative Services
PERIOD: Quarter 3 to period end 31st December 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Preventative Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2008. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Integrated Youth Support & Targeted Youth Support Services

A change plan is in place which will ensure the delivery of youth support within needs led, locality based services. Integral to narrowing the gap in Halton will be the development of the Targeted Youth Support strand within the wider IYSS strategy. The self assessment was completed in December 2008 and submitted to the Training and Development Agency which identified that progress was on track. Issues identified from the assessment concentrated upon how the agreed TYS model becomes embedded. Furthermore a multi agency TYS pathway has now been agreed.

A complimentary development of the above is the targeting of services for sexual health and substance misuse. A range of preventative measures developed in conjunction with the National Treatment Agency are ensuring the emphasis is on preventing drug and alcohol misuse and the transmission of sexual infections. Specific activities have included a sexual health service development workshop that was led by young people. One specific action suggested by young people was the development of a young persons advisory group to work closely with the Teenage Pregnancy strategy group.

Key objectives are to secure increased participation in education, employment and training; increased participation in positive activities; reduced usage and access to substance misuse; reduction in under 18 conception rates; and reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.

2.2 Schools' Role in Promoting Pupil Well-Being

The DCSF have recently produced a number of consultation documents regarding schools contribution to pupil well-being. The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on schools to promote the well-being of pupils. The duty came into effect in September 2007.

Well-being is defined in law in terms of the five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes. Schools are already inspected against these by OFSTED. In promoting well-being schools must have regard to the Children and Young People's Plan for their area and to the views of parents. Schools need to contribute to discussions within the Children's Trust about local needs and priorities. Schools need to review their contribution to all aspects of well-being in their cycle of self-evaluation, improvement planning and review in relation to each of the five ECM outcomes.

School level indicators of a school's contribution to pupil well-being is to be reflected in the OFSTED cycle of inspections beginning in September 2009. OFSTED published a consultation document in October 2008 regarding indicators that may be used to judge how well a school is promoting well-being a summary or the responses will be published in February 2009.

Two kinds of school level indicators are proposed: Indicators relating to quantified outcomes over which schools can have significant influence; and indicators based on the perceptions of pupils and parents, relating to the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes themselves and the schools contribution to these. These indicators will be supplemented by a local area 'well-being profile'. In Healthy Schools Programme will be aligned to the well-being indicators.

2.3 Teenage Pregnancy

The senior management team met with the National Strategy Team (NST) on the 4th December 2008 to review and agree actions needed to implement the recommendations made from their September 2008 visit.

Strategy:

- The NST team agreed that commissioning arrangements are being strengthened and performance monitoring arrangements are being put in place.
- Halton are currently looking at implementing St Helens Model of Teenage Pregnancy service delivery by 1.4.09. The NST have agreed to share examples of multi-disciplinary and co-located teams across the country.
- The NST team recognised that the strengthening of Children's Trust arrangements are contributing to the improvement of partnership work.

- A stakeholder event has been held on 3.12.08 hosted by John Moores University on behalf of the PCT to compile a sexual Health needs assessment.

Data:

- Teenage pregnancy data post contract will continue to be commissioned.
- The NST team endorsed the use of GIS mapping and the increased understanding of information sharing between the PCT and HBC

Communications:

- New initiatives include; 'My Time' campaign with the support of Widnes Vikings and shared campaigns across the PCT and HBC especially during 'hotspot months'
- Development of a communications strategy

Implementation:

- C Card delivery planning day arranged for 19th January 2009. NST to attend and provide examples from across the country
- LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception) service specification currently being developed by the PCT
- SHA funding for LARC being allocated to school nursing for initial developments to ensure strategic embedding.
- HBC and PCT to receive support from the 'Your Welcome' regional co-ordinator to improve service delivery across the PCT footprint.
- HBC and PCT to continue to develop targeted outreach provision across teenage pregnancy and substance misuse/Alcohol agendas.

2.4 Mental Health in Schools Project

Halton has been selected to be a Wave 2 Pathfinder authority for the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Project. This will mean that the authority will receive £370,000 over the next two years to develop a model of emotional health and wellbeing support in schools.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Treatment Plan

- Young Person's Substance Misuse Treatment Plan is due for submission January 09 with links to Tell Us 3 survey (NI115) ensured.
- Strategies to address issues identified in "Hidden Harm" need to be reviewed in order to ensure that the impact of parental substance misuse on children & young people is minimised.

3.2 Teenage Pregnancy

- Formal review with Government Office North West regarding progress of the teenage pregnancy strategy to take place in January 09. Discussions will focus upon recommendations from the NST visit.
- GO NW have commissioned Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to work with all 22 TP partnerships areas across the North West. CLES will assist in the development in the effective use of data, information and intelligence to improve performance management and service planning.




3.3 Education and Skills Act

The Education and Skills Act 2008 changes the definition of an independent school. This may have implications for many alternative provision providers and reduce the flexibility available in placing young people. We are in consultation with the DCSF about this but potentially it could result in a KS4 PRU whose provision is subject to multiple OfSTED inspections. It also has the potential to reduce the number of providers available in the pre-16 sector.

3.4 “Back on Track”

The “Back on Track” white paper places an expectation on LA’s that not only are they responsible for Alternative Provision that they commission but also for Alternative Provision that is commissioned directly by schools. The expectation is that the LA will monitor all young people in Alternative Provision and where necessary have a challenge role with schools.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

Total	32		23		8		1
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Of the 43 milestones for the service, 23 are on track for completion, or have already been achieved. There is some doubt around 8 of them, and it is likely that 1 will not be completed within the specified timeframe. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

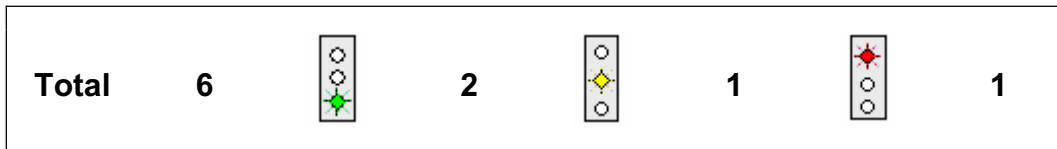
5.1 Locality Working

Work is underway to progress the co-ordination and delivery of services to children, young people and families on a locality basis across the Borough. Working within children’s trust arrangements a Project Plan is being compiled which will, over time, see the join up of services across the 0-19 age range across a locality footprint. The benefits of this approach will be to secure improved outcomes for children, young people and families, and reduce duplication in service delivery across the range of services making up the children’s trust. This work will also assist in preparing for the future inspection of services on the area basis through the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

5.2 Play Review

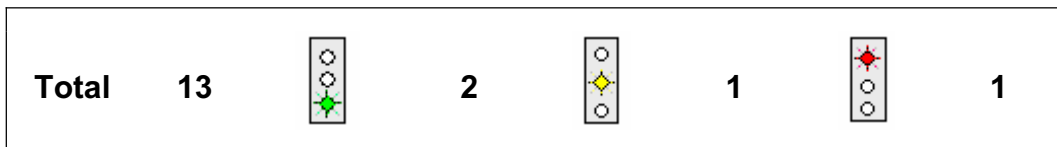
The review of the Service is now complete and steps are being taken to implement the new staffing arrangements to ensure a strengthened focus upon play and delivery through localities via children’s centres and extended schools.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Of the 6 key indicators for the service, 2 are on target. One indicator has been assigned an amber light, and 1 is red as the target will probably be missed. One new indicator relating to participation in positive activities is reported for the first time, but no target was set at the start of the year so a traffic light is not assigned. One indicator measuring take-up of formal childcare by low income working families is dependant upon data from HMRC – this will not be available until May 2009. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Other performance indicators are routinely reported in quarters 2 and 4. This quarter, 7 other indicators are being reported by exception; six are new National Indicators for which data has become available for the first time. One indicator is off track and has been assigned a red light. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3. The remaining 7 key indicators cannot be reported as data is not yet available.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

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

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS




During 2007/08 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 DATA QUALITY






The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data. Where data has been estimated, has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.





11.0 APPENDICES







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



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 1	To secure sufficient childcare and Early Education Places in line with Childcare Act	To develop early years services in line with Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Mar 2009		Early Years childcare services are currently being developed and sustained in line with the Halton Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
		Establish an enhanced provision panel to support Private and Voluntary childcare providers to increase access for children with additional needs, Sep 2008		<p>To-date there have been 26 children who have taken up provision with Private & Voluntary childcare settings have been supported financially through the Enhanced Provision Panel</p> <p>During this quarter there has been outreach support for 3 children with medical and physical needs from Chesnut Lodge</p>
		To ensure that there is sufficient provision to deliver the free early years entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds		Providers of the free entitlement have been surveyed to determine their ability to deliver the extended offer, to be phased-in in September 2009 with universal roll-out in September 2010. This process will be repeated to inform the review of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in April 2009. There is support available to providers through the Childcare Capital Funding





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To develop a single funding formula across the maintained and private and voluntary sectors to ensure equity and support the sustainability of sufficient provision.		The Early Years team are working closely with finance colleagues to develop the single funding formula
PRS 2	To increase accessibility to Children's Centres services	To have completed Children's Centre Self Evaluation Forms for submission to Children Centre Advisory Boards, Mar 2009		All children Centres continue to oversee the operational development of services and the completion of the Self Evaluation Forms through senior management teams, representing the full range of partner agencies, schools and parents.
		To move into phase 3 of Children Centre Planning, Sep 2008		A revised report concerning Phase 3 development was submitted to CYPD SMT in September 2008, the revised proposals include the maintenance of the current level of children centre stock and the enhancement and maintenance of existing centres through available Phase 3 capital funding. Issues relating to Phase 3 will be the subject of a future report to PPB and Executive Board.





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To establish a fully operational JNA data-base for all Children's Centres, Sep 2008		The JNA database is operational; systems are in place for the collation of data concerning the accessibility and reach of children centre services.
PRS 3	To Organise Service Delivery on a Locality Basis According to Need	To establish a baseline position for local targets and ensure robust monitoring systems are in place to provide analysis by locality, Mar 2009		A pilot project on locality working has commenced. A strategic needs analysis at ward level is in draft form
		Implement a system to effectively commission services underpinned by a strategic needs analysis, and meeting local and national targets, Mar 2009		Research is currently being undertaken of locality working to ensure that the safeguarding of children is not compromised
		Develop the JNA database to record early identification issues, and inform locality needs, Mar 2009		Systems now in place for the further development of early identification of locality needs
PRS 4	To Reduce Health Inequalities for all Children	Local reporting system is developed to provide an accurate benchmark to monitor the joint PCT and Children's Centres targets for breastfeeding, teenage pregnancy, and childhood obesity, Mar 2009		Benchmark information for the monitoring of joint PCT and Children Centre targets is being populated.


Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Implement effective commissioning arrangements for delivery of health services as part of the Children's Centre core offer, Mar 2009		Progress has been made with the PCT to meet the future commissioning costs of health services delivered in children's centres
		Increase the number of new parents registering at Children's Centres during the ante-natal period and in the first year of the child's life, Mar 2009		A revised method of registration operated anti-natally is contributing to increased registration figures, systems have been developed for the regular monitoring of new registrations.
		Agree an action plan for the co-location of core health practitioners in Children's Centres, Mar 2009		Plans are developing to locate appropriate health staff in children's centres
		To develop relevant and accessible information for young people on drugs and alcohol, their effects and support services across Halton, Mar 2009		<p>A young person's interactive information tool- Youth Bytes is to be piloted in four schools across Halton. Youth Bytes provides information and advice on a range of issues and services pertinent to young peoples needs.</p> <p>The IYSS interactive Information CD rom continues to be promoted across schools and young people's services</p>

