



**Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board**

**Monday, 1 June 2009 at 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

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

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

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

*Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 471 7389 or e-mail [lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk) for further information.*

*The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 7 September 2009*

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

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>	
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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>	<b>1 - 3</b>
<b>4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</b>	<b>4 - 16</b>
<b>5. SSP MINUTES</b>	<b>17 - 21</b>
<b>6. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES</b>	
(A) <b>MID TERM REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY</b>	<b>22 - 77</b>
(B) <b>THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD AND THE DIOCESES OF CHESTER AND LIVERPOOL</b>	<b>78 - 79</b>
(C) <b>NARROWING THE GAP - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DO WELL WHATEVER THEIR NEEDS AND WHEREVER THEY LIVE</b>	<b>80 - 83</b>
(D) <b>SPECIAL HEALTH SESSION</b>	<b>84 - 86</b>
<b>7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING</b>	
(A) <b>4TH QUARTER MONITORING REPORTS</b>	<b>87 - 182</b>
(B) <b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH &amp; 2008/09 PERFORMANCE REPORT</b>	<b>183 - 206</b>
(C) <b>ANNUAL REPORT</b>	<b>207 - 212</b>

*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

**REPORT TO:** Children and Young People Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 1 June 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:** 1 June 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 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**EXB102 – SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS REVIEW WITHIN  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing a summary of the progress of the review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in secondary schools. It was noted that the local authority had been undertaking a review of SEN provision within the Borough. Views were now being sought on the location of the proposed secondary unit provision.

The review of SEN provision within secondary schools “units” was only one part of the broader range of provision available to young people with special education needs within the Borough: the Council was committed to providing a range of SEN services that could meet the individual needs of particular children and their families. This started with mainstream inclusive services within all schools and was then complemented by SEN Unit provision within particular secondary schools. The Council also had a range of special education needs schools.

The proposals contained within the report for SEN units in secondary schools had been developed on the basis of an analysis of need. Needs changed over time, which was reflected in the number of surplus places there were at the moment. The SEN Units Review was therefore intended to bring need into line with the provision the Authority had within the mainstream schools.

The reasons for the review, together with the stages of the review that had already taken place, were outlined within the report for Members’ information, and the present position of units in primary and secondary mainstream schools was described in Appendix 1. It was noted that the responses to the first stage of informal consultation on secondary resource position had been received and analysed. The majority of those who had responded were in full support of the change of provision proposed; however, it was suggested that the distribution of the secondary unit provision across the Borough needed further consideration and that, although the numbers would remain the same, the unit provision for autism and speech and language should be offered in both Widnes and Runcorn.

Consultation was now taking place on a proposal for future provision as



outlined in the report, and information was also provided in relation to the schools that had expressed an interest in developing particular specialisms in line with this.

It was noted that when it had been shown, through assessment, that a pupil's needs could not be met in a mainstream school, alternative provision would be sought. Prior to this decision there would be an expectation that "reasonable adjustments", i.e. the application of the Disability Discrimination Act, would be made using the totality of resources made available to the mainstream school. On closure of the informal consultation period, and pending no adverse feedback, it was proposed that the formal consultation process commence leading to Statutory Notice if required.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

At present there were surplus places within mainstream units. Mainstream SEN units were not matching the present and future requirements of the Borough. This was also required as part of the developing Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

An alternative option was to leave provision as it was; however, this would potentially leave the Council vulnerable to challenge.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The proposals for secondary SEN resourced provision had to be agreed by April 2009 and implemented by September 2011 in line with plans for BSF.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals and recommendations within the report be ratified; and
- (2) approval be given to proceed to formal consultation of the secondary school SEN review leading to Statutory Notice if appropriate.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2009**

#### **EXB 133 – REVIEW OF SAFEGUARDING CHILD AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON – KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined the findings of the Joint Area Review of Haringey Council and their statutory partners. In addition, the report set out an analysis of current strengths in Safeguarding and Child Protection Services in Halton and the report also identified service trends in Safeguarding and Child Protection Services in Halton along with a Development Plan.

It was reported that the significant weaknesses identified by the recent Joint Area Review (JAR) of Haringey Council and its statutory partners services to vulnerable people had caused a wave of both political and public concern about the protection of children in our society. It was noted that it also had a significant impact on those who delivered Safeguarding services.

The Haringey JAR in November judged the Borough as “inadequate” and gave a damning verdict of the management and application of Child Protection Services across much of the public sector. Lead Statutory responsibility for Child Protection Services rested with the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member for Children and Young People.

It was further reported that Halton Council and its partners were judged in April 2009 by the OfSTED Joint Area Review as “Outstanding” in its Safeguarding and Child Protection Practice. That “Outstanding” judgement was confirmed in the Annual Performance Assessment by OfSTED public on the 17/12/08 of the Council’s Children and Young People Directorate. It was noted that this was one of only a few “Outstanding” ratings, nationally.

Also detailed in the report was the findings from Haringey’s JAR. In addition the report set out Halton’s strengths, Halton’s context and challenge, development plan and financial implications. It was further advised that safeguarding children well required the Council to routinely evaluate the effectiveness, capacity and safety of the current system. The report brought together the full range of issues impacted on the Council in its principal objective of keeping children safe.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that children and young people are effectively safeguarded and the Council is compliant with the requirement set out in Lord Lamings Review of Progress Report

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

None applicable

#### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board endorses the ‘Development Plan’ enclosed as section 4 to the report.

#### **EXB134 – ACCELERATED CAPITAL – KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided an update on the capital programme for 2009/10 following the offer to local authorities by the DCSF to accelerate capital funding.

It was advised that in November the DCSF offered to release in 2009/10 some of

the capital grant programmed for release in 2010/11 with the aim of stimulating the local economy, especially for small and medium sized enterprises. It was noted that in order to support this initiative the Directorate had confirmed to the DCSF that it wished to bring forward £500,000 from the grant scheduled to be released in 2010/11. In addition, £120,000 of LCVAP had been brought forward for use on schools in Shrewsbury Diocese. It was proposed the accelerated capital funding available to Halton would fund the following works:

- Moore Primary School – removal of mobile classroom and provision of new build classroom.
- Lunts Heath Primary School – re-roofing.
- West Bank Primary School – new boiler.
- Hillview Primary School – new boiler.
- Cavendish School – furniture and equipment required to complete the building project at the school.

Detailed descriptions of the projects including the estimated cost of works were outlined in the report for Members' consideration.

#### **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not applicable.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Capital programmes to be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) notes the additional capital funding available for 2009/10; and
- 2) recommends submission to full Council for approval of the additional works to be carried out from the capital programme 2009/10.

#### **EXB135 – SCHOOLS ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2010**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which fulfilled the requirement under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, the Education Act 2001, the Education and Inspections Act 2006, and associated regulations, to determine Halton Local Authority's (LAs) Schools Admissions Policy for LA maintained community and voluntary controlled schools and co-ordinated admission schemes for all primary and secondary schools for September 2010 following statutory consultation. The LA also consulted on the admission arrangements to its maintained nursery schools for the September 2010 intake.

It was reported that in January 2009 Halton LA issued a statutorily required consultation paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admissions schemes for the September 2010 intake which was appended to the report for information.

Details of the consultation were published in the local press, made available on the Council's website and issued to the head teachers and governing bodies of all nursery, infant, junior, primary and secondary schools, the four Diocesan Authorities responsible for voluntary aided schools in Halton and neighbouring authorities. It was noted that following prior consultation and agreement with the four Diocesan Authorities, the LA also facilitated an on-line admissions consultation process for all Church of England and Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools, which enabled them to consult on their proposed admission arrangements for the 2010 academic year along with the LA's proposed arrangements.

It was advised that the consultation paper proposed no changes to the current over subscription criteria for admission to LA maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools and no change to the current over subscription criteria for admission to LA maintained community schools in Runcorn. However, changes were proposed to the allocation of places at LA maintained community secondary schools in Widnes through the introduction of catchment zones as detailed in an Appendix to the report. The Board was advised the consultation commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. 22 responses were received to the consultation and were outlined in the report for Members' consideration. The Halton Admissions Forum met on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 to consider the Admissions Policy, co-ordinated schemes, proposed catchment zones and the responses to the consultation. It was reported that the Admissions Forum approved the policy and co-ordinated and secondary schemes, considered the catchment zone options proposed by the LA and considered the responses received to the consultation, including the responses from the Governing Body at Waste Deacon High School who made representations about the LA's proposals. The Board was advised that the consensus from the Admissions Forum was that both Options 1 and 2 proposed by the LA should be put to the Executive Board for consideration.