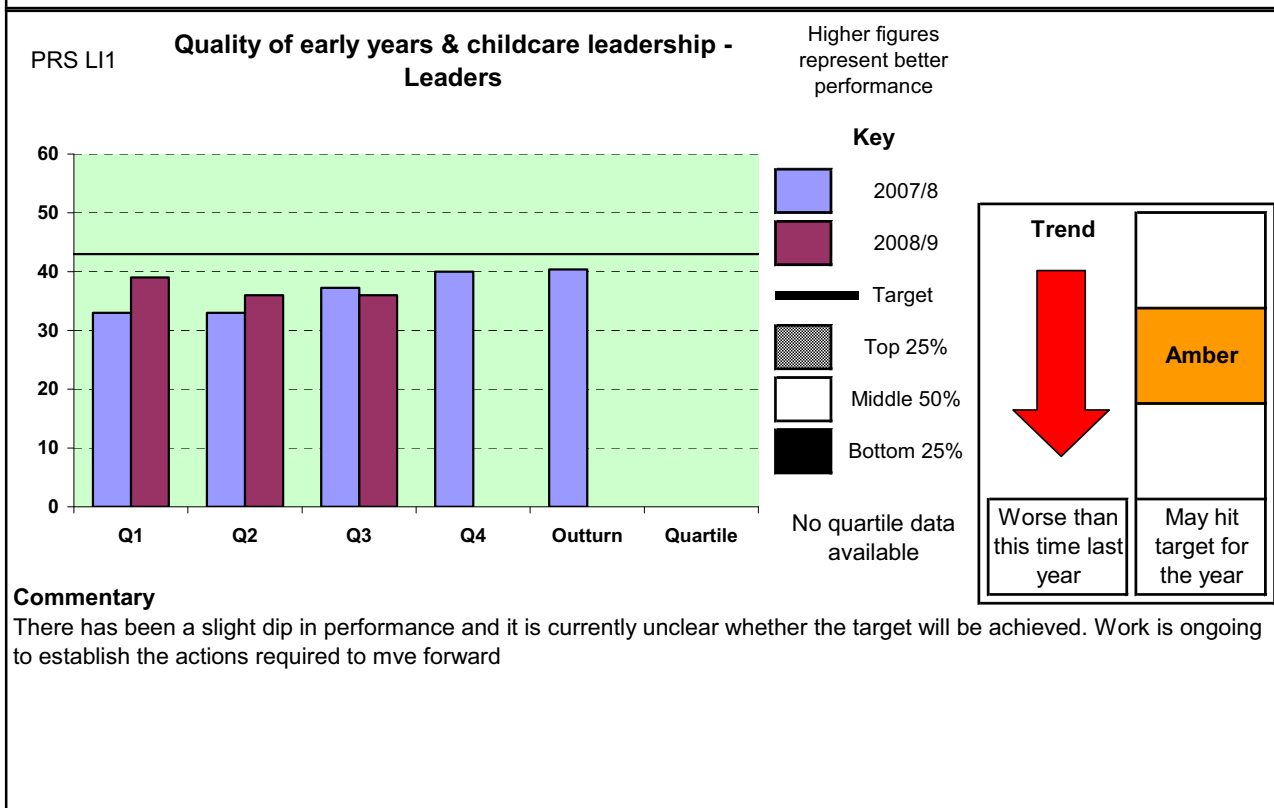
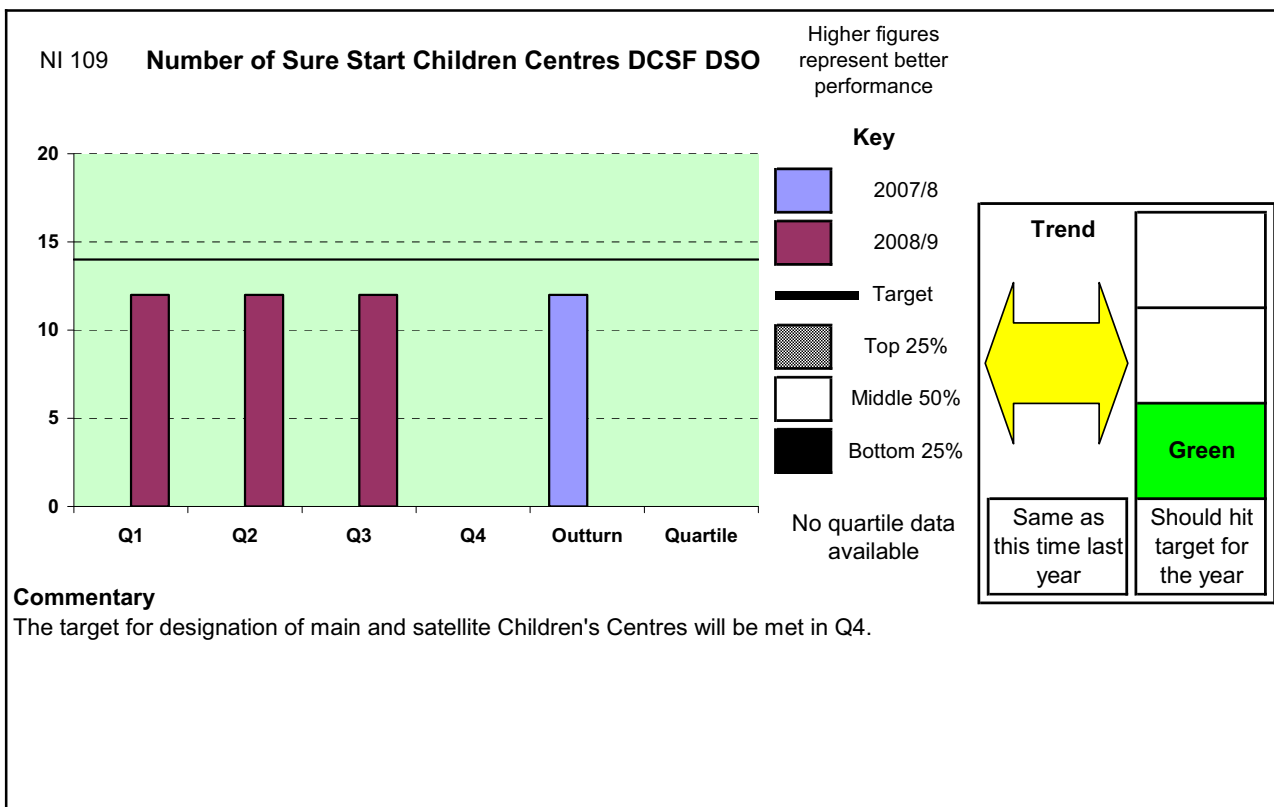
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 5	To Improve Levels of School Attendance for All Children	Develop joint working with health sector to reduce non attendance due to chronic health issues, Mar 2009		After an initial pilot this project has been developed to cover an increased number of primary schools with a focus on schools with higher persistent absence.
		Develop multi-agency intervention plan each pupil identified in persistent absent cohort, Sep 2008		All Persistently Absent pupils have an integrated plan
		95% of EWO agreed contacts with schools made during the year		Target met to date
PRS 6	To Behaviour in Schools for All Children	Every secondary school to be part of an Education Improvement Partnership on Behaviour, Sep 2008		Collaboration between secondary schools on behaviour issues is developing and In Year Fair Access arrangements are now up and running
		Develop a broader, high quality alternative curriculum ensuring accredited outcomes, Sep 2008		Engagement Service now established and placing the majority of pupils placed in alternative curriculum in the borough
		Establish alternatives to exclusion through the KS3 outreach service and KS4 gateway, Sep 2008		Outreach work from KS3 PRU operating in all secondary schools KS4 as above

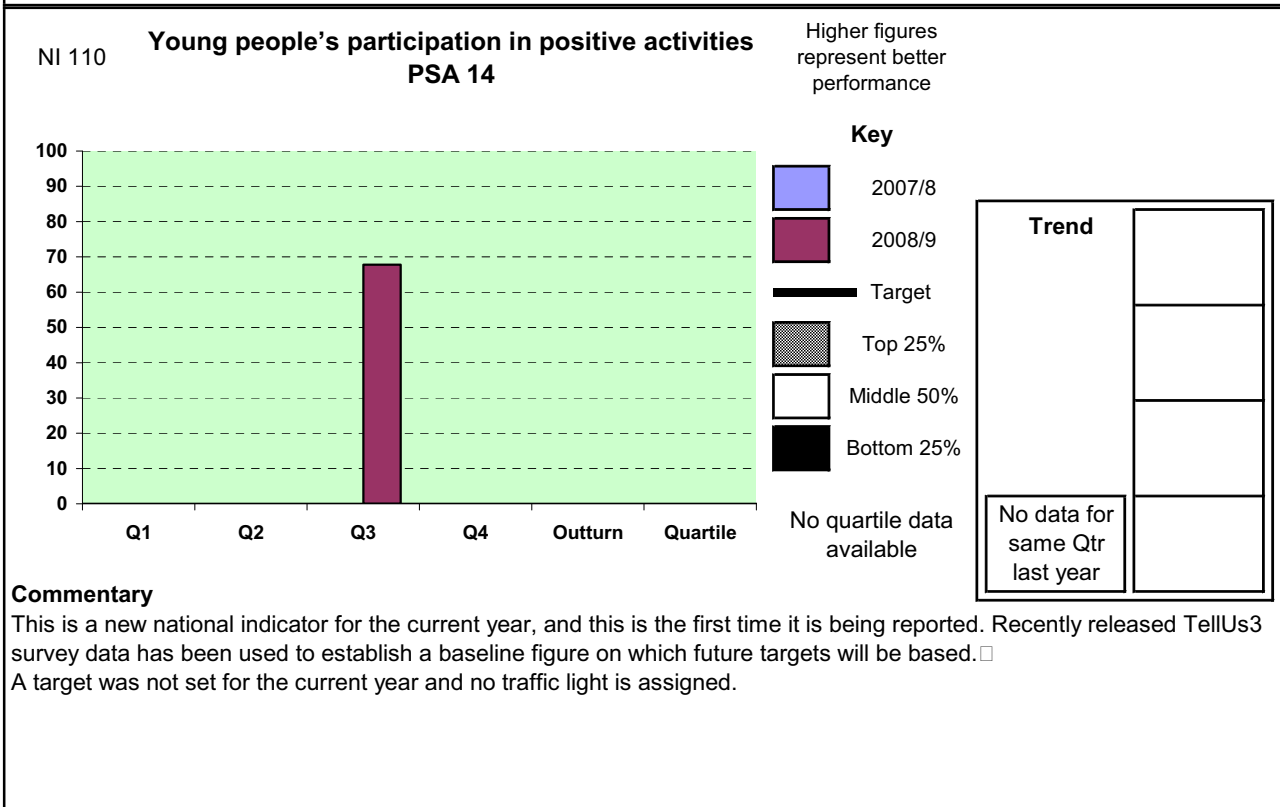
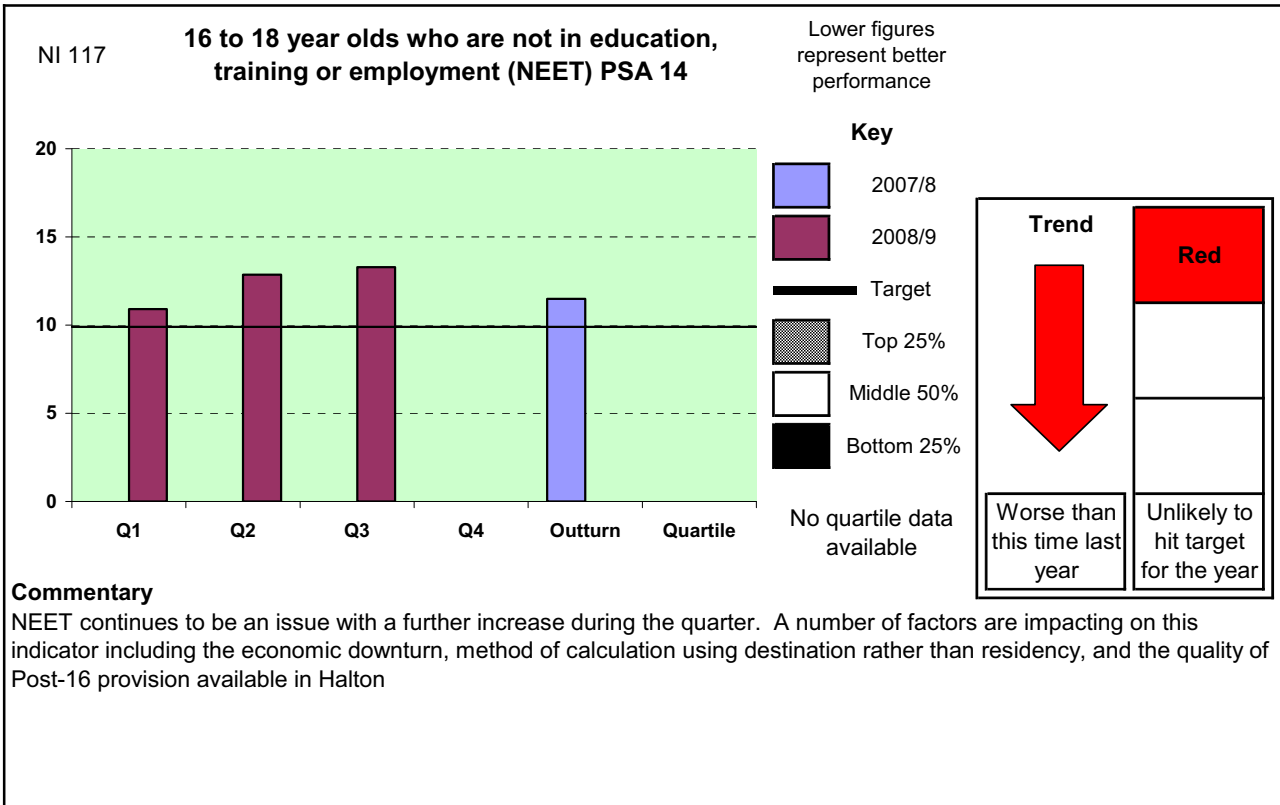
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 7	To Improve the Engagement of Young People	Implementation of all actions with the Hear By Rights delivery plan within agreed timescales to ensure the active involvement of children and young people in the work of the Children's Trust		Funding of this post is confirmed with the next stage to secure recruitment to that role. The funding for the Hear By Right post is still not resolved. Requested proposal to part fund the post is being completed but have been informed that HBC may not be able to fund through the tendering process. Funding must be resolved if targets are to be met. Ongoing
		Increase engagement in the Youth Parliament by 10% or more Young People voting in the election of Halton MYP, Mar 2009		A paper is going to CYP SMT and the Elected Member responsible to increase the term of office for Youth Cabinet members from 1 to 2 years. This will allow greater involvement of young people at a strategic level. Residential to confirm candidates for Member of Youth Parliament/ Youth Cabinet have taken place. Elections due to take place on 1 st February 09.

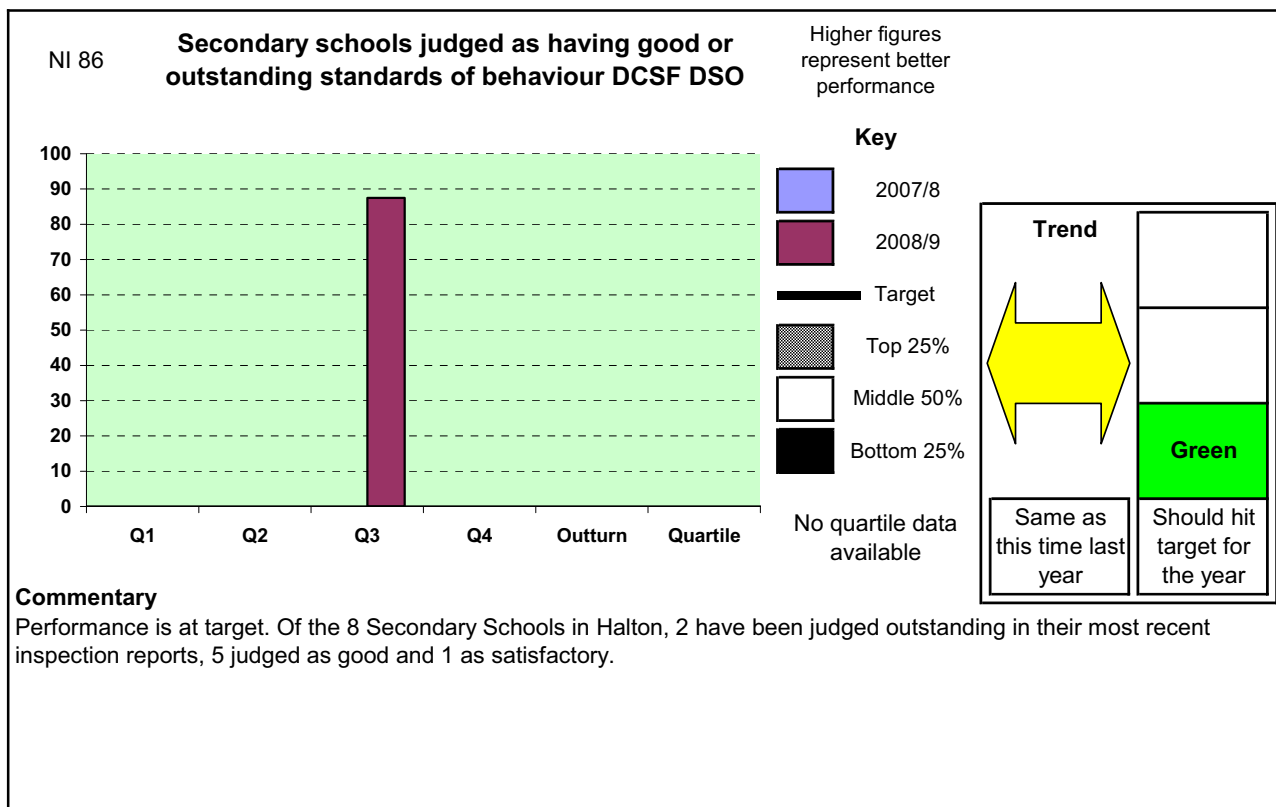
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Increase the number of children and young people from vulnerable groups accessing DofE awards through targeted support from the outreach support team, Mar 2009		Target 25% of all young people achieving D of E will be from vulnerable groups. Youth Workers support young people to engage in activity, which can contribute to DofE awards. By Q3 2657 young people have joined in this activity including 668 who are vulnerable due to being in care, LDD, supervised by YOS etc.
PRS 8	To Improve Young People's Sexual Health	Develop an information sharing protocol between HBC and PCT to improve the use of local level data for teenage pregnancy, Sep 2008		CLES consultants to undertake two workshops in 2009 to assist in the effective use of Teenage Pregnancy and sexual health data.
		100% of sexual health services commissioned through Preventative Services implement the "You're Welcome" quality criteria, Mar 2009		Awaiting 'You're Welcome' Coordinator to take up post, will then jointly map NHS standards with Hear By Right standards
		Review sexual health services in conjunction with the PCT, Mar 2009		Young Peoples sexual health services identified as a priority for additional funding provided for contraceptive services. Review currently being undertaken this will link to Teen Drop In's and extended services in schools