It was further reported that the LA as commissioner of school places must ensure that the admission arrangements were fair, not complex and fully complied with all statutory requirements. In considering the introduction of catchment zones the LA wished to reflect the diversity of the community served by both The Bankfield School and Wade Deacon High School and did not wish to exclude particular housing estates or addresses in a way that might disadvantage particular social groups. It was advised that in the LAs view Option 2 best met those needs.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The decision was statutorily required and any revision to the proposed arrangement may adversely affect school place planning as detailed in 7.1 of the report.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

As detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report if the LA remained with the current over subscription criteria for admission to Widnes Community High Schools i.e Children in Care, Siblings and then straight line distance measurement, some pupils living on the East side of Widnes would be required to circumvent two high schools to access educational provision, therefore this option was rejected. The representations submitted by the Governing Body at Wade Deacon High School were considered by the Halton Admissions Forum and rejected and the LA would support that view. Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places through random allocation (lottery) as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The Policy applied for the September 2010 academic intake and would apply for 3 years unless further Central or Local Government changes were required.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and co-ordinated schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools including the adoption of catchment zones for admission to Widnes Community High Schools, and admission arrangements to nursery schools and LA nursery classes. All of which applied to the 2010/11 academic year.

### **EXB 136 – CHILDREN’S ORAL HEALTH SCRUTINY**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined Children’s Oral Health in Halton recently endorsed by both the Children and Young People and Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Boards. It was reported that on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the Children and Young People’s PPB agreed that children and young people’s oral health should provide the focus for scrutiny during 2008. It was advised that the Council’s Annual performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Halton reported that “The Local Authority’s performance on oral health was weaker than national and remained an area of development”. It recommended that the Local Authority should “accelerate plans to improve oral health”.

The Board were informed that the Oral Health Scrutiny Group was a joint scrutiny topic comprising of Members from the Healthy Halton and Children and Young People’s PPB. The Board was advised that the Scrutiny Group would:

- Receive and consider evidence presented on the state of children’s oral health in the Borough; and
- Consider the information in relation to statistical neighbours and national and regional benchmarks; and consider for securing improvement.

It was reported that dental health in Halton was poor and using data from epidemiological studies of child dental health, it was evident that 16 of the 21 electoral wards that comprised Halton Local Authority, dental health of five year

olds was worse than the national average. This position was similar amongst the 12 year old population. It was noted that against this background Halton and St. Helens PCT had developed a dental commissioning strategy the aims of this were outlined in the report.

It was reported that the dental commissioning strategy was accepted by the PCT Board in March 2008 and funding was provided to ensure that key dental health objectives identified within the strategy were addressed. In 2008-09 the PCT elected to focus on the priority issues:

1. Improving child dental health and reducing dental health inequality.
2. Improving access to primary dental care.

The background to each of these and details of how they would be achieved was outlined in the report for Members' consideration.

The Chair of Healthy Halton PPB addressed the Board and noted in particular the importance of 'Lancashire Trial' as it was reported that 30% of children in the Borough did not visit a dentist therefore the treatment to take place in school settings would benefit a wider range of children.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Executive Board be requested to approve the recommendations contained in 2.1 to 2.3 below;
- (2) Halton and St. Helens PCT should, subject to parental consent and outcomes of the "Lancashire Trial", support the administering of fluoride varnish to children, to take place in school settings;
- (3) Halton and St. Helens PCT should take steps to support the take up dental services by vulnerable young people who may not have regular access to dental services or be registered with a dentist; and
- (4) the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board should keep under review the implementation of the Oral Health Strategy.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

**ES 102 – PLAY SCHEME CHARGES**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined proposals for increasing Play Service charges for childcare, building hire (Windmill Hill Play Centre) and Holiday Playschemes.

It was reported that childcare fees were last increased in 2006/07 and were detailed in the report for Members' consideration. The proposed fees from April 2009 were set out as follows:

Breakfast Club	£3.25
After School	£4.00 to 4 pm
	£6.00 to 5 pm
	£7.50 to 6pm
Holiday Care	£16.00 full day
	£10.00 half a day

It was further advised that increases were largely in line with annual inflation at 3% - 4% pa except for "to 4pm"; after school and half day holidays where the increase also included the need to reflect in charges the way that delivery costs included the following regardless of length of provision:

- a. Collected from school and
- b. Provided with a snack.

These increases would also keep charges in line with the sector norm (Childcare Audit).

In relation to room hire in addition to delivering open access play and childcare service, Windmill Hill Play Centre was a multi-use building extremely well used by both CYPAN 5 team for the delivery of their services and by the local community. CYPAN services, as part of the Children's Families and Extended Services Division, did not pay a room hire fee.

Detailed in the report for consideration were the charges for community use that were currently imposed.

In addition, the proposed charges for room hire were set out as follows:

Community Groups	£5.75 per hour
Commercial/Private	£10.00 per hour
Community Use Weekends	£10.00 per hour
Commercial/Private	£17.50 per hour

It was reported that these revised charges would bring Windmill Hill Centre in line with charges levied at the Authority's and other Community Centres operated through Culture and Leisure.

It was further advised that to reflect the developing partnership approach to the delivering holiday (sessional) play activities, Halton Play Council would increase its sessional playscheme charge to £1 per session (session = 2.5 hours) to bring those charges in line with charges for similar sessional holiday activities delivered through extended schools.

RESOLVED: That the proposed charges are agreed and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

### **ES109 – TO SEEK A WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which sought a waiver of Contract standing Orders to permit the extension of the contract of the BSF Programme Director (Daniel Hennessy) from MD Consultants until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

It was noted that the current arrangements for the BSF Programme Director were approved at the Executive Board Sub-Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and a two-year contract was agreed until September 2009. However, prior to submission of the Outline Business Case on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 Partnerships for Schools required confirmation of the future Programme Director arrangements so that they could assess whether the Authority was sufficiently prepared to enter competitive dialogue.

It was further noted that the BSF Programme Director role was crucial as it provided the Strategic Direction for the Programme. The current Programme Director had provided leadership, direction and focus to the programme and had ensured that the Programme had met all the key milestones and objectives to date. The Programme Director had extensive experience as a 4PS adviser and Gateway Reviewer for BSG and his advice was often sought nationally and by other authorities.

Members were advised that as the DCSF prepared to announce the next wave of BSF Programme, many authorities were now looking for experienced BSF Programme Directors and Managers to lead their Programmes.

It was there proposed that the current BSF Programme Director contract be extended so that he could provide 217 days support to Halton per annum and that the daily rate of pay be £786 from September 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The BSF Framework provided information on the Programme Director rates across the



country with the North West, North East and Midlands rates varying from £745 to £1074 per day.

It was essential that as Halton moved into Programme Delivery, there was sufficient appropriately qualified staff. Interim arrangements still existed for the Programme Manager's post as it did not prove possible to recruit to this position initially. This post had now been advertised and interviews would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Strategic Director, Children and Young People be authorised to agree a contract for 217 days per annum at £786 per day for a period from September 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011; and
- 2) Legal Services be requested to revise the current contract for the BSF Project Director's role.

#### **ES110 – CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE PROVISION OF PERSONAL ADVISOR SERVICE FOR CARE LEAVERS**

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought the waiving of Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.8 which placed a requirement on the Council to tender for contracts with a greater value than £50,000 but not exceeding £1m.

Members were advised that the current personal Advisor for Care Leavers contract had been in operation for five years and would terminate on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. The current cost of the service delivery was £168,000.

Members were further advised that the Service fulfilled the requirements placed on the Local Authority by the Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000, Regulations and Guidance Chapter 6 Regulation 12: Personal Advisors. The Personal Advisor Service supported young people in making the transition from being in care to living self sustaining and fulfilled lives as independent members of the community.

It was noted that following a competitive tendering process in March 2009, the Panel who considered the proposals from a number of organisations were unable to make a contract award to a single provider. This was primarily on the basis of service continuity for existing users, with no new provider able to meet the terms of the contract due to the length of the contract lead-in period.

Therefore, approval to extend the existing contractual arrangements until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and to recommence a competitive tendering exercise for this service in September 2009, with a view to awarding a new contract from April 2010 was sought.

The proposed tender process would enable the Council to update the service specification and to include improved outcomes nationally and locally for this vulnerable cohort. In addition, it was proposed that the revised specification would ensure that the service provider continually delivered a service that met identified needs.

It proposed that the new contract would last for a period of three years and would offer an option to extend beyond that for a further two years, subject to specified outcomes being delivered and specified targets being met.

In considering the request to waive Standing Orders and due to the issues outlined in the report, the Sub-Committee felt that performance monitoring of the service provider by Members was necessary and agreed that a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee detailing this information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purposes of Standing Order 1.6, Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 – 3.8 be waived in order for the existing contractual arrangements to be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. During the period of extension, the Council would complete a competitive tendering exercise for the Personal Advisor Service for Care Leavers;
- (2) delegated powers be approved to enable the Strategic Director Children and Young People in consultation with the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder, subject to an evaluation of value for money in an open tender process, to award a contract to an external provider inclusive of the provision of management and administration; and
- (3) a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee detailing performance monitoring of the service provider.