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Establish teenage drop in centres in hotspot wards addressing sexual health, alcohol misuse and emotional health & wellbeing, Mar 2009		Teen Drop In services are being developed to provide a holistic preventative service for young people including access to sexual health advice and contraception. The first of the drop-ins is to be has now been established and is being delivered from the Grange Youth Hub.
PRS 9	To secure efficient service delivery to young people through integrated and targeted youth support	Secure effective and efficient commissioning of Connexions and Youth Service, Mar 2009		Good progress is being made in the future commissioning of 'Connexions Services' across the city region. The new contract for both services will be let from 1 October 2009
		Establish a directory of positive activities for young people, Mar 2009		IT company commissioned to design 'Halton 4 Teenz' pages and to add components to Help4Me to ensure directory of positive activities is fit for purpose by Mar 2009.
		Meet the requirements to access to targeted youth support, Dec 2008		This requirement has been met

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To increase the number of work based placements available to young people to reduce the level of NEET, Mar 2009		Good work via ELS SSP and NEET Strategy Group to develop Apprenticeship Scheme to be funded by WNF. NEET figures are still rising and given the current economic climate an increase in work-based placements offered by partners is essential. There are a number of factors impacting on NEET figures and work placements are one strand of the overall strategy.











Key Performance Indicators not being reported this quarter;

NI 118 - Take up of formal childcare by low income working families.

This indicator is based on Tax Credits data, and is reported by Her Majesty's Revenues & Customs department. Latest advice indicates that 2007/2008 data will be available in May 2009.

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 3	Progress	Commentary
Fair Access						
NI88	Number of extended schools	65%	54 (Sept 09)	48		The progression trend towards the 2010 deadline of all schools delivering the full extended schools core offer continues. To date 48 Halton schools are delivering the FCO (89% of the September 2009 target of 54 schools and 70% of the 2010 target of all schools delivering FCO)
PS LI3	% of pupils receiving full time provision from 6th school day after exclusion	100%	100%	77.78%		7 out of 9 permanently excluded pupils were receiving full time provision from the 6th day of exclusion.
Quality						
NI 199	Children & Young People's Satisfaction with Parks and Play areas	N/A	N/A	39.5%	-	TellUs3 survey data has been used to establish a baseline figure on which future targets will be based
Service Delivery						
NI53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	15.5%	18%	12%		There has been a slight dip in performance, however we expect to see the impact of a number of initiatives in Q4.
NI56	Obesity among primary age children in Year 6	22.4%	21.3%	21.4%		There has been a significant improvement in performance and is currently just short of the target
NI113	Under 20 Chlamydia rate	N/A	N/A	7.6%	-	New National Indicator. Figure reported will inform a baseline for future targets.
NI115	Substance misuse by young people	N/A	N/A	12.6%	-	TellUs3 survey data has been used to establish a baseline figure on which future targets will be based

PREVENTATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2008

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	6,942	4,986	4,881	105	4,881
Premises Support	112	0	0	0	0
Premises Other	169	127	220	(93)	220
Supplies & Services	3,367	1,955	1,789	166	1,822
Independent School Fees	1,432	1,009	1,009	0	1,009
Transport	53	40	46	(6)	46
Central Support	605	0	0	0	0
Service Recharges					
Speech Therapy	46	2	2	0	2
Inter-Authority Payments	733	5	5	0	5
Travel Contract	71	0	0	0	0
Grants to External Bodies	273	205	194	11	194
Nursery Payments	1,761	1,283	1,283	0	1,283
Asset Charges	3	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	15,567	9,612	9,429	183	9,462
Other Grants	-6,064	-4,971	-4,971	0	-4,971
Inter Authority Income	-554	0	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grants	-681	-609	-609	0	-609
Fees & Charges	-88	-88	-189	101	-189
Rent	-9	-9	-9	0	-9
Total Income	-7,396	-5,677	-5,778	101	-5,778
Net Expenditure	8,171	3,935	3,651	284	3,684

Comments on the above figures:

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

The budget for employees is currently spending below budget profile due to vacancies in the Halton SEN Service and Schools Psychology Service. In addition, there are a number of family support vacancies funded via the General Sure Start Grant which are in the process of being filled.

The General Sure Start Grant budget areas for Fees/Charges are currently under budget profile, but over the budget profile for Premises. An exercise is currently underway to review these budget areas in order to update the grant budgets in line with current and future expenditure trends.

Supplies and Services are currently under budget profile due to some delays in receiving invoices from external agencies for commissioned contracts.

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

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES 2008/09

As at 31st December 2008

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
YMCA NEET Solutions	11	8	0	8	0
Neglect	125	94	42	52	42
Barnardos Missing from Home	70	52	0	52	0
Teenage Pregnancy	45	34	45	(11)	45
Portage	48	36	35	1	38
Attendance	66	49	54	(5)	54
HITS	50	37	60	(23)	60
Care Leavers	56	42	11	31	11
Connexions – NEET	74	55	0	55	0
Access to Learning & Employment	10	7	8	(1)	12
Canal Boat Adventure	58	44	25	19	25
Improved Education for Vulnerable Youngsters	57	43	3	40	9
Kingsway Literacy Development	355	266	205	61	205
Youth Activity	82	62	43	19	43
H9P Dowries	10	7	8	(1)	10
Action for Children	31	23	63	(40)	63
NVQ Project					
YSIP	15	11	0	11	0
Total LSP	1,163	870	602	268	617

Comments on the above figures:

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below budget profile.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the 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 Working Neighbourhood Fund grant is spent during the year.

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG PEOPLES DIRECTORATE

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2008

	2008/09 Capital Allocation	Allocation To Date	Actual Spend To Date	Total Allocation Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Asset Management Data	5	3	0	5
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Runcorn All Saints Capital Repairs	22	16	0	22
	1,667	1,558	1,558	109
Cavendish & Brookfields Primary Capital Programme	1,474	1,427	1,427	47
School Access Initiative Schemes	50	38	0	50
Sure Start – Children's Centre's	245	184	30	215
Sure Start – Childcare	549	412	229	320
Contingency	546	410	164	382
Play-builder Halton Brook	441	331	0	441
Play-builder Gorsewood	50	37	0	50
Play-builder Spike Island	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Town Hall Park	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Hale Park	50	37	9	41
Play-builder Crow Wood	40	30	16	24
Total Capital Schemes	80	60	0	80
	5,314	4,614	3,433	1,881




Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes with no actual expenditure up to the end of Quarter 3.

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 financial year end.

Any under-spend on Sure Start Children's Centre's and Childcare schemes can be carried forward to the next financial year 2009-10.

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 31st December 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Specialist Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2008. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 CHILDREN IN CARE

Two starter flats have now been made available by HHT to care leavers. One flat in Runcorn and one in Widnes is now being equipped in order for care leavers to take up tenancy. Support will be provided to the care leavers by social workers, community support workers and partner agencies.

The Children and Young Persons Act was introduced in November 2008 and introduces new requirements in respect of Children in Care. These include an increased responsibility to place children within their home area, increased choice of accommodation, extension of the role of Independent Visitor to all children in care, establishment of the statutory role of Designated Teacher in each school, bursaries for young people in higher education and not disrupting children's school placements at key stages. Work has commenced on introducing these requirements

2.2 SAFEGUARDING

A Safeguarding unit will be established from April 2008. The aim is to provide greater coherence in safeguarding activity. The unit brings together lead professionals to provide the advice, support as well as the scrutiny and challenge to all agencies delivering services for children.

2.3 HSCB

The HSCB confirmed its roles and responsibilities and links with other strategic partnerships. This includes HSCB establishing a service framework using the current system for monitoring child protection activity as a model for monitoring activity for the cohort of children

covered by Level 3b. It has also been agreed that HSCB via its Executive Board will take the strategic lead in relation to anti-bullying strategy. HSCB to receive regular reports from the Alcohol Harm Strategy Group in relation to children and young people. This is an opportunity for the two strategic groups to work collaboratively in terms of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

HSCB hosted a Pan Cheshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Workshop on 3rd July 2008. This was an opportunity to share learning and identify any gaps. The workshop was well attended with both statutory, non-statutory & third sector agencies represented. HSCB has made links with the Neighbourhood Management Strategic Board. This is an opportunity to engage with local communities.

HSCB is collaborating (with other NW LSCBs) in a GONW Project with CEMACH (Confidential Enquiry for Maternal & Child Health). This is an opportunity to share learning from child deaths across the region and CEMACH can also provide detailed information for individual LSCB's.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Capacity Issues

We continue to experience an increase in demand for specialist services, and there has been another spike in the admission of children to care who have been placed with independent providers, at considerably increased costs.

The Placement Strategy and service review identifies where we need to 'invest to save', although in the medium term there will be considerable budget pressures and deficits.

To build upon the Targeted Support to Families project, a Locality Working pilot will be starting in February to provide an integrated multi-agency response for children and families across the levels of need. The aim is to address the demand for specialist services by delivering much earlier co-ordinated interventions

3.2 Impact of Baby P

The publication of the Serious Case Review and the revised Ofsted inspection of Haringey has created an increased level of anxiety across agencies in child protection work. There is potential for this anxiety to impact upon child protection plans and the wider management of risk to children. However multi-agency dialogue and working remains strong, and the Safeguarding Children Board has put a strategy in place to address the increased level of anxiety, particularly evident amongst frontline staff, which Baby P has provoked.

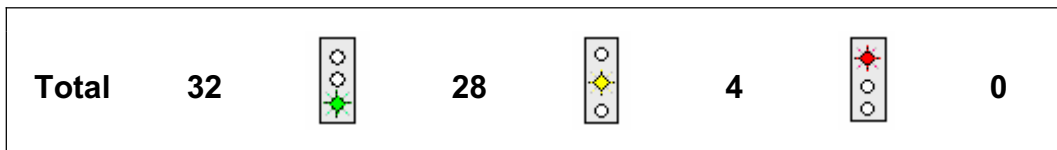
3.3 HSCB

HSCB has identified the need to explore issues facing non Halton

Children in Care placed in this area. Initially agreed that relevant agency managers will meet in order to identify concerns/ issues with a view to reporting back to HSCB

HSCB identified the need to establish a Communication and Engagement Sub Group, which can focus solely on this activity, which is currently led by HSCB Training Sub Group. This will be an opportunity to develop an HSCB “Shadow Board” made up of children and young people anxiety across agencies in child protection work. There is potential for this anxiety to impact upon child protection plans and the wider management of risk to children.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

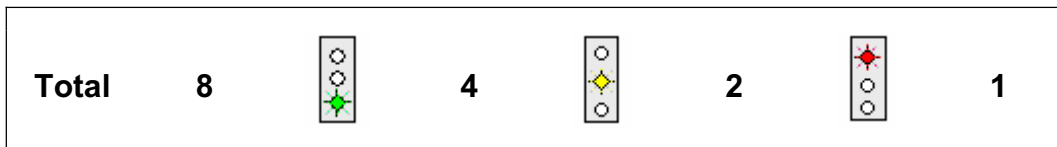


Of the 32 milestones for the service, 28 are on track for completion, or have already been achieved. There is some doubt around 4 of them being completed within the specified timeframe. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




A documented review of current and future supply and demand of placements for Children in Care (Placement Strategy) is going through a process of consultation and scrutiny.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Of the 8 key indicators for the service, 4 are on target. Two indicators have been assigned an amber light, and 1 is red as the target will probably be missed. One new indicator relating to entrants to the Youth Justice System is reported for the first time, but no target was set at the start of the year so a traffic light is not assigned. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	23		7		2		0
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Other performance indicators are routinely reported in quarters 2 and 4. This quarter, 2 other indicators are being reported by exception, for further details please refer to Appendix 3. Of the remaining 21 key indicators are 7 on track, and 14 cannot be reported as data, or revised data, is not yet available.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For further details, please refer to Appendix 4

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

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

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS








During 2007/08 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 DATA QUALITY









The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data. Where data has been estimated, has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.