### Halton Childrens Trust

#### Minutes of Board Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

9.00am – 12.00pm, Conference Room 2, Municipal Building, Widnes

#### Present:

Councillor Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services (Chair)
David Parr	Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services
Tony Crane	Organisational Development Manager, HBC
Kieran Gordon	Chief Executive, Greater Merseyside Connexions
Cleo Pollard	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Adele O'Neill	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
Tilly Heigh	Children's Trust Manager, CYPD
Eugene Lavan	Director of Strategic Development, NHS Halton & St Helens
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Councillor Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority Representative
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)
Norma Hornby	Representing 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum
John Pearce	Representing Business Support & Commissioning, CYPD
Lyn Rhodes	Representing Riverside College
Paula Edwards	Representing Learning & Skills Council

#### Apologies

Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area
Mike Sheenan	Principal, Riverside College Halton
Ged Flynn	Chair, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum
Audrey Williamson	Operational Director, Adults of Working Age, HBC
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Support & Commissioning
Kevin Mothersdale	Partnership Director for Halton, Learning & Skills Council
Supt Craig Guildford	Superintendent, Cheshire Police
Gus Van Cauwelaert	Halton Association of Secondary Head teachers

Item		Action
1.	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM 26/11/2009</b>	
1.1	Item 1.5, Children's Trust young person representation – Amanda O'Brien has agreed to be the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector representative on the CPE group. Amanda to liaise with Norma Hornby. DP highlighted the need for young people to be able to represent the needs of their constituents to the Board.	AO'B/NH
1.2	Item 5.1, Youth Offending Team representative for Children's Trust Board – The Board were asked to note that a Youth Offending Team inspection is due, and they may be approached.	
1.3	Item 5.4, All faiths representation – there will be a meeting on the 27th April of the Cheshire wide inter faith group, and Steven Kingsnorth will discuss representation for the Children's Trust Board. TH has supplied information and terms of reference for the board to Steven.	

2.	<b>CURRENT NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HALTON</b>	
2.1	<p><b>Children and Young People's Plan</b>  TC updated the Board on the progress to date of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). A draft copy was circulated to members, plus a guidance sheet for aspects of the Plan, which require comments or suggestions. TC outlined the document to the meeting. The following comments were made for each section:</p> <p><u>Forwards</u>  It was agreed that representation in this section would consist of TMcl, GM, Russell Jones for Halton Youth Forum and CP for the Parent/Carer Forum. TC to update.</p> <p><u>Vision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP asked for 'employment' to be included in the vision.</li> <li>• DC asked for worklessness to be addressed on vision page, as part of what we plan to do</li> </ul> <p><u>If Halton were a village of 100 children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EL offered to feed back information from PCT on how they plan to address some of the issues highlighted, eg dental health.</li> </ul> <p><u>Halton The Place</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TMcl asked for emphasis to be placed on positives of the borough and how we communicate them.</li> <li>• CP felt that it was important for negatives to be included as parents are already aware of them, as long as they are followed up by actions to correct them.</li> <li>• NH suggested case study, illustrating what happens after a CAF referral, showing progress and multi agency working.</li> </ul> <p><u>Our Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NS suggested wording should be changed from 'we want' to 'we will'.</li> <li>• DP suggested that the plan needs to recognise that young people are not failures if they go into work at 16 and do 'on the job' training, this needs to be shown as a positive as much as academic achievement.</li> <li>• DP suggested that teenage pregnancy in some cases is a choice, and the plan needs to address how we plan to support this group.</li> <li>• KG suggested including 'Halton values' in priorities</li> </ul> <p><u>Section 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DE suggested case studies to be included here. DE and TC to discuss further</li> </ul> <p>Next draft to be produced by 24<sup>th</sup> April, and 8<sup>th</sup> May is cut off point for amendments.</p> <p>TMcl asked the Board to provide feedback/suggestions for the plan directly to TC.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>DE/TC</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>DP asked for all members to obtain endorsement from their respective organisations for the Plan. GM asked members to inform the Board of the date that the Plan will be submitted to their respective boards.</p>	ALL
	<p>GM emphasised the responsibility of Children's Trust partners to co-operate with the plan, and the statutory obligations.</p>	ALL
2.2	<p><b>Child Health Strategy</b> DE outlined the presentation on the strategy to the Board, and also the commissioning framework for Halton. The main developments were highlighted, as per the presentation slides which were circulated to the Board. TMcl commented that the documentation gave a good insight into what work is being done currently. NH queried work being done with young people around sexual health, DE confirmed that further work is being done in this area.</p>	
2.3	<p><b>Statutory Guidance on Children's Trusts</b> TH outlined the report on the revised Children's Trust statutory guidance to the Board. Legislative changes are to be made in the next few months, which Children's Trusts will be accountable for. Structural changes regarding the relationship between the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Board may need to be made. It is anticipated that new statutory partners will include schools and colleges, however GP's are still not included. Implications for the Board are that we will need an agreed business plan, and will need to follow consistent business processes, including ensuring that Board members abide by Board and Exec group membership agreements and terms of reference.</p> <p>The issue of attendance at meetings was raised and it was highlighted that some board members had not attended any meetings in over a year. TMcl highlighted that any occurrences of regular non-attendance will be addressed via letter from the Chair. Also membership agreements to be checked to ensure all partners have completed and returned them to the Children's Trust Team, and have included named deputies (KH). TC stressed that the Children's Trust Board will be held to account if procedures are not followed.</p> <p>EL offered to look at ways in which GP's could be represented on the Board, and will follow up with PCT</p> <p>KG highlighted the need for more commitment from members to JICU developments, as a number of meetings have been cancelled due to lack of commitment from partners.</p>	KH
2.4	<p><b>Lord Laming Report: The Protection of Children in England</b> GM outlined the main headlines from the report. In future the Safeguarding Board will be required to report to the Children's Trust Board on their progress, and vice versa. DP raised the issue that there may be a conflict of interest in that the Chair of the Safeguarding Board is also a member of the Children's Trust Board. GM to follow this up. Other headlines are that the focus is now on initial contact and assessment points between agencies, and also that police and</p>	GM

	<p>paediatric health needs greater representation within social work assessments. DP informed the meeting that more funding is to be committed to safeguarding, and the PCT have also invested in this area recently.</p>	
3.	<p><b>PRIORITY PLANNING</b></p>	
3.1	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Young People Are Successful When They Leave School</b></p> <p>Lorraine Butcher gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. Work currently being done with young people throughout the borough needs to be examined. The quality of careers guidance needs to be looked at, along with why some areas are more likely to produce young people who are NEET. LB asked the Board for representation on the strategy group to address this. NH queried tracking methods used for the 14 – 19 cohort, and how issues are analysed. LB outlined current methods used, but agreed that closer working is needed with external agencies to record this. LR requested for the College to be included in mapping/collating of data. TMCl stressed the need for closer working between organisations regarding data tracking for young people. KG suggested that Connexions could provide information for out of borough cohort in further education.</p>	
3.2	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Children and Young People Do Well Whatever Their Needs</b></p> <p>Judith Kirk gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. The priority has been looked at from a health, education and social housing aspect. The area of Children in Need has been focussed on, in particular children with compromised parenting. Work is still being done on establishing key milestones. Data analysis is currently being done and an action plan will be produced for the next meeting. Locality working pilot for Grange area will provide opportunity for linking into, along with Safeguarding Board. TH highlighted it was identified that from the feedback from the CYPP consultations that some clear groups of children were not achieving the 5 ECM outcomes, these were children in care, young carers, children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children living in homes where there is domestic abuse. JK agreed that these groups would also need to be examined. NH also suggested that 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector groups could help with developments, so that support is holistic.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Children and Young are Physically, Emotionally and Sexually Healthy.</b></p> <p>Jane Lunt gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. So far JL and Dave Howard have been looking at two different approaches to dealing with current health issues within the borough. 1<sup>st</sup> approach would be building on existing services, eg children's centres and additional family support. 2<sup>nd</sup> approach would be to focus on particular areas where we are not doing well, eg breastfeeding and teenage pregnancy, and prioritise work in these areas. TC highlighted that emotional health was a big issue which came out of the CYPP consultations. DE and JL outlined current</p>	

	work being done by the PCT to improve breastfeeding rates and also maternity services to focus on health of pre-birth children. NH highlighted the need for mental/emotional support for young fathers as they are a forgotten group and often struggle to deal with issues following a partner getting pregnant. JL suggested a 'young dads' worker could be provided via 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector organisations.	
4.	<b>SPECIFIC INFORMATION</b>	
4.1	<u>Children's Trust Executive</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GM asked TH to invite Jobcentre Plus to become members of the Children's Trust Board. TH to prepare letter and sent to GM for signature etc.</li> <li>Operation Stay Safe – GM gave an update on progress. The operation was successful, with good feedback from participants. 12 young people at risk were protected.</li> </ul>	TH
4.2	<u>Parent Carer's Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CP outlined the report from the Parent Carer Forum, which was circulated at the meeting. Report from the Parents Matter Too event to be circulated to the Board, with the minutes from this meeting (KH).</li> <li>The Parent Carer Forum wish to be updated at their next meeting on what services are available via schools for children and young people with regards to sexual health. DE suggested that Sue Forster from PCT be contacted for information.</li> </ul>	KH
4.3	<u>Children &amp; Young People's 3rd Sector Partnership (CYP3SP)</u> Update to be provided at next meeting.	GF
4.4	<u>Health Board</u> Update to be provided at next meeting	DE
4.5	<u>Joint Intelligence &amp; Commissioning Unit (JICU)</u> Currently issues with commitment from members. Report to be brought to next meeting on strengths and weaknesses of the JICU. Children's Trust Board to challenge progress.	TC ALL
4.6	<u>Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) presented by GM</u> Update to be provided at next meeting	AW
4.7	<u>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Report</u> GM updated the meeting on progress. There has been an attempt to renegotiate more realistic LAA targets with Central Government, but no change was agreed.	
	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 1.00 – 4.00pm, Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes	

**AGENDA ITEM NO.**

**REPORT TO:** Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 1 June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Mid-term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide the Board with an amended version of the Sustainable Community Strategy for comment.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Policy and Performance Board considers the draft mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and that any observations or comments the Board makes are reported to Executive Board.**

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

Local Authorities are required to prepare and implement a Sustainable Community Strategy. We are expected to work with partners through the Local Strategic Partnership to agree priorities and to engage and involve local communities. The current Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in 2006. It contains a long-term vision and objectives with delivery targets for the period 2006-2011. Since it was prepared a number of changes have taken place making it necessary to conduct a mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This is an update, not a complete revision. Recent perception surveys and the revised State of the Borough Report (2009) confirm that the underlying vision and priorities from 2006 remain relevant. Widespread engagement has therefore not been undertaken for this mid-term review. However, in 2010/11 work will commence on a full review and roll forward of the strategy with wide engagement, linking up with work being done on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

The main objectives of this mid-term review were:

- i. To explain what our vision statement means – what will Halton be like in 2025 if we are successful? The statutory guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007



requires that a Sustainable Community Strategy should include a long-term vision for the area.