11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators Appendix 4- Progress against LPSA Targets Appendix 5- Financial Statement Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols

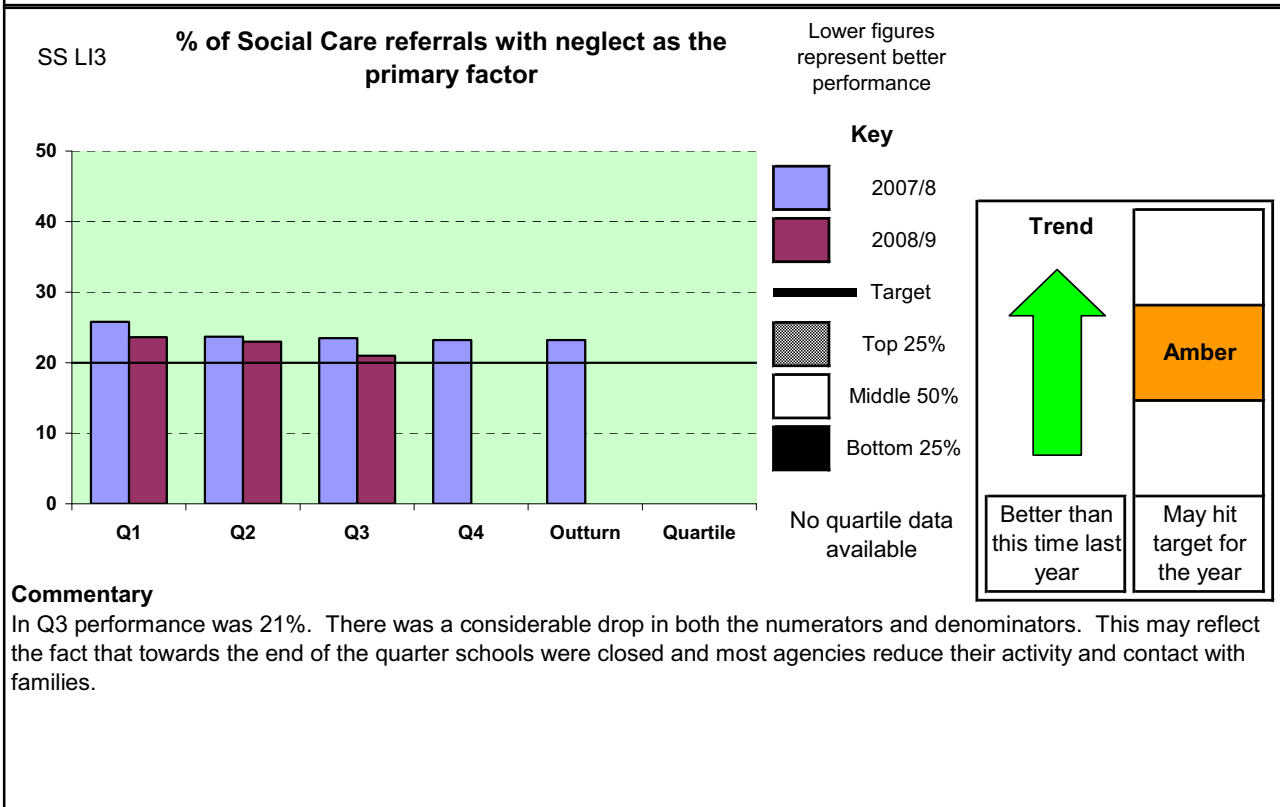
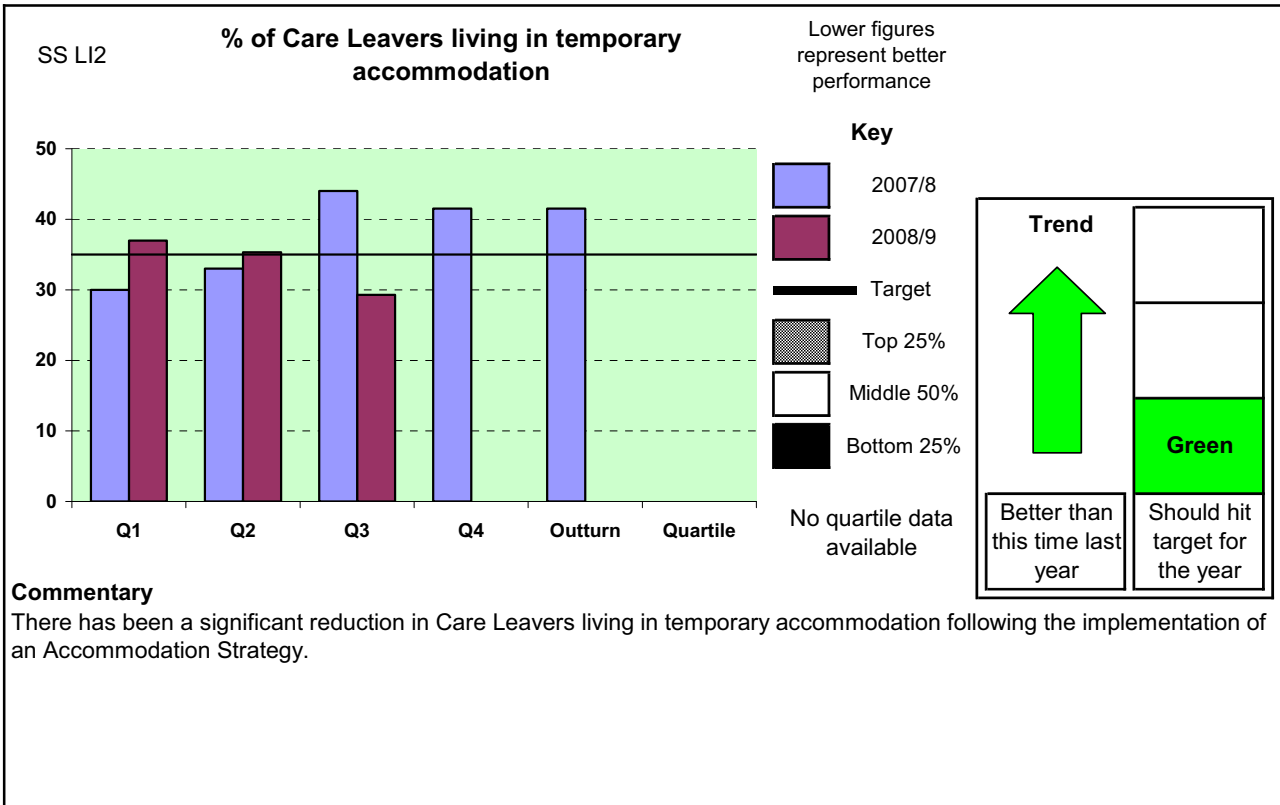
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
SS 1	To improve outcomes for looked after children	Children in Care mini trust integrated into single Children's Trust, Mar 2009		On track
		All children in Care have an up to date PEP, Mar 2009		On track
		All children in Care are offered a Health Assessment during the year and those that refuse are given alternative access to health services		Completed. Process in place.
		All children in Care identified as at risk of offending during the year are referred to YOT		Completed. Process in place.
SS 2	To support children and young people to be mentally and emotionally healthy	Emotional Health & Mental Well Being mini trust integrated in single children's trust, Mar 2009		On Track – new Trust structure agreed, and the relationship between EHMWB Board with Service deliver partnerships will be agreed by March 2009.
		Stop admission of under 18's to adult mental health wards (except in exceptional circumstances) through further development of transitional services, Mar 2009		Consultation on alternative provision ended 25.11.08. Development work ongoing.
		Develop specialist CAMHS 24/7 cover, Mar 2009		On Track

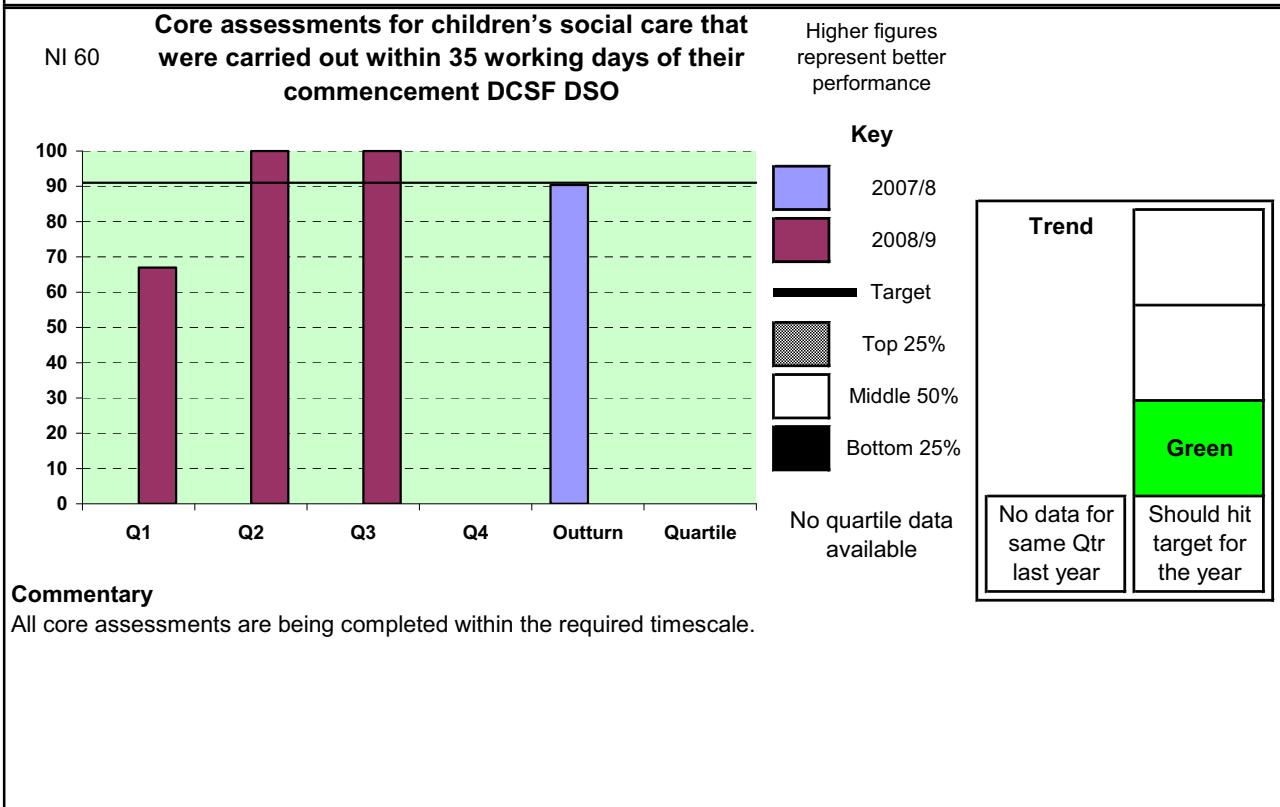
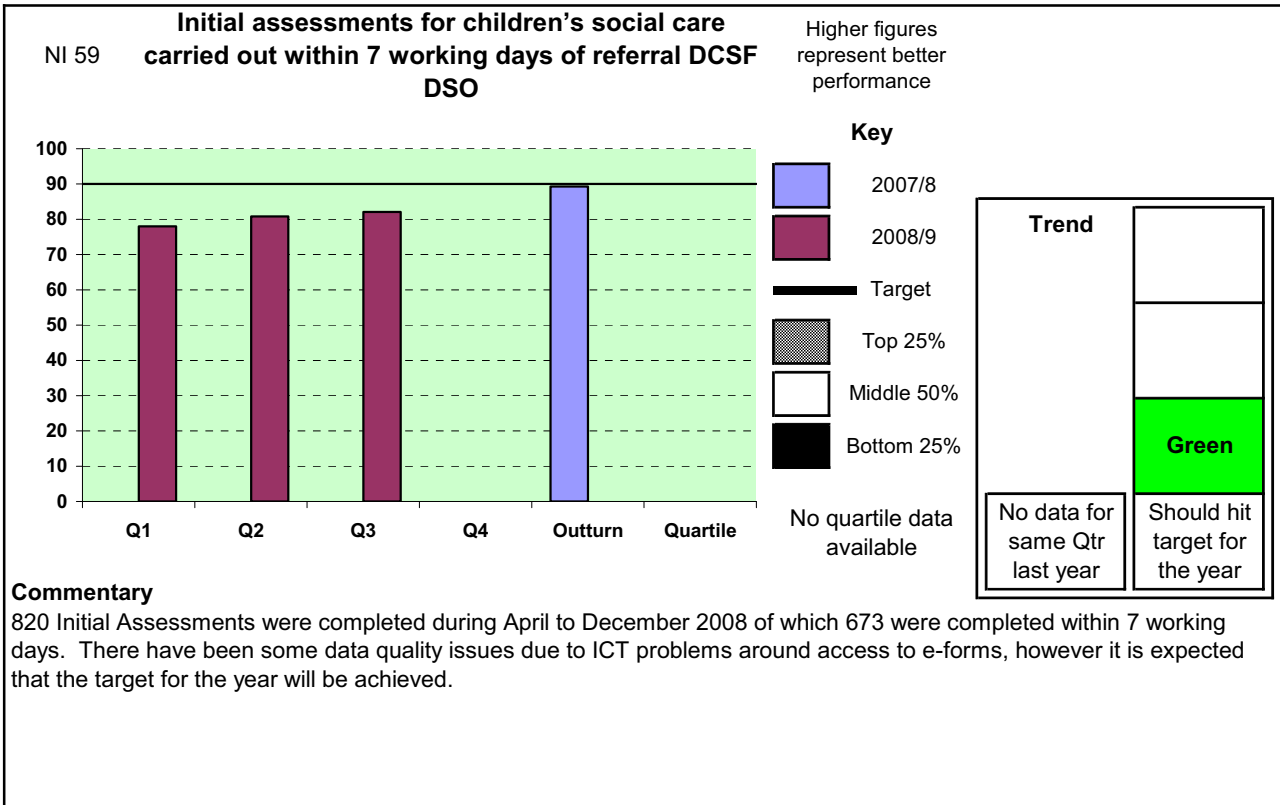
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Actions identified within the Emotional Health and Wellbeing action plan completed within agreed timescales		On Track
SS 3	To ensure the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities are exercised to maximise opportunities for Children in Care and Care Leavers	Complete corporate parenting actions identified in the Children in Care Strategy within agreed timescales		On Track
		Increase the number of work placements offered to Children in Care and Care Leavers by 10% against baseline, Mar 2009		10 apprenticeships being developed for care leavers to ensure target is met.
		Hold a Corporate Parenting conference to launch the new pledge and the Children in Care Council, Sep 2008		Conference held on 10 th October 08. Launch completed.
SS 4	To provide a range of targeted support services for vulnerable children	Preventative and Child in Need mini trusts integrated into single Children's Trust, Mar 2009		On Track
		Review of the impact of the neglect protocol will be carried out with those families receiving support and whose children are not on the CPR, Mar 2009		On Track
		Work commissioned from Lancaster University to look at the impact CAF has on service provision with the learning to influence practice and how services are organised, Mar 2009		Report presented to HSCB in December 08 and action plan agreed.