- ii. To review the indicators and targets for each priority. Since the current strategy was produced the National Indicator set and LAA targets have been introduced. The aim is to have a single coherent set of indicators and targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy which encompasses both LAA targets and key local targets.
- iii. Incorporate the Housing and Homelessness Strategy (a requirement of the Statutory Guidance referred to above)
- iv. To ensure that appropriate cross-cutting targets are agreed, covering social inclusion, cohesion, equalities and closing the gap.

#### **4.0 WAY FORWARD**

The attached draft of the mid-term review has been drawn up following consultation with partners and will be considered by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board on 20 May 2009. Any resulting changes will be reported verbally to the Board. The revised Sustainable Community Strategy has to be adopted by full Council (Local Government Act 2000). Following consultation with the Policy and Performance Boards it is planned to take the final draft to the full Council meeting on 22 July with a recommendation from Executive Board for final adoption.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The opportunities and challenges facing Halton are well-known. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the steps we need to take to bring about real improvement and how we will measure progress. The Local Area Agreement is a set of targets agreed with Government which reflects the Community Strategy. The mid-term review is an opportunity to bring these together in a single coherent document.

#### **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the primary policy document for the Council and its partners who have a statutory duty to have regard to it.

#### **7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The delivery of the Strategy will require the application of resources by all the partners in Halton, and consideration of impact on priorities is already part of the Council's budget setting process.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The Community Strategy sets out our priorities for Children and Young People, Employment Learning and Skills, Healthy Halton, Safer Halton and Urban Renewal in Halton.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

The key risk to the revision of the Strategy is lack of consensus. This is mitigated by consulting key partners and Policy and Performance Boards.

The risks to delivery of the Strategy are set out in the Partnership Risk Register.

## **10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Addressing inequality is a key theme in the Strategy.

## **11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **DRAFT V7**

### **MAKING IT HAPPEN IN HALTON – A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE HALTON**

#### **What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?**

A key role for local authorities and their partners is to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area. This should aim to enhance the quality of life of local communities through actions to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area and its inhabitants. They must also:

- allow local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- co-ordinate the actions of the council and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- focus and shape the existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely.

They must have four key components:

- a long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
- an action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
- a shared commitment to implementing the action plan, and proposals for doing so;
- arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan, for periodically reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy, and for reporting progress to local communities.

Sustainable community strategies will reflect local circumstances and needs. They will:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of councillors within and outside an Executive Steering Group;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been prepared in accordance with these principles. It lies as the centrepiece of a portfolio of documents which help define the task for partners in improving life in Halton. The portfolio includes:

- The State of Halton Audit
- Consulting the Communities of Halton
- Priority Baseline Reports
- A Local Development Framework
- A Community Engagement Strategy
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Health
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Community Safety
- The Halton Economic Review

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. Of particular note is the newly emerging relationship between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework. This is the replacement for the Unitary Development Plan, made up of a Core Strategy and individual planning documents for particular areas or issues. It gives a more flexible and responsive approach to planning in Halton.

Importantly, the Local Development Framework takes forward the land use elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It takes into account all of the plans and strategies which affect the quality of life in Halton (such as health, housing and education) and impact upon future development. The Sustainable Community Strategy is based on the socio-economic profile of the borough and listening to the views and aspirations of the local community. The Local Development Framework provides a vehicle through which the planning process can enable these to happen.

## **FOREWORD**

The Halton Strategic Partnership brings together key representatives from all the major organisations that are vital to building a better future for Halton. Its role is to agree on a common purpose and a common sense of direction which is set out in this Sustainable Community Strategy. Having done so, it provides a framework through which organisations, groups and individuals can co-operate to achieve our common goals. The Partnership is committed to making life better for everyone who lives, works, invests or visits the borough.

This is a refresh of Halton's second Sustainable Community Strategy and whilst we can take pride in what has been achieved to date, there is still much more to do. This document sets out a vision of the Halton we would like to see emerge by 2025. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. Those steps concentrate on the things that matter most to most people. The Strategy is about focusing on the issues that will make the biggest difference in the long-term.

This Strategy is relatively short. However, it is based on a significant body of research and consultation. This document outlines some key goals, some headline actions, and a scorecard of key performance measures by which we will be judged. It aims to guide the development and implementation of more detailed plans and actions to be undertaken by the Council, the Police, Health Agencies and others. Everyone has a role to play in making it happen in Halton. Working together we can make a difference and build a better future for the borough.

## INTRODUCTION

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues over the years, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all.

This Sustainable Community Strategy is for all the communities of Halton. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in this plan:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton. However, the strategy also recognises that Halton is not insular or isolated. Halton is an important component in the development of a thriving and successful Liverpool City Region, and more widely in a dynamic and sustainable North West region. Halton can only succeed as part of a successful and thriving North West. This Sustainable Community Strategy builds upon the wider strategic developments which are taking place in the region. Partners from Halton play a key role in shaping sub-regional and regional plans and arrangements. This connectivity – both strategically and operationally – is an important part of the Halton approach.

Halton's local strategic partnership (LSP) – the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed the Strategy. As partners we have built on existing collaboration and are fully committed to working more effectively together and with the community to help improve the quality of life for people in our borough.

This Strategy outlines key goals for the borough, some of the headline actions to be taken, and measures by which progress can be judged. It guides the development of more detailed plans and actions – to be undertaken by the Council, Health Trusts, the Police, Fire Service, community and voluntary sector, and others – whose actions are the important step that makes a difference to people on the ground. We all have a part to play in making it happen.

## **ABOUT THE HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board brings together representatives from all sectors in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area. Local Strategic Partnerships are promoted by the Government and designed to help ensure that action taken at local level by a whole range of groups and organisations is properly 'joined up' and meets the needs of local communities.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, and this Sustainable Community Strategy, provides a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough.

### **Members of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board**

Halton Borough Council  
Cheshire Police  
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust  
Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council  
Halton Housing Partnership  
Halton Sports Partnership  
Riverside College Halton  
Halton Voluntary Action/Community Empowerment Network  
Jobcentre Plus  
North West Development Agency  
Faith Community  
Greater Merseyside Connexions Service  
Halton Association of Secondary Heads  
Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise  
Government Office North West

## **PLANNING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HALTON**

This Sustainable Community Strategy is about what is most important for Halton and about working together to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in the borough. It sets out key priorities and shows the direction we need to progress in together, and gives us challenging improvement targets to work towards. It provides an overall guide and framework for the activities of partners and other organisations in Halton. It will guide the development of more specific plans and projects working across Halton.

To make real progress we will need to pool ideas and resources, and work even more closely and effectively together. Working in partnership and concentrating on what matters most will make the difference in planning a better future for Halton. This includes:

- knowing where we are heading, focusing on the priorities and agreeing clear objectives
- working productively together, sharing understanding of the borough's problems and their root causes, and joining up and co-ordinating our efforts to tackle them
- championing Halton's cause in the wider world, lobbying at regional and national levels, and working with wider UK and European partners for mutual benefit
- learning from experience, finding out and putting into practice what works best
- checking on our achievements, monitoring progress and keeping on track

The process to develop this Strategy was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. Some of the key steps included:

- A review of our achievements since the first Sustainable Community Strategy was launched in 2002, and an honest assessment of how well partnership arrangements have worked
- Commissioning new State of Halton reports to look objectively at statistical conditions and changes and trends in social, economic and environmental conditions
- A major telephone survey of residents was carried out to seek their views on what life is like in Halton
- A review of regional and national strategies, and those of partners, was carried out to assess the likely impact of this activity in Halton



- An inclusive process of debate and discussion on the way forward took place with members, officers, officials and volunteers of all the organisations involved with the partnership
- A thematic assessment of the challenges facing the borough, and a thorough review of outcomes, outputs and targets was carried out. These helped to demonstrate how the strategy and partnership working could make a difference in the future.

This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

## WHAT IS HALTON LIKE?

**Halton is a largely urban area of 119,500 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool.**

Since 2001 the population of Halton has increased steadily to its current estimate of 119,500 (2007) and is projected to continue to increase to 124,200 in 2016. Following national and regional trends, Halton has an ageing population, which is increasingly making up the majority of residents in the borough.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. We have been working to resolve these issues ever since the borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to bring together more wide reaching activities and has increased the resources that the Council and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 30th nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), which is third highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 10th highest in the North West, although this is an improvement on being fifth highest in 2004). Other authorities, St Helens (47th), Wirral (60th) and Sefton (83rd), are all way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 suggests that deprivation has improved in the borough, since ranking 21<sup>st</sup> in 2004 there has been a decrease in 2007 to the 30<sup>th</sup> most deprived Authority in England. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 20% of super output areas) has also decreased from 50% in 2004 to 47 % in 2007. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has improved from 20th worst in England in 2004 to 27<sup>th</sup> in 2007. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Of England's 975 'Super Output Areas', which form the top 3% most deprived areas within England, eight are situated in Halton. The most deprived neighbourhood in Halton is ranked 306th out of 32,482 and is situated in Central Runcorn. Much has been done but clearly there is still much to do. Highlights of the key successes and challenges to date are:

- Claimant unemployment in the borough had fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3% in December 2007, but this was still the 3rd highest claimant count rate in the North West. Due to the current economic climate, recent trends in unemployment have shown a sharp rise over the past twelve months, up to 4.8% in December 2008 and 5.9% in March 2009. The claimant count rate only includes those

people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for July 2007-June 2008 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 6.8% compared to an England average of 5.4%, at a time when claimant unemployment averaged 3.1%.

- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 70.4% in the 2007-2008 Annual Population Survey shows that Halton is in the bottom 12 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.5%.
- Life expectancy in the borough has improved in the past decade. Between 2001-2003 and 2004-2006 female life expectancy in the borough increased from 78.2 years to 78.4 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased over the same time period from 73.9 in 2001-2003 to 74.3 in 2004-2006. This increase in life expectancy in Halton has kept pace with other Authorities. Between 2001 and 2006 Halton has risen from a rank of 374 for females to 370 out of 376 authorities with 376 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has risen from 371 to 356. Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (i.e. worse) out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2006. At 127 it is 27% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the borough are improving, between 1997-2008 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A\*- C increased by 38.3 percentage points to 71.1%. This is now greater than the national rate of 65.3%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 2% in 2008 compared to 1.4% nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with 20% of working age people lacking any qualifications in 2007.

## OUR VISION FOR HALTON

**Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods.**

How Halton will look in 2025 depends on a variety of factors, both local and national. True, the Halton Strategic Partnership will be able to influence the outcome through how successful its joint working on cross cutting issues has been, but the overriding influence will be the state of the national economy at the time and how quickly Halton will have been able to leave the effects of the current recession behind. Recessions traditionally last 12 –18 months on average, but their effects on the economy, employment levels and wealth can take 3 – 4 years to recover their pre-recession position.

Physically, the main change in this period will be the completion of the second Mersey crossing upstream from the existing road bridge. This will help relieve the Borough's road network of the regional traffic currently using and congesting the existing bridge at peak times. The new bridge will help open up sites in the south Widnes/north Runcorn corridor for employment development that could create many hundreds of new jobs taking advantage of the improved traffic flows. 3MG will also be able to capitalise on this extra capacity to establish itself as one of the most computerised transport interchanges in the UK.

However the Borough's success in 2025 will not just be dependent on new physical facilities (not understating their importance) but also on the social, community and environmental characteristics of the time. Halton Strategic Partnership enthusiastically embraces the Government's agenda on such issues as:

- Social inclusion and community cohesion
- Closing the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the most affluent.
- Equality and diversity among the population
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Improving the health of local residents
- Improving life skills and opportunities for Halton residents

Closing the gap between the poorer and richer parts of the Borough embraces many of these issues because the spatial pattern is repeated. The worst health, the lower employment levels and lower skill levels are concentrated in the more deprived areas. Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management with the backing of the Halton Strategic Partnership are very important in tackling these issues.

Paradoxically the gap appears to widen in times of economic growth because at such times all areas improve but the more affluent areas tend to improve more, thereby widening the gap. However when times are harder, for example in the recession, then the gap is less pronounced. This emphasises the importance of intervention as market forces cannot be relied on to narrow the gap.

### **A Healthy Halton**

Of the five priorities, poor health continues to be the one that affects most people, with 33% of Halton's population placed in the worst 4% for health deprivation in England. The cancer rates and life expectancy figures, particularly for women, are among the worst in the country.

To overcome this we envisage a focused effort by all the partners that will improve Halton's overall position by concentrating on the areas with the worst health outcomes. The target will be to reduce early deaths.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

To achieve our vision we will

- Work with partners and the local community to support The Mersey Gateway scheme to fully realise its benefits. This will be a major focus over the coming years
- Provide affordable housing for sale and rent for those who need it most.
- Upgrade and fully utilise the borough's rail, road, commercial waterways and power infrastructure in order to maximise the potential for economic development.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

For children and young people, three specific ambitions have been set, which better define what we are trying to achieve for children and young people. These are that:

- Every Young Person is successful when they leave school
- Children and young people will do well whatever their needs and wherever they live
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

Work will continue on specific responsibilities or issues, which affect specific groups of children or young people. These chosen ambitions are relevant to

all children and encapsulate some of the specific difficulties experienced by particular cohorts of children and young people. Each ambition is a condition of well being for all children and young people that no one single agency can achieve on its own. Rather a coherent partnership approach is vital if we are to succeed in making the necessary difference to each of these outcomes.

### **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - Our long-term vision**

Historically, high economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, have been endemic in the local economy. Progress has been made in recent years but the current economic downturn has meant rising levels of unemployment and inactivity with worklessness rates currently standing at 17.8% in Halton, with some wards experiencing levels as high as 30.6% against a national average of 11.7%.

Our vision is the creation of a strong economy able to compete in the challenging global market. This can only be achieved by targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and creating a strong culture of entrepreneurship. Our target will be to ensure that no area of Halton has unemployment at more than 20% above the borough average and to reduce the number of adults of working age claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.

### **A Safer Halton - Our long-term vision**

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Halton has seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

Taking the successes to date and working to improve on them, the Safer Halton Partnership aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods through coordinated enforcement and communication. Safeguarding adults is a key issue for the partnership, therefore policy and performance is scrutinised by the Safer Halton Partnership Board at every meeting. And whilst further guidance on the National review of 'No Secrets' is still awaited, work on the views of service users and carers, training and protecting adults will continue. Improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved to help shape what happens in their local area is key to the partnership. With the continued provision of Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, the Safer Halton Partnership offers opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference.

## WHAT IS THE FOCUS?

Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough.

Between 2000 and 2009, five separate State of Halton reports have been researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Their findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work. These include:

- Improving Health
- Improving the skills base in the borough
- Improving educational attainment across the borough
- Creating employment opportunities for all
- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling the low wage economy
- Improving environmental assets and how the borough looks
- Creating prosperity and equality of opportunity
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving amenities for all age groups
- Furthering economic and urban regeneration
- Tackling contaminated land
- Creating opportunities/facilities/amenities for children and young people
- Supporting an ageing population
- Minimising waste/increasing recycling/bringing efficiencies in waste disposal
- Increasing focus on community engagement
- Running services efficiently

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to these through the Sustainable Community Strategy. To do this challenges have been grouped into five key themes as set out in the vision, which are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton

- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

Each of these thematic areas has been examined more closely in a series of Baseline Reports, which identify in detail the issues where we need to concentrate our improvement efforts. The Partnership intends to focus heavily on these key issues and to focus its future investment into achieving the challenging targets in each chosen theme.

To help do this, five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) have been established. Their task is to design and deliver strategies and action plans to address priorities. Their plans are based on the information from the Baseline Reports and on the expertise of the Partnership members. Each of the five major themes is addressed in turn in the next part of this Strategy.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. Each Area Forum has dedicated resources to draw on to help deliver improvements in their area and expenditure proposals are expected to support one or more of the five priorities.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Sustainable Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.



## **A Healthy Halton**

**Our overall aim:** To create a healthier community and work to promote well being and a positive experience of life with good health, not simply an absence of disease, and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

### **Why Health?**

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country. Because of this health has been singled out as a priority in most urgent need of improvement across the borough. As previously discussed the population in Halton is ageing which could put even greater demands on health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough especially amongst the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- B. To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by increasing community engagement in health issues and promoting autonomy.
- C. To reduce the burden of disease and preventable causes of death in Halton by reducing smoking levels, alcohol consumption and by increasing physical activity, improving diet and the early detection and treatment of disease.
- D. To respond to the needs of an ageing population by addressing the needs of older people, improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- E. To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

### **Background**

The recent State of the Borough Report identifies Halton as one of the most deprived districts in England. In terms of health deprivation the borough currently ranks 371<sup>st</sup> out of 408 districts in the country. The Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies 53 'Super Output Areas' in Halton that fall within the top 20% of most health deprived wards nationally and that approximately 40,000 people (33% of the population) live in the top 4% most health deprived wards in England.