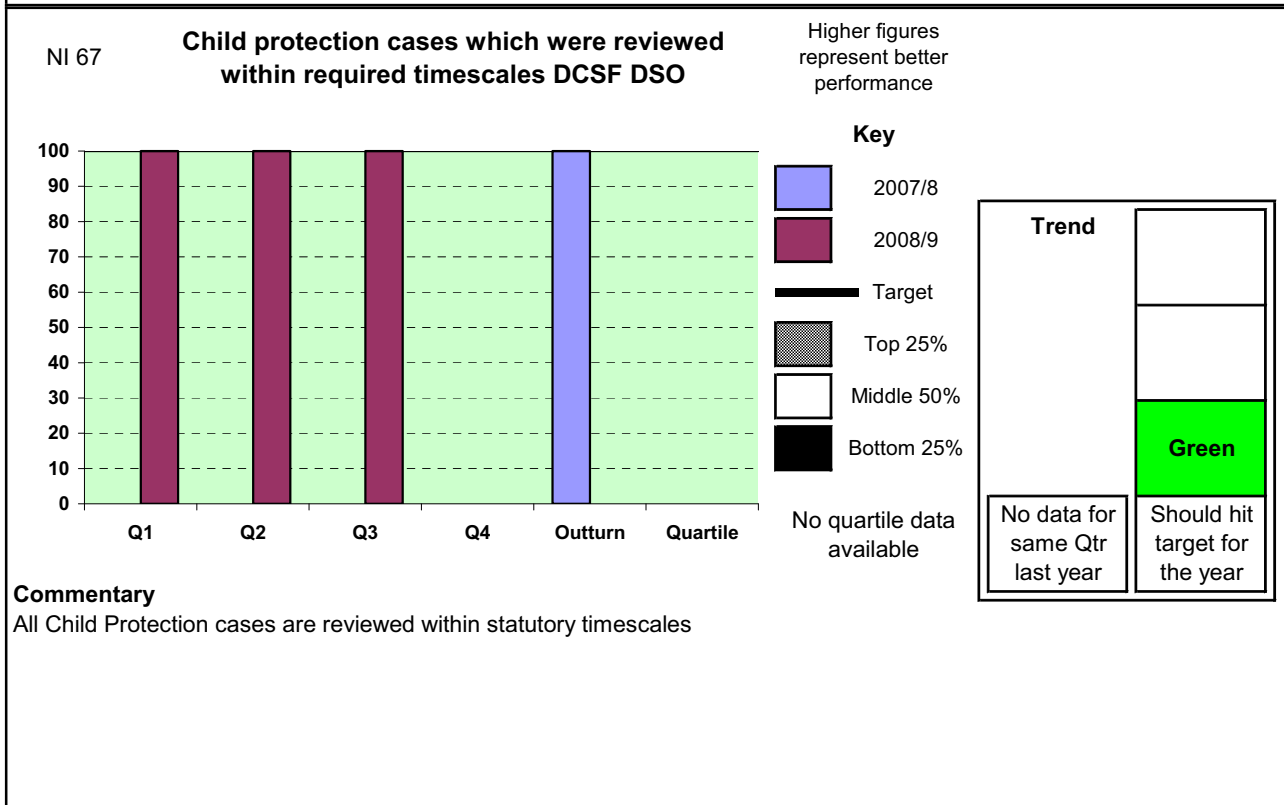
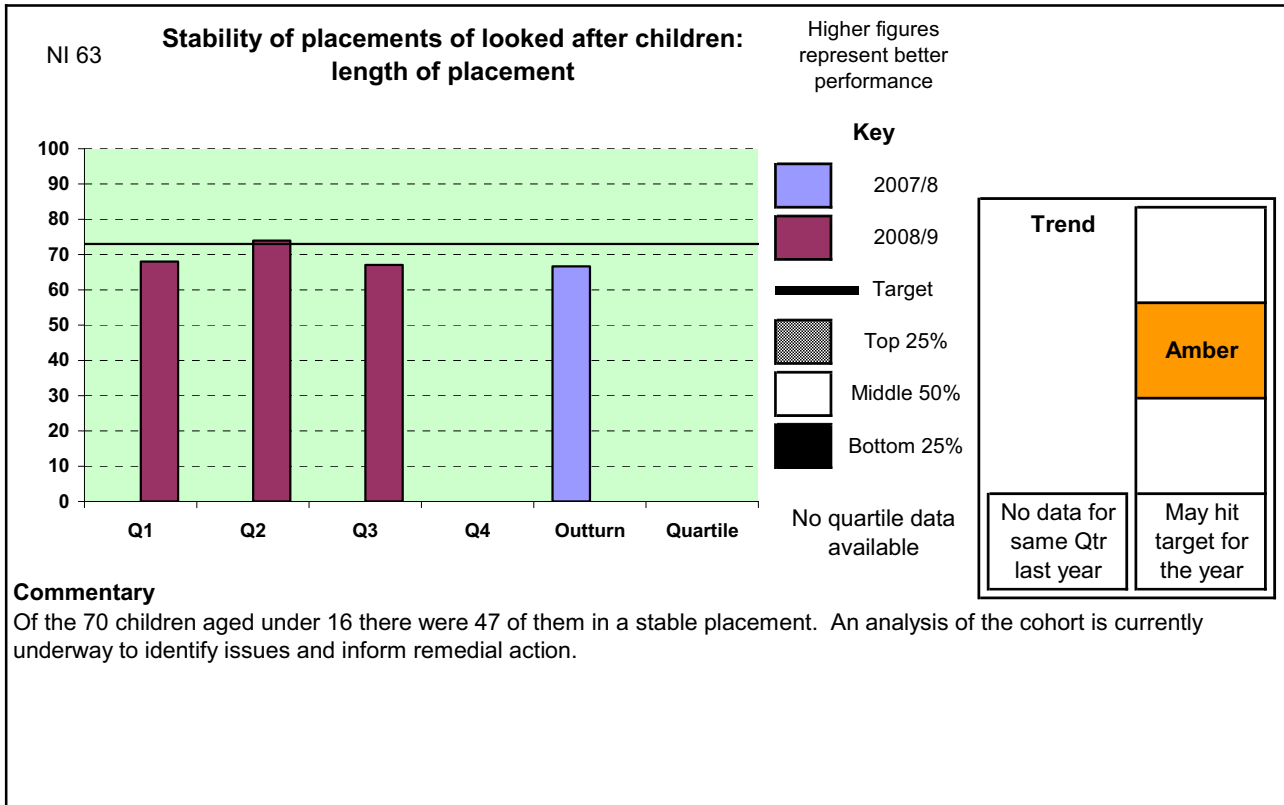
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
SS 5	To improve placement choice and quality of care for Children in Care	Implement the recommendations from the Fostering and Adoption inspections within agreed timescales		Completed
		Introduce induction standards for all new Foster Carers, Mar 2009		Introduced for all carers
		Target recruitment of baby adopters and adopters outside the borough to increase the number of adoptions during the year		Targeted recruitment in Place
		Provide a programme of training for carers to meet their identified needs during the year		On Track
		Implement competency based assessments for carers, Mar 2009		On Track
		Implement revised Accommodation Strategy, Sep 2008		Implemented with actions ongoing
SS 6	To provide a range of support and accommodation services for young people over 16 yrs and for care leavers	Identify partnership opportunities for commissioning of semi-independent accommodation e.g. development of Supported Lodgings, Mar 2009		On Track
		Accommodation Support Worker to track all housing applications by Care Leavers during the year		On Track

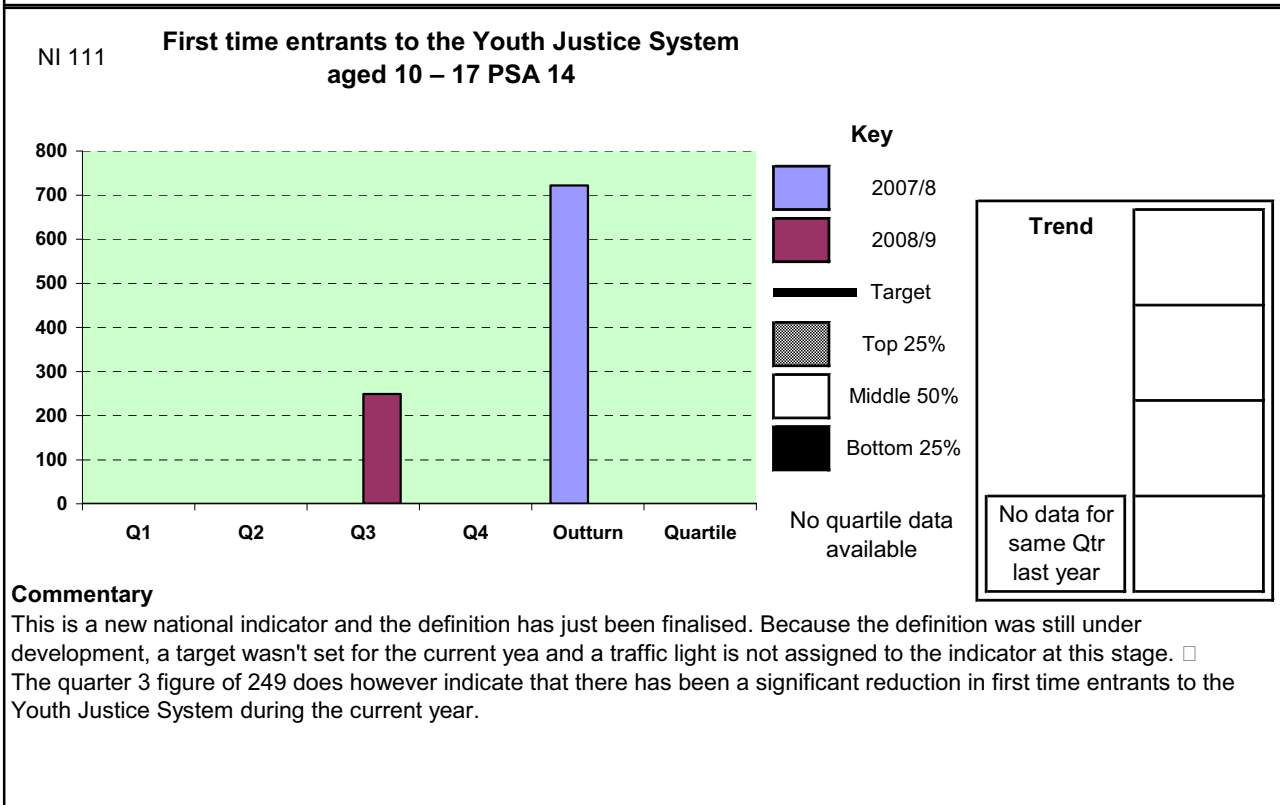
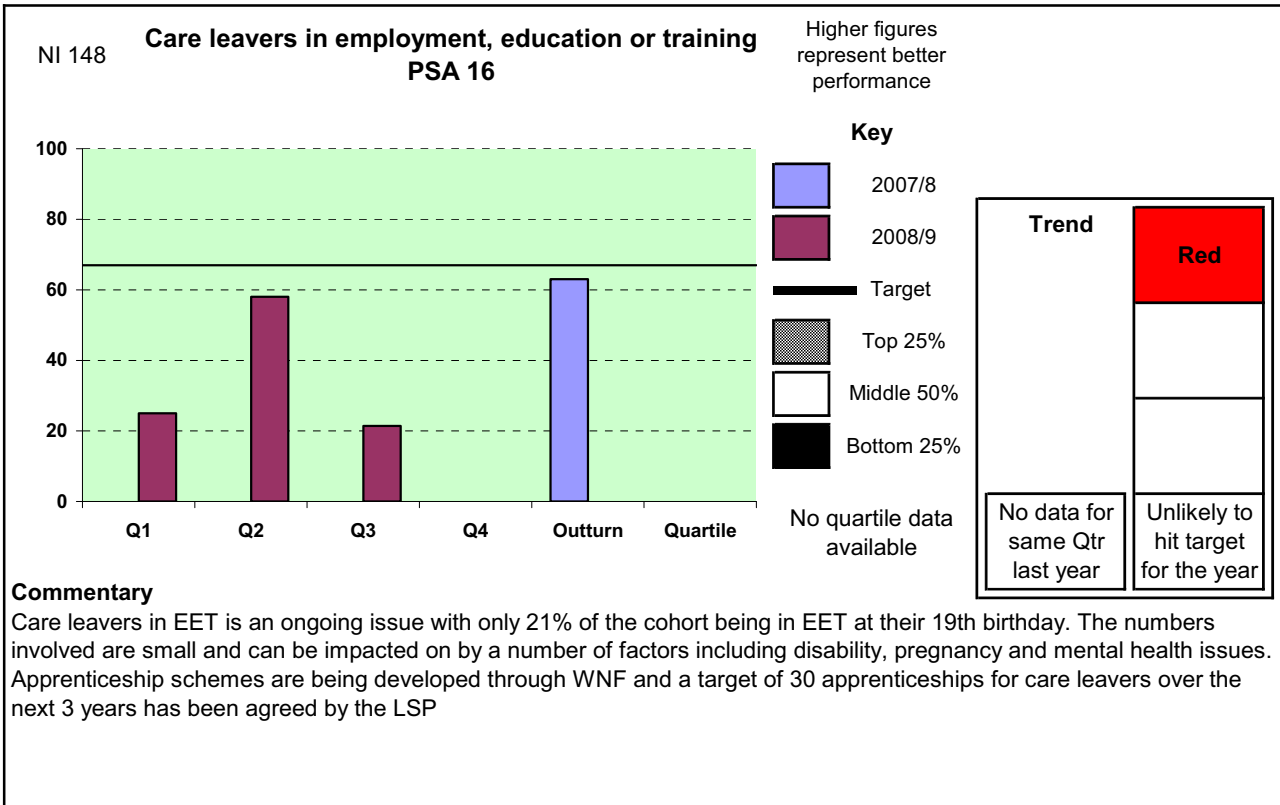
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Advocate for RSL's to increase options for care leavers via Housing Partnership Board, Mar 2009		On Track
SS 7	To increase awareness and engagement in Safeguarding	Develop a wider remit for the Safeguarding Board by performance monitoring key stay safe activities e.g. reduction in accidents in the home or admissions of children to A/E due to alcohol harm, Mar 2009		HSCB in process of identifying areas for performance monitoring which reflect the priorities identified at the HSCB Development Day on 04.12.08. HSCB & Children's Trust Executive Boards will be meeting in January 2009 in order to clarify respective priority areas and lead responsibilities. Clearly, the issues arising from the Haringey case may have an impact upon the HSCB priorities for the next two years.
		Deliver a programme of training on the management of allegations against the adults who work with children, particularly to the third sector during the year		In the last quarter, briefings and training has been delivered to the Third Sector forum. 3 Lado workshops were delivered at a Conference in December 08 capturing over 100 delegates. A programme of future briefings is to be established.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Provide safeguarding training to the same accredited standards as professionals for a further 20 parents, Mar 2009		Difficulties in recruiting the safeguarding development post are impacting on this objective. There is some limited cover for the post and HSCB will be endeavouring to run a another training session for parents
SS 8	To improve continuity of planning and services for Children with Disabilities	All young people with complex needs aged 14 and 17yrs will be offered a person centred plan as a priority, Mar 2009		All young people have been offered a plan in this age group- Completed
		Review of Carer's Strategy, Mar 2009		In progress and on track.
		Full implementation of Aim Higher for Disabled Children, Sep 2008		Plans in progress and on track.
SS 9	To improve choice and level of short break provision	Baseline information established on range and volume of short break provision, Sep 2008		Business planning tool completed
		Needs analysis undertaken, Mar 2009		Work underway re consultation and data collection
		Implementation of Pathfinder pilot for Short Break Provision, Sep 2008		Pathfinder work now in progress linking to National Support Agency –Together for Disabled Children










Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 3	Progress	Commentary
Service Delivery						
NI68	Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	95%	95%	90.9%		902 referrals were received during April to December 2008 of which 820 resulted in a completed IA.
NI147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	78.6%	80%	78.57%		For Q3 and Q4 the 903 cohort will be used to calculate the numbers for this indicator, therefore the actual cohort should be the same for Quarters 1-4 for 2008 / 09

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 07/08	Perform 08/09	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%	92.59% May08		<p>Stretch target achieved. The average school attendance of children in care at 30th September who had been in care for at least 12 months was 92.6% between 1/9/2007 and 30/5/2008.</p>

SPECIALIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2008

	Annual Revised Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000	Actual Including Commitments £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	5,800	4,308	4,249	59	4,249
Premises	469	15	20	(5)	20
Supplies & Services	602	797	687	110	687
Transport	124	92	70	22	70
Out of Borough Placements	2,094	1,133	1,721	(588)	1,721
Foster Carer Payments	1,991	1,443	1,205	238	1,205
Asset Rentals	25	0	0	0	0
Central Support Services Recharges	606	0	0	0	0
Commissioned Services	1,921	966	966	0	966
Divisional Expenditure	85	56	56	0	56
Direct Payments	11	29	57	(28)	57
Section 17 Payments	46	39	34	5	34
Contribution to CwD Pooled Budget	1,111	354	282	72	282
Total Expenditure	14,885	9,232	9,347	(115)	9,347
<u>Income</u>					
CAMHS Grant	-251	-190	-190	0	-190
Care Matters Grant	-101	-76	-76	0	-76
Child Death Review Processes Grant	-22	-17	-17	0	-17
Children's Fund Grant	-484	-363	-363	0	-363
Children's Social Care Workforce Grant	-57	-42	-42	0	-42
Positive Activities for Young People Grant	-114	-85	-85	0	-85
Teenage Pregnancy Grant	-108	-80	-80	0	-80
Youth Opportunity Fund Grant	-225	-112	-112	0	-112
ICT Capital Grant for Mobile Technology	-29	-18	-18	0	-18
Local Change Fund Grant	0	0	-35	35	-35
Parenting Support Group Grant	0	0	-27	27	-27
Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant	-200	-157	-157	0	-157
Cohesion Grant	0	0	-20	20	-20
Other Income	-383	-404	-504	100	-504
HBC Child Trust Arrangements	-226	-225	-225	0	-225
Total Income	-2,200	-1,769	-1,951	182	-1,951
Net Expenditure	12,685	7,463	7,396	67	7,396

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is below budget profile. The budget is expected to be marginally below budget profile at the end of the financial year.

The Employee budget is currently below budget profile due to a number of posts remaining vacant since the start of the financial year. Currently, Agency staff are employed in a majority of these posts and it is anticipated that spend will be in line with the budget profile towards the end of the financial year.

The Supplies & Services budget is currently below budget profile which includes spending on training, children in care payments and postages being significantly lower than anticipated.

The Transportation budget is currently below budget profile which includes spend on volunteer drivers being significantly lower than anticipated.

The Out of Borough Placements budget is currently above budget profile. This budget is extremely volatile. The Foster Carer Payments budget is below budget profile due to a marked reduction in the number of in house foster carers when compared to the budget provision. Current projections indicate that the combined expenditure may exceed the budget by approximately £350,000 at the year end. The department is monitoring these budgets closely and is in the process of analysing levels of provision.

The Direct Payments budget is currently above budget profile. This is due to an increase in the number of Direct Payments when compared to the budget. The department is monitoring this budget closely to ensure that the overspend is contained and managed within the directorate.

The Income budgets are above budget profile as a direct result of additional income being rolled forward from 2007/8, notably, the Local Change Fund Grant and the Parenting Support Grant and the additional income the department has received from the PCT.

SPECIALIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT**Children with Disabilities Pooled Budget as at 31st December 2008**

(The following provides a summary of the council's contribution to the CwD Pooled Budget)

	Annual Revised Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000	Actual Including Commitments £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	885	664	689	(25)	689
Premises	74	20	20	0	20
Supplies & Services	1,054	348	379	(31)	379
Transport	23	18	23	(5)	23
Asset Rentals	57	0	0	0	0
Central Support Services Recharges	4	0	0	0	0
Commissioned Services	164	132	132	0	132
Direct Payments	23	0	0	0	0
Section 17 Payments	10	8	8	0	8
Total Expenditure	2,294	1,190	1,251	(61)	1,251
<u>Income</u>					
CAMHS Grant	-38	-27	-27	0	-27
Carers Grant	-121	-91	-91	0	-91
Other Income	-66	0	-18	18	-18
PCT Contribution to Pooled Budget	-958	-718	-833	115	-833
Total Income	-1,183	-836	-969	133	-969
Net Expenditure	1,111	354	282	72	282

Comments on the above figures




In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is below budget profile. The budget is expected to be marginally below budget profile at the end of the financial year.

The Employee budget is currently above budget profile due to the additional use of Agency staff covering vacant posts within the pool. It is anticipated that the Employee budget will be in line with the budget profile towards the end of the financial year with a reduction in the use of Agency staff.

The Supplies and Service budget is currently above budget profile. This is due to a number of overspends in relation to equipment and furniture and travel and subsistence. The department is monitoring these budgets closely to ensure the overspend is contained within the pool.

The Income budget is currently above budget profile due to additional income received from the PCT towards the operation of the pooled budget. This additional income will offset the overspends in the Employees, Premises and Supplies and Services budgets.

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 to period end 31st December 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Universal & Learning Services Department third quarter period up to 31 December 2008. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

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

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 National Challenge

The National Challenge is a government funded programme to ensure that by 2011 in every secondary school in England at least 30% of students will achieve 5 or more GCSE grades at A* - C including English and mathematics.

The funding available is significant. This will be used to fund various developments including a National Challenge Adviser for every school below the floor target as well as a range of bespoke school improvement solutions.

To access the funds the LA, in partnership with the schools, have produced a plan that includes all costs. Schools will access their funding from the LA once the plan has been agreed with the DCSF. Each school must develop a single, robust, highly focussed school improvement plan focusing upon raising attainment (a Raising Attainment Plan or RAP), which is agreed with the DCSF, LA and National Strategies. This plan must identify the support the school needs and how much this will cost. The LA will scrutinise these plans and include costs as appropriate in their plans.

National Challenge Advisers will be appointed by LAs to provide support and challenge to National Challenge Schools, including undertaking the role of the School Improvement Partner.

In addition the NC Adviser will monitor how the school implements its improvement plan and report regularly on progress to the LA and the National Strategies (the SSIA).

2.2 Leading Teachers

Consultant deployment is to be supported in non - priority schools through a network of Leading Teachers who will mediate and monitor teaching and learning. Leading Teachers will receive support and CPD on a termly basis from the Local Authority.

2.3 1 to 1 tuition

The DCSF is providing funding for individual tuition, starting in the Spring and Summer Terms of 2009, for pupils falling behind, initially for those in the latter part of Key Stage 2, and then funding for KS3. The tuition is expected to be:

- One to one
- 10 hours (plus funding for 2 hours liaison/planning)
- Suggested minimum of one hour per session
- Delivered by a qualified tutor
- Have agreed targets (with the class teacher) for the work of the pupils
- Part of the school's overall provision for intervention

Target pupils will be those who:

- have entered key stage below age related expectations
- are falling behind trajectory during the latter stages of a key stage
- are Children in Care who would particularly benefit from this support

Briefings for LA lead is officers take place at the end of January.

2.4 Inclusion

The following key developments are linked to inclusive learning;

- Special Educational Needs Unit Review for Secondary Resourced Provision - informal consultation process started with the statutory proposal due to be published February 2009.
- Early Years Review
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Review due to take place during the next quarter.
- Staffing issues continue within the Educational Psychology Service with vacancies currently being filled by locums. It has been difficult to recruit specialist staff in this service area.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 Inclusion

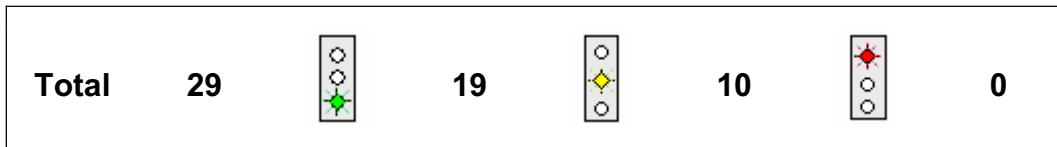
The following emerging issues are going to impact on inclusive learning

- The review of primary resourced provision linked to the Primary Capital Programme.
- The increase in the number of appeals to the tribunal (SENDIST). There are 4 ongoing cases with another 4 possible appeals pending. The majority of these are requests for out of borough provision for children with a diagnosis of Autism.

3.2 Post 16 Diplomas

Some concern that the L1 diploma is not meeting learner perceptions with too much emphasis on theoretical aspect of the Construction and Built Environment, this is emerging as a national issue.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

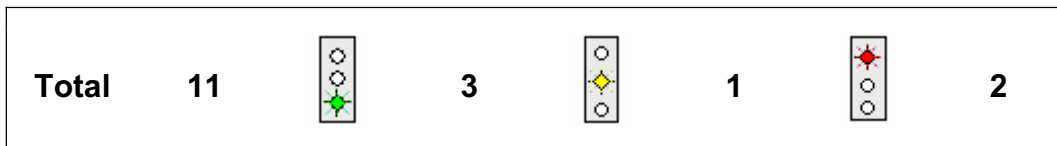


Of the 29 milestones for the service, 19 are on track for completion, or have already been achieved. There is some doubt around 10 of them being completed within the specified timeframe. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




Nothing to report in this quarter.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Of the 11 key indicators for the service, 3 are on target, or have achieved target. One indicator has been assigned an amber light, and 2 are red. 5 indicators are new National Indicators and data will not be available until quarter 4 to enable a report to be made. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	22		6		0		0
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Other performance indicators are routinely reported in quarters 2 and 4. This quarter, 1 other indicator is being reported by exception as a success – NI 92, which demonstrates that the achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage has been narrowed faster than we had targeted for. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3. Of the remaining 7 key indicators are 5 on track, and 16 are not reported as data or revised data is not available.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For further details, please refer to Appendix 4

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

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

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During 2007/08 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 DATA QUALITY


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Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 1	To Narrow the Gap in Educational Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups	Increase the number of children accessing targeted support within mainstream schools by reinvesting the savings gained by the reduction in statutory assessments achieved through capacity building in the mainstream sector, Mar 2009		<p>Number of children increasing through;</p> <p>On going initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-agency Elklan training held during Autumn term 12 school and LA staff received training. - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Training Network - Bespoke packages to individual schools through joint planning meetings. - Outreach Support from Specialist Provision through extended school activities and SLA - Support through individual child referral <p>New initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual Impairment Access to the Inclusive PE curriculum – 15 school staff received training. - Visual Impairment Primary Maths - training arranged for January 09. - 2 half days training held for SENCOs – 7 received training





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Provide targeted interventions from Educational Welfare Service to improve the attendance of children who are in need of safeguarding, Mar 2009		Systems in place to monitor the attendance of pupils with safeguarding plan and intervene proactively
		Develop a resource base at St Chad's Specialist Language College to provide support to children with English as an additional language, Mar 2009		Commissioned service is now fully staffed and providing support to schools across the Borough
		Establish links with School Improvement Partners (SIP's) to ensure the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed in detail through the Single Conversation, Sep 2009		All SIPs are asked to request information regarding all our vulnerable pupils, particularly in relation to their attainment and progress. Furthermore, closer links are being established between our looked after team and the SIP Manager in terms of ensuring schools meet their statutory obligations with regard to Personal Action Plans.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 2	To Improve Educational Outcomes for all Children at Foundation Level	All schools to have a focus on linking letters and sounds and writing to improve % achieving 6+ on CLL scores, Mar 2009		<p>From April 1st 2008, additional funding has been provided by the National Strategy to enable ongoing consultant support for the implementation of letters and sounds materials. The programme continues to be well received and targeted schools / settings are being supported in the Communication, Literacy and Language Development (CLLD).</p> <p>18 schools and associated pre-schools have so far implemented a CLLD type project. A further 44 schools and 23 Private, Voluntary, and Independent settings or nursery classes have attended phase 1 phonics training.</p> <p>In relation to the 'I can' accreditation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 settings have accessed training altogether • 6 settings have achieved the supporting level accreditation • 1 setting has achieved enhanced accreditation • 9 settings are currently • underway with supporting level accreditation <p>A further round of training for accreditors is being provided this term.</p>



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		All settings to have implemented Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Mar 2009		A programme of training on the new EYFS curriculum has been delivered and support is continuing through FS networks, including moderation activities and the role of Consultant Teacher (QTS) and Early Years Consultants. The School Improvement team's capacity continues to be enhanced through the secondment of a Head teacher (2 days week until June 2009).
		Alignment between early years and school improvement has been implemented, Mar 2009		The Early Years team has now joined the School Improvement section of the Universal Learning Team. Collaboration around the development of the Early Years Outcome Duty Action Plan is supporting a clear and shared focus on the EYFS targets.
		Quality assurance systems are in place for Foundation Stage Profile (FSP), Mar 2009		Quality assurance of the FSP is supported through the work of LA colleagues including early years consultants, Consultant Teachers - QTS, FSP moderators and the SSEO and advisory head teacher for Early Years. The monitoring of the effectiveness of the QA systems on standards is also undertaken by the National Strategy RA for Early Years and the National Assessment Agency (NAA) in relation to moderation.






Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 3	To Improve Educational Outcomes for all Children at Primary Level	The number of underperforming schools in receipt of targeted intervention is reduced by 20%, Mar 2009		<p>Data is used effectively to identify schools that are, or are at risk of, underperforming. There is an increased focus upon the identification of and offer of support for 'coasting' schools where value added measures indicate underachieving pupils / groups. The Improving Schools Programme (ISP) continues to be used to support whole school improvement in target schools. Deployment of Consultant support for 2008 / 09 allocated in light of latest National Challenge test data.</p> <p>Consultant deployment to be supported in non - priority schools with a network of Leading Teachers who will mediate and monitor teaching and learning. Leading Teachers will receive support and CPD on a termly basis from the Local Authority.</p>



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Consultants are deployed as a result of School Improvement Plans (SIPs) in-depth analysis of need, Mar 2009		<p>Further intelligence from the Autumn SIP reports (and analysed by the SIP manager) provides further information for National Strategy Managers to inform Consultant deployment.</p> <p>Consultants deployed according to need. In depth audits in school carried out to ascertain need. EYFS / KS1 scoping audit to be carried out. Leading teachers to be skilled up to add capacity.</p>
		To reduce the number of schools at risk of formal categorisation by 20% through the implementation of the alerts and trigger system, Mar 2009		The alerts and triggers criteria have now been drafted by CYPD colleagues. The draft document will now be shared with SMT and a consultative Head Teacher group. Aiming for electronic recording system to be in place for new academic year.


Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Reduce the number of schools that are not setting targets at Fischer Family Trust (FFT) D by 50%, Mar 2009		School Improvement Partners (SIPs) will continue to provide advice, challenge and support for schools as part of the target setting process, with an emphasis upon challenging schools to agree targets in line with FFT D. For 2009 targets, 74.5% schools set targets in line with FFT D. Analysis for 2010 targets will be completed in the next few weeks and reported upon in the next Quarterly Monitoring round.
ULS 4	To Improve Educational Outcomes for all Children at Secondary Level	50% of schools will be following Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programmes, Mar 2009		Currently there are 37.5% of schools following the SEAL programme with an expectation that at least 50% will reach this target by March 2009.
		The number of schools identified as in need of targeted intervention are reduced by 33%, Mar 2009		In light of the National Challenge, two schools will receive targeted support and additional resources. The analyses of 2008 results has informed the consultant deployment plan for targeted intervention for all schools.
		Consultants are deployed as a result of SIPs in-depth analysis of need, Mar 2009		The intelligence from the Autumn SIP reports (analysed by the SIP manager) provides additional information for National Strategy Managers to inform Consultant deployment.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Implementation of the alerts and trigger system to reduce the number of schools at risk of formal Categorisation by 25%, Mar 2009		The alerts and triggers criteria have now been drafted by CYPD colleagues. The draft document will now be shared with SMT and a consultative Head Teacher group. Aiming for electronic recording system to be in place for new academic year.
		Reduce the number of schools that are not setting targets at FFT D by 50%, Mar 2009		School Improvement Partners (SIPs) will continue to provide advice, challenge and support for schools as part of the target setting process, with an emphasis upon challenging schools to agree targets in line with FFT D. For 2009 targets, 87.5 % schools set targets in line with FFT D. Analysis for 2010 targets will be completed in the next few weeks and reported upon in the next Quarterly Monitoring round.

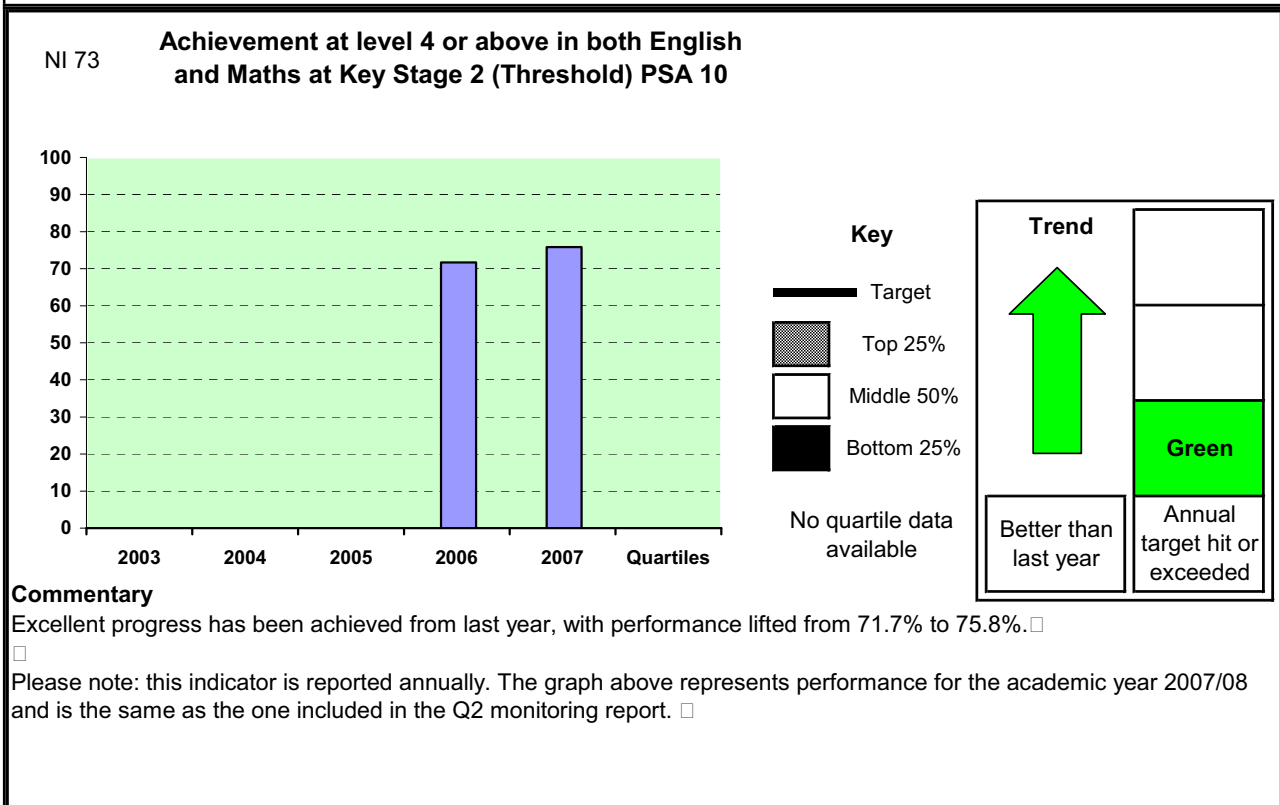
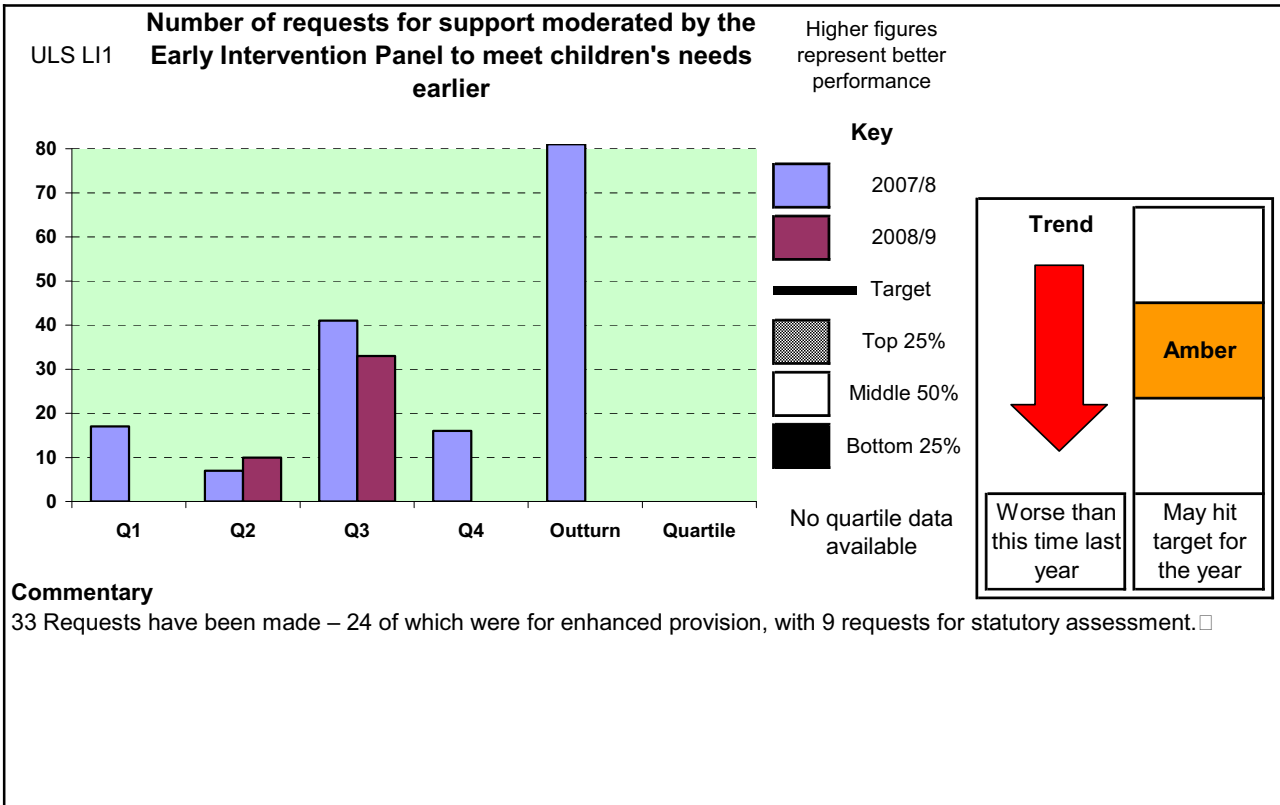
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 5	To Prepare Young People for Employment through Implementation of 14-19 Agenda	Milestones to be agreed covering Diplomas, NEET, Level 3 quals at 19, Mar 2009		<p>A broad range of post 16 provision has been made available to young people for January starts demonstrating a more flexible approach by providers to in year enrolment and a collective approach to reducing NEETs.</p> <p>WBL/E2E/Customised Training: 260 places, FE: 115 places, HPIJ Apprentice support project: 100 places</p> <p>Halton, Blackpool, Oldham and Salford have been given additional targeted support to progress 14-19 reforms by DCSF. In Halton the support will be targeted at improving level three (L3) performance by age 19 in the borough.</p>
		Map all current provision offered to inform needs analysis and the development of a local 14-19 Education Plan, Mar 2009		Mapping of provision will be completed by the end of January 2009.

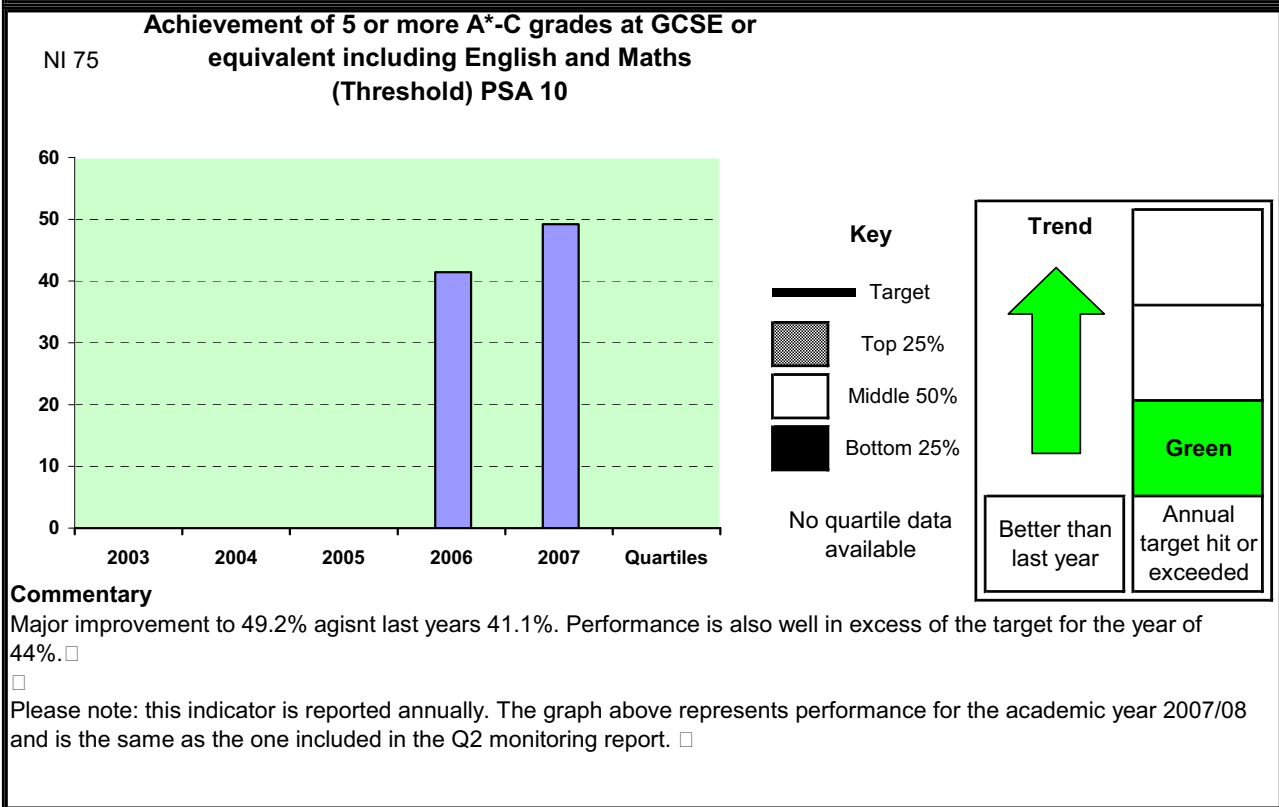
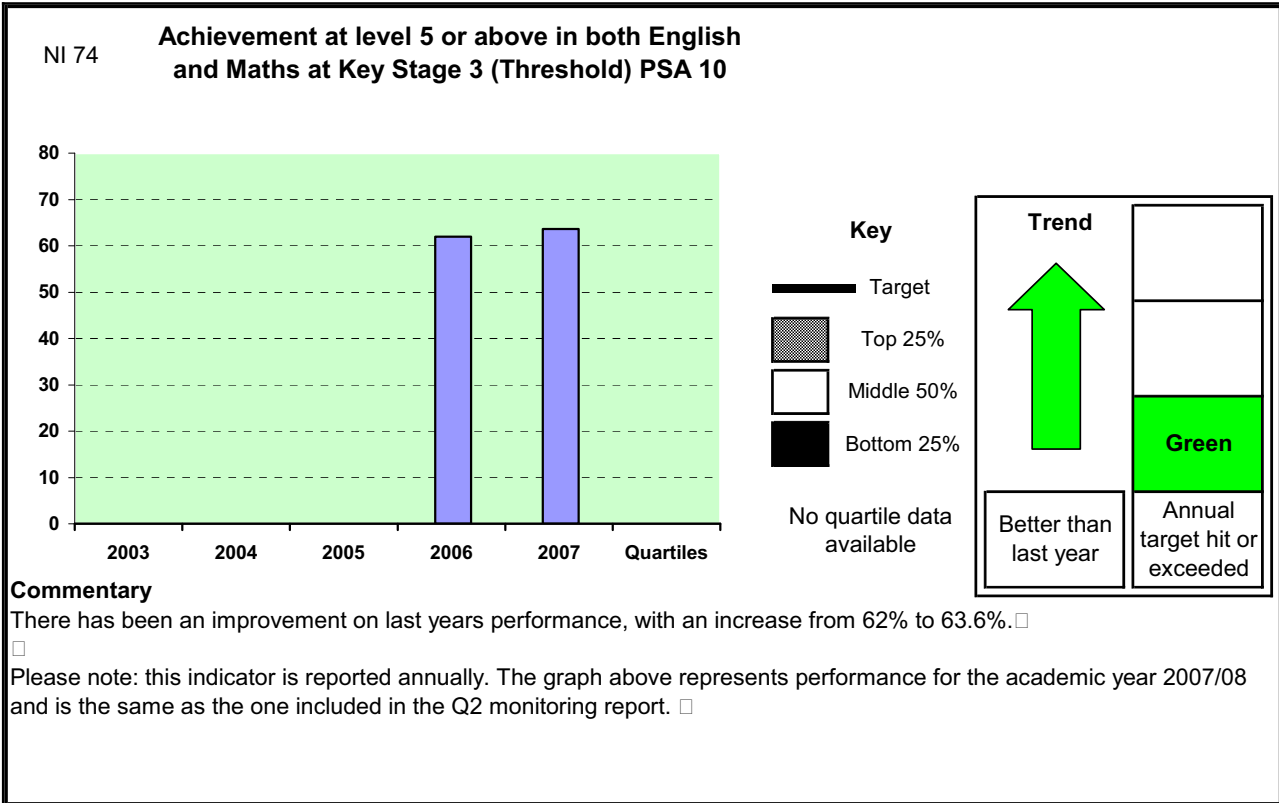
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Collaboratively deliver the Construction and Built environment diploma to 45 learners at levels 1,2&3, Mar 2009		Nationally feedback from diploma lines is flagging that there are issues with L1 delivery, which are reflected in Halton. Of the 11 L1 learners, 3 are being supported to review their future options. An evaluation of L2 delivery, where 12 of 14 learners responded demonstrates that 92% are enjoying the course and achieving what they set out to do. A level 1 evaluation is following in January.
ULS 6	To Reduce Health Inequalities by promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Schools	Introduction of Healthy Schools criteria, Sep 2008		94% of schools have National Healthy School Status and all schools are working on the evidence of impact tool (from Sept 08)
		95% of young people between the ages of 4 – 18 participate in at least 2 hours of High Quality PE School sport within and beyond the school day, Mar 2009		The latest data (Sept. 2008) indicates that 87% of young people between the ages of 4 – 18 participate in at least 2 hours of High Quality PE School sport within and beyond the school day. This is 2% higher than the 85% target.
		Implementation of food and nutrient standards for school meals, Mar 2009		On target for March 2009
		Provide support to schools so that 94% achieve National Healthy School Status, Mar 2009		As of July 2008, 89% of schools had achieved the National Healthy School Standard