When compared with other areas in England, Halton is within the worst 10% of areas for life expectancy. In particular female life expectancy is the third

worst in England (78.4). Male life expectancy (74.3) is also 3 years less than the national average.

The two biggest killers in Halton are heart disease and cancer. Heart disease is still the single biggest cause of premature death in Halton, and more people have it in this borough than they do in other boroughs across the country. For those under 75, men are more likely to have heart disease than women.

In terms of cancer, Halton has the worst early death rate in the country (167.8 per 100,000 population). Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Halton. There has also been a steady increase in the number of women developing breast cancer and death rates from the disease have increased recently. Breast cancer is the second largest cause of cancer death in Halton.

Some of the reasons why Halton residents suffer disproportionately high death rates from major causes of death include poor diet, high smoking rates and inadequate levels of physical activity.

In recent years, the burden of ill health caused by alcohol consumption has also increased significantly. Recent statistics show that approximately 24% of adult residents in Halton binge drink. Whilst twice as many men as women drink above safe limits the number of women doing so has increased significantly from 6.9% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2006.

The latest Alcohol Profiles for England show that Halton is amongst some of the worst districts in the country in terms of months of life lost due to alcohol, alcohol specific and attributable mortality and hospital admissions due to alcohol.

In 2003 the Halton Health Partnership appointed a team of consultants from Lancaster University to examine the reasons for Halton's poor health record. Whilst there was much speculation around the role of Halton's industrial legacy and existing levels of pollution, the study revealed that economic, social and lifestyle factors were largely responsible for the high rates of illness and death.

When taking these factors into consideration, it becomes easier to understand why some communities suffer disproportionately from poorer health than others. Therefore, we would expect to set specific neighbourhood targets where appropriate.

During 2008 Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust produced two key documents, 'Ambition for Health' and the 'Commissioning Strategic Plan'.

Ambition for Health is a key document for Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust in terms of improving the health of the local population. The document sets out key "ambitions" that are based on understanding of the needs of the local population. These are as follows:

- To support a healthy start in life
- To reduce poor health that results from preventable causes
- To ensure that when people do fall ill from some of the major diseases, they get the best care and support
- To provide services which meet the needs of vulnerable people
- To make sure people have excellent access to services and facilities
- To play our part in strengthening disadvantaged communities

Following on from this Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust then produced the Commissioning Strategic Plan. This document turns the Ambition for Health goals into action by delivering transformational change in a number of key areas that support the strategic priorities.

The six priority areas identified in the Commissioning Strategic Plan are:

- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Early detection: Diabetes, respiratory, heart disease, cancer
- Early Detection: Depression
- Prevention: Tobacco Control
- Safety, Equality and Efficiency: Planned and Urgent Care

In addition to this, addressing the wider determinants of ill health is a key issue for Halton if it is to effectively respond to national and local targets. This will mean working across partnerships to achieve our goals. The list below highlights some of the areas where further joint working is required:

- Taking steps to reduce unemployment in areas with poor health statistics
- Improving educational attainment and increasing access to training opportunities for those living in deprived areas
- Improving the quality and provision of social housing
- Improving access to services such as social and leisure facilities, supermarkets, health services and transport.
- Understanding how knowledge and perceptions of health related issues can affect the local population
- Reducing social isolation
- Reducing crime and improving community safety
- Maximising community resources and facilitating effective community engagement and participation

Individuals also have a role to play in improving their own health and well being. Lifestyle factors such as a poor diet, smoking, and lack of exercise can all have a negative impact on an individual's health. Actions and services aimed at increasing participation in sport and leisure activities and promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle can contribute towards improving the health of local people. However, whilst agencies can work together to improve access, affordability, and quality of services, it is also important to encourage local residents to play an active role in improving their own health.

Well being is about more than health. It is about the ability to enjoy a range of activities that actually make life worth living. This is about having access and the ability to enjoy culture in all its forms - sport, arts, libraries, leisure, entertainment, hobbies, friends and family, and shopping. We aim to enhance these opportunities for people. Happy people are more likely to be healthy people and vice versa.

We therefore also need to address all of the determinants of mental health and well-being for different population groups. Children and young peoples emotional and mental well-being is addressed within Children's Trust structures.

### **Linkages to other priorities**

#### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

A high quality built environment is an important contributory factor in determining the health and well-being of local people. Good quality, accessible buildings, served by a good quality transport infrastructure create a more vibrant community where people are proud to live and work. In turn this contributes to the health and well-being of local residents.

#### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Improving the health and well-being of children and young people is a key priority. Being healthy as a child can have an influence on long term health outcomes. The Healthy Halton Specialist Strategic Partnership works closely with the Children and Young Peoples partnership to address issues such as childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy. In addition low educational attainment is one of the key determinants of poor health outcomes and leads to many health inequalities within neighbourhoods.

#### **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Improving access to employment opportunities is a key determinant in improving the health of the local population. Being in employment increases choice and opportunity and enhances quality of life. Areas of high unemployment are shown to have higher levels of poor health therefore anything we can do to increase wealth creating factors within those communities will automatically improve health outcomes. Linked to this is the need to increase access to learning opportunities and offering people the chance to improve their skills thereby improving their chance of gaining employment.

#### **A Safer Halton**

Personal experience of crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and well-being. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods. One of the key areas for both the Health Partnership and the Safer Halton Partnership is the current issues surrounding alcohol harm. Both partnerships are working together to address these issues.

## Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Health

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase adult participation in sport from 20.13% (2006 baseline) to 24.02% :Sport NI8
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates from 2180 (07/08 baseline) to 2323 in 2009/2010 and 2309 in 2010/2011: Alcohol harm NI 39
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 (07/08 baseline) to 544: Drug Treatment NI 40
- Increase the prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth from 12.1% (Quarter 2 2008) to 23%: Breastfeeding NI 53
- Reduce the number of primary school age children who are obese from 22.4% to 21.3%: Obesity NI 56
- Reduce the conception rate in girls under 18 by 55%, compared to 1998: Conception: NI 112
- Reducing the proportion of young people frequently misusing substances from a baseline of 12.6% in 07/08, to a target of 9.8% by 2010/2011: Substance Misuse NI 115
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for Males from 906 per 100,000 population (07/08 baseline) to 755 and females from 673 (07/08 baseline) to 574: Life expectancy: NI 120
- Smoking- Increase the number of people age 16+ who have stopped smoking from 914 per 100,000 population (07/08 baseline) to 1128: Lifestyle: NI 123
- Improve the number of people over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently from 30.4% (2008 base) to 32.8%: Independent living: NI 139
- Improve the number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living from a Baseline in 07/08 of 98.17%, to a target of 99.04% in 2011: NI 142
- No. of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment – target to be set by March 2010.: Mental Health: NI150

### Local targets

- ***Reduce the death rate (in under 75s) by 57% (from 2009-11) (???)  
A slightly over ambitious!): Circulatory Disease:***
- Reduce the death rate (in under 75s) by 25% (from 2009-11): Cancer
- Increase the number of people with a long term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition from 43% (07/08 baseline) to 49% (2010/2011): Managing long term conditions: NI 124

## **Halton's Urban Renewal**

**Our Overall aim:** To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

### **Why Urban Renewal?**

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough. This is why Urban Renewal is Halton Borough Council's second most important priority.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness;
- B. To promote regional employment sites at 3MG, Daresbury and the Widnes Waterfront;
- C. To secure the commencement of the construction of the Mersey Gateway bridge;
- D. To revitalise the town centres; to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors;
- E. To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet people's expectations and add to their enjoyment of life;
- F. To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces, so that opportunity and need are matched, and provide excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links;
- G. To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image.

### **Background**

Halton helped maintain the momentum of the industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was a cradle to both invention and innovation. Reflecting this industrial and manufacturing history, Halton has a legacy of ageing infrastructure, obsolete and redundant buildings, a relatively poor built and

natural environment, an overly mature housing stock and an under-provision of modern amenities to support a far more discerning population.

Much has already been achieved to green the environment, both within the town centres and at our gateway approaches. Town centres have experienced new private sector investment, whilst small businesses have taken advantage of grant assistance to rejuvenate tired, rundown or unproductive premises. Award-winning leisure facilities have been provided around the borough and new housing and jobs are being provided because of the confidence in Halton's future.