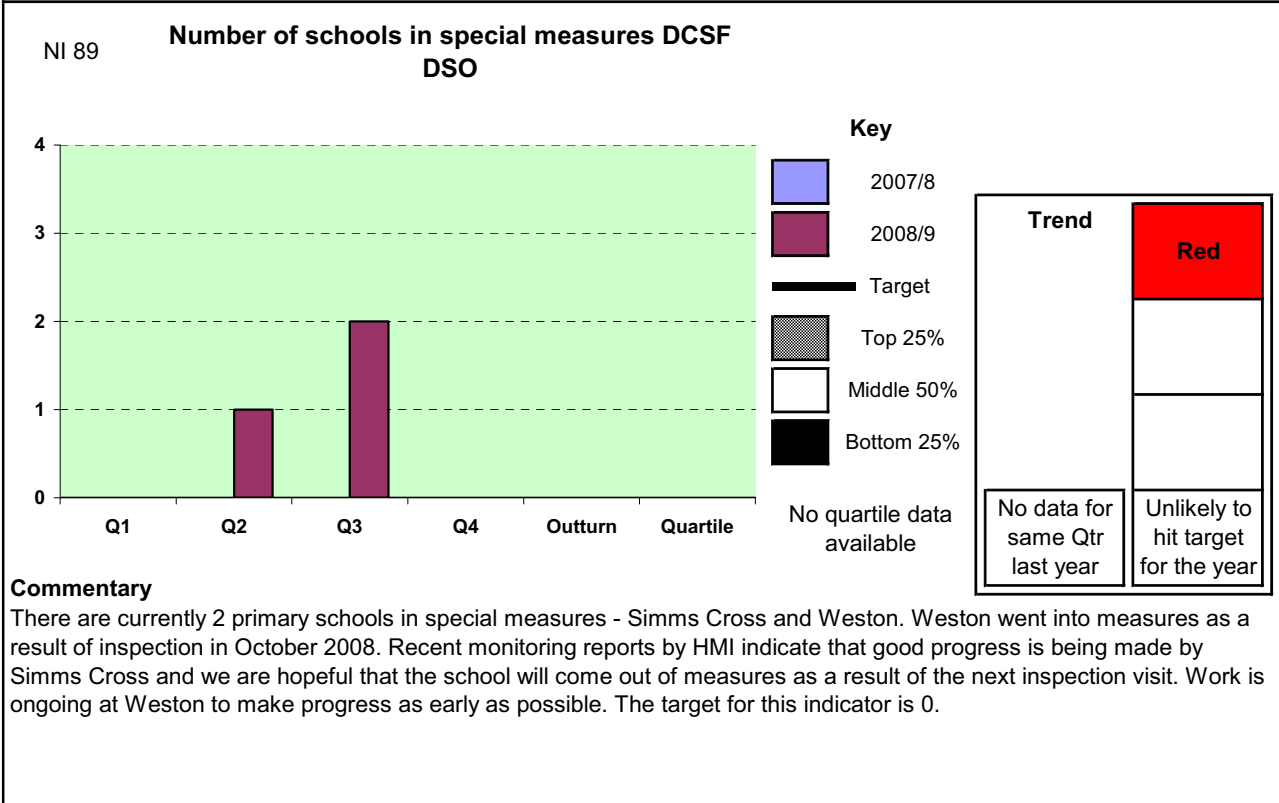
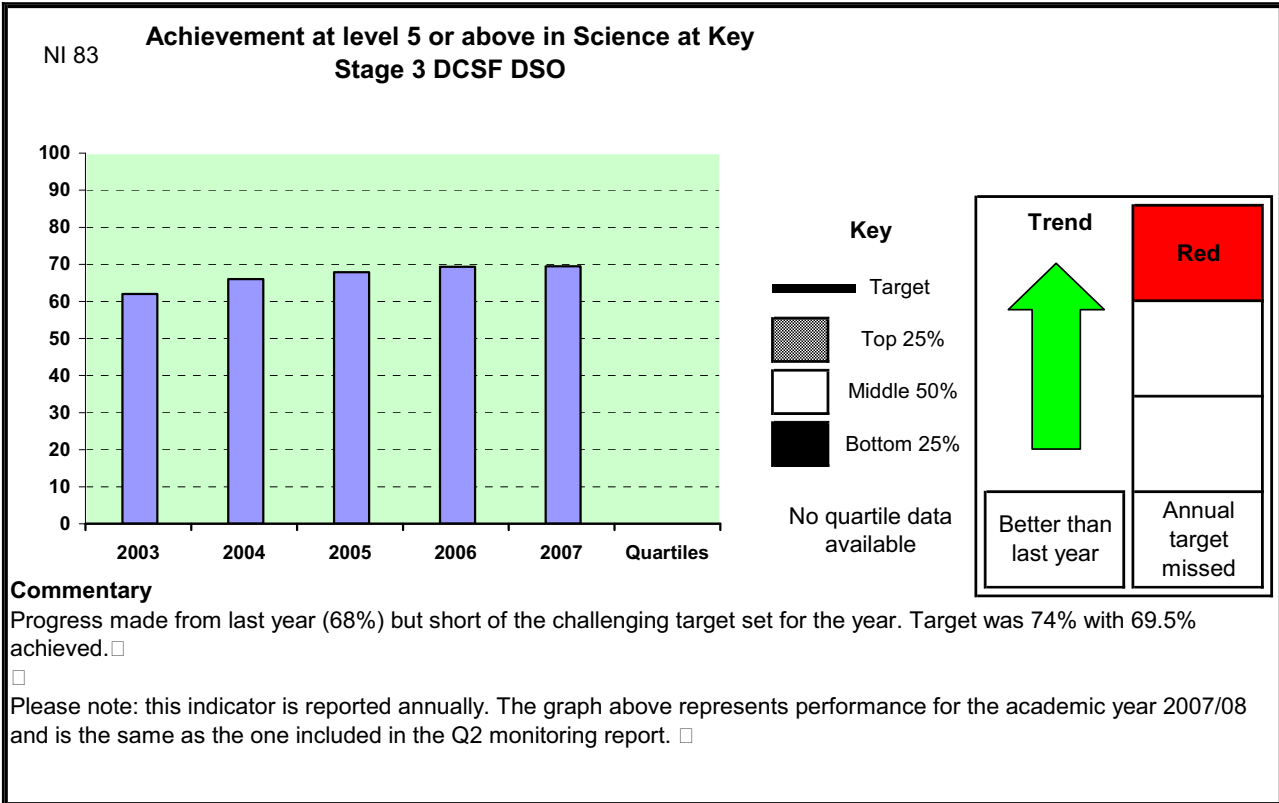
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 7	To Enhance Opportunities for Vulnerable Children through Inclusive Learning	Agree process to recycle the resources in under used provision to best meet low incident needs within the mainstream school community, Mar 2009		<p>Process currently monitored through the SEN Service.</p> <p>Access to funding from the PCT agreed for pupils with medical needs. Schools can now make referrals for additional support to the PCT.</p>
		Review of the Structure & Role of the SEN Assessment Team in line with the reduction of Statements of SEN and the implementation of Enhanced Action Plus Resource & funding Support, Mar 2009		New Structure approved and interviews in progress

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Increase the number of children accessing the commissioned outreach services from Special Schools to support them in mainstream schools, Mar 2009		<p>During the last quarter there have been 17 referrals for outreach support for pupils with medical/physical needs. 5 of those referrals have been for early years children including private & voluntary settings.</p> <p>3 drop in sessions have been held with 49 attendances. The outreach service has also supported 10 pupils from Chesnut Lodge to access mainstream provision.</p> <p>Outreach for ASD from Brookfields. - Protocol for referral and tracking involvement agreed with SEN Service.</p> <p>10 places for outreach support for pupils with ASD to mainstream secondary schools included in the proposals for secondary resourced provision currently under consultation.</p>

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Support the development of Specialist Resourced Provision, particularly in the areas of Autistic Spectrum Disorder language and Communication, Mar 2009		<p>Consultation process started on the proposal for restructured secondary resourced provision. Proposals include resourced provision for ASD/Aspergers, SPAL and Social Communication and HI resourced provision. Statutory proposal to be published February 2009. Expressions of interest have been received and will be confirmed by April 2009.</p>
		Develop the processes of Transition Planning, to include Early Years, Mar 2009		<p>Person Centred Planning Training underway and delivered via SEN Service Conference promoting the Statutory Duty to deliver this approach by 2011 in place for January 2009</p>







Key Performance Indicators not being reported this quarter;

The five indicators listed below cannot be reported this quarter as data is not yet available. They will all be reported in Quarter 4, 2008/09.


NI 80 - % of young people achieving Level 3 qualification by 19


NI93 - Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in English

NI94 - Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in Maths

NI97 - Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in English

NI98 - Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in Maths

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 3	Progress	Commentary
Service Delivery						
NI92	Achievement Gap at Early Years Foundation Stage	33.8%	31.7%	30.4%		Performance during the last academic year saw the gap narrowed to 30.4% ahead of the target of 31.7%

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 06/07	Perform 08/09	Traffic light	Commentary
9	<p>Improve educational achievement at Key Stage 4.</p> <p>The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSE's at grade A* to C or DFES equivalents, including English & Maths.</p>	32.5% 04/05	40.5% 07/08	41%	49.2%		Excellent progress was made from the 2004-05 baseline of 32.5% to 49.2% in 2008, well in excess of the LPSA target of 41% (49.2% awaiting validation in January 2009).

UNIVERSAL & LEARNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2008

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	1,002	751	697	54	697
Premises Support	63	0	0	0	0
Premises Other	4	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	114	86	88	(2)	94
Transport	4	4	4	0	4
Central Support	250	0	0	0	0
Service Recharges					
Connexions	1,133	850	850	0	850
Payments					
Commissioned Work	39	29	0	29	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	6	6	6	0	6
Asset Charges	5	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	2,620	1,726	1,645	81	1,651
Other Grant	-24	-24	-33	9	-33
Schools Service	-116	-87	-115	28	-115
Level Agreement Reimbursements	-153	-115	-109	(6)	-109
Total Income	-293	-226	-257	31	-257
Net Expenditure	2,327	1,500	1,388	112	1,394

Comments on the above figures:

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

The budget for Employees is currently below budget profile due to vacancies in the Advisory Service.

The budget for Commissioned Work is currently below budget profile as no Advisory Commissioned Work has been required to date.

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

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES 2008/09

As at 31st December 2008

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)	Actual Including Committed Items
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
YMCA NEET Solutions	11	8	0	8	0
Neglect	125	94	42	52	42
Barnardos Missing from Home	70	52	0	52	0
Teenage Pregnancy	45	34	45	(11)	45
Portage	48	36	35	1	38
Attendance	66	49	54	(5)	54
HITS	50	37	60	(23)	60
Care Leavers	56	42	11	31	11
Connexions – NEET	74	55	0	55	0
Access to Learning & Employment	10	7	8	(1)	12
Canal Boat Adventure	58	44	25	19	25
Improved Education for Vulnerable Youngsters	57	43	3	40	9
Kingsway Literacy Development	355	266	205	61	205
Youth Activity	82	62	43	19	43
H9P Dowries	10	7	8	(1)	10
Action for Children	31	23	63	(40)	63
NVQ Project					
YSIP	15	11	0	11	0
Total LSP	1,163	870	602	268	617

Comments on the above figures:

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) funding spending to the end of quarter 3 is below budget profile.

Regular monitoring reports are sent to the 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 Working Neighbourhood Fund grant is spent during the year.

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG PEOPLES DIRECTORATE

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2008

	2008/09 Capital Allocation	Allocation To Date	Actual Spend To Date	Total Allocation Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Asset Management Data	5	3	0	5
Fire Compartmentation	15	11	0	15
Runcorn All Saints Capital Repairs	22	16	0	22
	1,667	1,558	1,558	109
Cavendish & Brookfields	1,474	1,427	1,427	47
Primary Capital Programme	50	38	0	50
School Access Initiative Schemes	245	184	30	215
Sure Start – Children's Centre's	549	412	229	320
Sure Start – Childcare	546	410	164	382
Contingency	441	331	0	441
Play-builder Halton Brook	50	37	0	50
Play-builder Gorsewood	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Spike Island	40	30	0	40
Play-builder Town Hall Park	50	37	9	41
Play-builder Hale Park	40	30	16	24
Play-builder Crow Wood	80	60	0	80
Total Capital Schemes	5,314	4,614	3,433	1,881




Comments on the above figures:

There are still some schemes with no actual expenditure up to the end of Quarter 3.

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 financial year end.

Any under-spend on Sure Start Children's Centre's and Childcare schemes can be carried forward to the next financial year 2009-10.

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>