The business environment is expanding thanks to developments on the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Daresbury, The Heath and the key infrastructure development of the Mersey Gateway river crossing:

- The Widnes Waterfront is located in South Widnes, fronting onto the River Mersey. The programme aims to regenerate 80 ha., of low quality industrial land, supported by a cocktail of funding opportunities. Work includes commercial, retail and leisure developments, together with environment, infrastructure and public realm enhancements - all of which will have been completed by 2015. This programme has been identified as a North West Strategic Site and supports the borough's Employment, Learning & Skills priority amongst others;
- 3MG (Mersey Multi-modal Gateway) in Ditton is quickly becoming a regionally and nationally significant intermodal freight park which anticipates an approximate total investment of £100m. This major scheme will create up to 5,000 new jobs and 3 million sq.ft of rail-related distribution facilities by 2015. In addition, the Stobart Group have acquired the Mersey Gateway Port at Weston in Runcorn, which will offer an integrated transport and logistics facility;
- The Mersey Gateway project will provide a landmark new bridge over the River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes. It will transform the borough of Halton, improve the lives of local people and create new opportunities for business and investment in Halton, Cheshire, the Liverpool city-region, the north west and beyond. The new bridge will cross the river 1.5km east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), be a tolled crossing, have three lanes in each direction and be linked to the major road systems in the area, keeping traffic moving and raising the profile of the borough. The Mersey Gateway bridge is due to open to the public in 2014 and will overcome one of the biggest congestion problems in the region. Modifications will be made to the existing SJB to improve facilities for local public transport, walking and cycling;
- The Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy will support and promote significant developments in both Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres, continuing regeneration programmes such as the Canal Quarter (Runcorn), Ashley Retail Park and Windmill Centre (Widnes), which are under way in both towns;



- The Daresbury Science & Innovation Centre is a state-of-the-art facility offering high quality office, workshop and laboratory space. The Innovation Centre aims to bring together science and technology-based businesses into an innovative scientific environment. The building provides facilities and specialist support critical to young businesses whether at the creation, growth or acceleration stages of their development.

Exciting new expansion developments are also anticipated at The Heath Business Park and the Halton Lea and Widnes retail areas.

Halton together with our partners in St.Helens and Warrington has been awarded Growth Point Status. This will help foster increasing partnership working across traditional boundaries, better integrating the provision of new housing and employment opportunities across the sub-region whilst promoting sustainable development and the timely provision of supporting infrastructure (including Green Infrastructure).

Two large sites for private sector-residential developments in the borough over the past decade have been at Upton Rocks, Widnes and Sandymoor, Runcorn. The focus of these developments has been a concentration on the executive end of the housing market, in order to encourage managerial and professional socio-economic groups to move to the borough. However, land remediation has cleared the way for housing development at Halebank and plans are being progressed to develop residential accommodation at the Canal Quarter in Runcorn, where leisure and retail facilities will also be delivered along the banks of the Bridgewater Canal. In addition, a £130 million major sustainable regeneration programme is taking place in Castlefields, where high quality mixed-tenure housing is replacing grim deck access flats. The existing local centre will be demolished and redeveloped to create a new community hub centred around a Village Square, offering shops, residential accommodation and health and community facilities – all amidst many and varied environmental and leisure enhancements, including the very successful Phoenix Park. Further housing renewal opportunities have been identified including areas of Runcorn New Town and West Bank, Widnes.

The creation and maintenance of high quality places and spaces that support a twenty- first century economy and lifestyles which are accessible and well connected, is a pre-requisite of Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Urban Renewal Strategy. Much of this is dependent upon the borough's extensive expertise for land reclamation, which has been developed out of need to address and overcome the borough's legacy of contamination from the chemicals industry. This is detailed in the Borough's Contaminated Land Remediation Strategy.

Land is being reclaimed at the rate of approximately 10 hectares per annum. Much of this reclamation is located on the historical chemical sites adjacent to and part of the Widnes Waterfront. For example, Moss Bank Park and further additions to the Trans Pennine trail have been completed adding valuable

amenity space within a modern industrial environment. Development of new 'Alternative Technologies' by Halton, to make safe the severe contamination on these sites, will provide the economic solution to bring forward significant industrial and intermodal developments in the borough, e.g. as in the Widnes Waterfront and the 3MG Intermodal Logistics Park.

Environmental improvements and better quality open spaces, in addition to a better quality built environment and transport offer, are vital as steps to promote Halton's assets. A positive image is a key requirement if we are to boost the confidence and aspirations of local people and business.

## **Linkages to Other Priorities**

### **A Healthy Halton**

Providing a better, cleaner and greener built environment where employment and leisure opportunities are fostered and resident prosperity overcomes health issues associated with deprivation. Improved access to hospitals.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Creating an environment that provides the basis in which our children are able to flourish

### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Developing employment opportunities for all in a thriving business environment where skills meet business needs. Improved access to further education facilities

### **A Safer Halton**

Instilling pride in our local community where residents feel safe and cherish their neighbourhoods, wishing to help eradicate violence and unsocial elements

## **Improvement Targets**

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Urban Renewal

By 2011 we aim to:

- Assist in raising residents' overall satisfaction with the area from 70% in 2008 to 73.4% in 2010. (baseline and target provisional pending publication of final places survey data): Residents' Satisfaction NI 5
- Reduce per capita CO2 emissions within the local authority area, from 10.1 tonnes per capita in 2007/08, (based on Defra 2005 data) to 8.98 tonnes per capita, by 2010/11 (based on Defra 2008 data): Climate Change NI 186
- Ensure 34% of municipal waste is recycled or composted in the local authority by 2010/11, from 25.1% in 2007/08: Waste NI 192

- Build additional homes within Halton, at an annual rate of 518 between 2008/2009 and 2010/2011: Housing NI 154
- Improve access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Targets set for access to Whiston and Warrington Hospitals (100%) and Runcorn and Widnes comprises of Riverside College (89% and 93% respectively): Transport NI 175

### **Local Indicators**

- ***Assist in achieving an increase in the numbers of jobs in Halton by?????***
- Annually, to bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use;
- Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge;

## **Children and Young People in Halton**

**Our Overall Aim:** Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, and are ready to be Halton's present and Halton's future

### **Why Children and Young People?**

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is self-evident that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed.

### **Key Objectives**

Halton's Children's Trust has identified three entrenched areas, where a strong partnership approach is needed to improve outcomes for children and young people. These will form the foundation for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12. These areas under which the key outcomes can be clustered, are:

- A. Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
- B. Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy
- C. Young people are successful when they leave school

### **Background**

Development in early childhood, success while at school through educational and other achievement, and the acquisition of important, employable skills, are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to access employment, the income they earn, their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life.

The Government policy, Every Child Matters: Change for Children, describes a vision of improving outcomes for all children and young people and narrowing the gap between those who do well and those who do not. In Halton, as elsewhere, this requires radical change in the whole system of children's services including:

- The improvement and integration of front line services - in early years settings, schools, the health service and play and recreation - and to raise standards of achievement for all learners

- More specialised help to promote opportunity, prevent problems and act early and effectively if and when problems arise
- The further development of services around children, young people and families through the delivery of better and more easily accessible services may involve co-location through, for example, extended schools, children's centres, and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams
- Dedicated and enterprising leadership striving for the highest standards at all levels of the system
- The development of a shared sense of responsibility across agencies for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm
- Listening to children, young people and their families when assessing and planning service provision, as well as in face-to-face delivery

To bring about improvement in the life chances and employment prospects for children and young people in Halton, we need to remove socio-economic barriers to early development, and deliver the Every Child Matters agenda through the Children's Trust, and through better joint commissioning and integrated delivery of services through the widely agreed Children's and Young People's Plan.

The key agencies that have an impact on children and young people need to build on existing cooperation. Firstly we need to develop policies based on evidence of what works most effectively that are focused on delivering the outcomes highlighted above. Then we must create a model of what measures and services to enhance life chances and employment need to be like to make the most positive impact in Halton. Finally, we should devise an action plan to make any changes needed to shift from the measures and services that exist now, to what they need to be in the future.

### **Linkages to other Priorities**

#### **A Healthy Halton**

Children's health is a key priority mainly because being healthy is the best basis from which children can go on and develop throughout their lives. Education is a key influence on health and affects health-related behaviour such as smoking, drinking, drugs and exercise. To tackle the issues such as obesity and teenage pregnancy in Halton, Children and Young People work closely with the Health Partnership to ensure there is a joined up approach.

#### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Investment in Halton's urban fabric and infrastructure will help to make Halton a place where our children and young people will want to live as adults. Also the provision of access to quality transportation links for education and leisure opportunities is a key priority.

### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training will involve close working with partners from Employment, Learning & Skills. Employment opportunities and training offers a number of key options to our young people post-16 as they look for the best pathway going forward.

### **A Safer Halton**

The provision of pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhoods will provide children and young people with a safe environment in which to play, grow and prosper. Providing positive activities for young people are delivered through the Safer Halton Partnership to discourage crime and anti social behaviour.

### **Improvement Targets**

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Children & Young People

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase the stability of placements for looked after children from 69% in 2008 to 81.5% by 2011: Children in Care NI 63
- Reduce the proportion of children in poverty from 27% in 2008 to 24.2% by 2011: Children in Poverty NI 116
- Reduce obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 from 22.4% in 2008 to 21.3% by 2011: Child Obesity NI 56
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 55% by 2011 from the 1998 figure: Teenage Pregnancy NI 112
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 from 33.5% in 2008 to 42.2% by 2011: Level 3 Qualification NI 80
- Reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment from 11.5% in 2008 to 7.7% by 2011: NEET NI 117
- Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 from 249 in 2007/08 to 234 by 2010/11: First time entrants NI 111
- Reduce substance misuse rates by young people from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses NI 115

**Local indicator**

- Reduce the 5 A\*-C GCSEs, including English and Maths, attainment in Halton gap by 25% between those living in the worst 10% LSOAs nationally and the Halton average by 2011 (currently 36% vs. 49%).
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: Road Traffic Fatality NI 48

## **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**Our overall aim:** To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, enterprise and business growth, and improves the opportunities for learning and development together with the skills and employment prospects of both residents and workforce so that they are able to feel included socially and financially.

### **Why Employment, Learning and Skills?**

A robust economy lays the foundation for any prosperous and successful place and provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. Historically, in Halton there has been a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people, low rates of entrepreneurship and high levels of welfare dependency, meaning that opportunity and need are out of balance and contributing to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector together with a renewed commitment to creating sustainable employment, and high quality learning and skills opportunities to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity
- B. To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce
- C. To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work
- D. To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy.
- E. To maximise an individual's potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services.

### **Background**

Despite a range of local and national initiatives, Halton is still characterised by widespread deprivation. Attainment at school, in further education and the acquisition of employable skills are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to get a job, on the income they earn, on their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life. This means that the creation of a strong economy able to compete in today's challenging global market can only be achieved by continuing targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and a strong culture of entrepreneurship.



Research shows that the skill base of the local area is relatively poor compared to Great Britain as a whole and to other surrounding local economies. Halton has a relatively low percentage of adults with further education qualifications and a high number of adults experiencing problems with numeracy and literacy. Looking to the future, estimates indicate that the majority of new jobs will require some form of recognised education qualification. Over 95% of new jobs will need qualifications of at least NVQ 2 level and over 70% at NVQ 3 and above. In addition, in an increasingly technologically developed society and in a borough where up to 30% of adults experience some form of difficulty with literacy there is a danger that a digital divide is created between those able to access and navigate jobs and services and those who cannot.

High economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, are endemic in the local economy. Halton continues to display higher than average rates of benefit dependency, whilst at the same time many people are not claiming their full entitlements which would enable them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Targeted information, advice and advocacy are crucial to allow people to access the support, whether related to work or to benefits, they need for the benefit of both themselves and local economy.

The Halton economy is heavily reliant upon a narrow range of industry sectors and, in common with the rest of the UK, is becoming susceptible to national and global pressures, which may have a negative effect upon the business sector, employment opportunities and could increase the numbers of individuals and families at risk of becoming financially and socially at risk.

## **Linkages to Other Priorities**

### **A Healthy Halton**

Being out of work or suffering financial exclusion have been shown to be significant contributors to health inequalities, whilst being in employment has been proven to have significant benefits for an individual's physical and mental health. By providing opportunities for skills, training and employment and enabling people to move from inactive benefits to employment, the Employment, Learning and Skills priority contributes towards improving the Health and mental wellbeing of Halton's residents.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Halton residents will need a high quality, responsive skills and training infrastructure to take full advantage of the new opportunities for employment and business development being afforded through Halton's programme of Urban Renewal.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

In addition to the importance of attainment at school, it is vital that Children and Young People are offered a wide range of good quality learning, skills

and employment opportunities in order for them to fulfil their potential to succeed and to ensure that they are not at risk of poverty or financial disadvantage.

### **A Safer Halton**

By enabling people to become engaged in employment, learning and skills opportunities, they are encouraged to move away from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime. The Employment, Learning and Skills priority aims to ensure that positive progression routes to training and employment are available to all Halton residents to enable them to improve their life chances.

### **Improvement Targets**

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

By 2011, our aim is that:

- The proportion of working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods is reduced from 31.5% in 2007/2008 to 28.5% by 2010/2011: Benefits NI 153
- The proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher is increased from 60.1% in 2007/2008 to 67.5% by 2010/2011: Level 2 Qualification NI 163
- Maintain the VAT registration rate at 42.8% by 2010/2011: VAT Registration NI 171

### **Local Indicators**

- The proportion of adults with no qualifications is reduced by 15%
- Increase the proportion of adults qualified to level 3 by 25%
- Increase average household income in Halton to more than 90% of the national average
- ***Increase the rate of self-employment by 20% compared to 20XX?***
- Ensure unemployment in any LSOA is less than 20% above the borough average

## **A SAFER HALTON**

**Our overall aim:** To ensure pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

### **Why a Safer Halton?**

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

### **Key Objectives**

- A.** To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- B.** To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause
- C.** To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- D.** To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms
- E.** To reduce the levels of crime that disproportionately affects some of the more deprived areas within the borough

### **Background**

The Safer Halton Partnership has a wide-ranging remit focused on two major concerns of Halton people. Crime and the local environment have consistently been two areas the public have raised as high priorities in successive consultations over the last few years.

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Recent years have seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

At the same time, whilst general satisfaction levels with Halton as a place to live have risen, it is the condition of their local environment which is of most concern to residents. Therefore, the Strategy aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods. This is about improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved in helping to shape what happens in their local area. Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, offer opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference. They also help make the police, council and others more accountable to residents, check that the priorities are right; that they respond to local concerns, and will take more effective action against the issues that most impact on their quality of life.

Tackling the causes as well as the symptoms of neighbourhood issues are a responsibility shared by all partners. Increasingly, they will look to better co-ordinate their activity through neighbourhood management arrangements to have a greater impact. This will increase the effectiveness of work that can prevent and intervene early in the conditions which lead to dissatisfaction.

### **Linkages to other priorities**

#### **A Healthy Halton**

Personal experience of crime or anti social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and mental wellbeing. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods.

#### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

When designing and planning new buildings such as housing estates and shopping areas, it is important that we consider community safety issues and design out crime. This may be through better lighting, CCTV, removing inappropriate planting etc

#### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Providing positive activities for young people and raising their aspirations will make them less likely to commit crime or anti social behaviour. Working with young people and their families is vital if we are to change behaviour, where their behaviour has already become a problem.

#### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Creating employment opportunities and training for residents to access jobs is key to driving down crime. In particular those who have already committed crime, or have drug and alcohol problems are much less likely to re-offend if they can gain employment.

## Improvement Targets

Halton LAA Indicators relating to a Safer Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Raise residents overall satisfaction with their local area from 70% in 2008 to 73% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of the final places survey data) awaiting Places Survey data): Overall satisfaction NI5
- Creating a strong environment for a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector – Increase third sector satisfaction from 22.2% (2007/8) to 29.7% (2010/11): Thriving third Sector NI 7
- Reduce serious acquisitive crime from 16 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 15 per 1000 population by 2010/11: Serious acquisitive crime NI 16
- Reduce the perceptions of anti social behaviour from 24% in 2008 to 21% by 10/11: Perceptions of anti social behaviour NI 17
- Reduce the assault with injury crime rate by 75% compared to 2008/09: Assault with injury NI 20
- **Reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders from 19% in 07/08 to XX by 2010/11 (Target to be set based on the relevant cohort): Re-offending rate NI 30**
- Reduce the repeat incidents of domestic abuse from 127 in 2007/08 to 108 by 2010/11: Repeat incidents of domestic violence NI 32
- Reduce the number of arson incidents from 1277 in 2007/08 to 855 by 2010/11: Arson NI 33
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11 : Alcohol related hospital admissions NI 39
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 in 07/08 to 544 by 10/11: Drug users in effective treatment NI 40

## Local Target

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: People killed or seriously injured NI 47
- Reduce by 10% the number of incidents of anti social behaviour in the worst 5 super output areas by 2010/11 from a 2007/8 baseline

## **Cross Cutting Issues**

### **Introduction**

The Sustainable Community Strategy is concerned with addressing local needs in order to make the 2025 vision a reality. This strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promote positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, including more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. At the same time a number of issues that cut across the key priority areas contained within this Strategy must be kept in mind as we meet the challenges faced within each priority area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership wants to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims. Our approach will be guided by the following principles:

- Anti-discrimination
- Equality of opportunity
- Independence not dependence
- Individual needs
- Accountability
- Integration
- Involvement in decision making

The people of Halton and a focus on their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. Analysing needs allows us to anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

### **(a) Respect and Enjoyment**

The communities of Halton have a strong sense of community identity and belonging. They also tolerate and respect differences, and believe in 'live and let live'. Co-operation, collaboration and helpfulness are vital. There needs to be plenty of things to do and places to go - culture, leisure, sport, community, shopping - for all members of the community, young and old alike. People should feel their chances in life are good and crime, drugs or anti-social behaviour does not taint their lives.

**(b) Thriving Places**

The local economy has to flourish and provide a range of opportunities for all Halton people for both training and work. The economic infrastructure has to be top quality with a variety of land and premises (industrial, commercial and retail) available to support economic prosperity, growth and change. In addition, we want to see a strong business sector, which feels valued locally, and is well supported to create new enterprises and new jobs which can benefit local people.

**(c) Well Planned**

We need to retain a clear sense of place and retain features that make Halton distinctive. We want to see buildings and open spaces that are accessible, well designed and of the highest quality. Places and spaces that are safe, valued and promote a feeling of well-being. The housing market has to be dynamic and inclusive with a range of options available that are affordable for local people.

**(d) Accessibility**

People make places work, and all the communities and facilities of Halton (jobs, schools, town centres, health) need to be well connected and well served by the transport network. We need appropriate levels of car parking in the right places, a well managed and maintained road network, and a properly functioning public transport network to help people get about and reduce car dependency. We need to further develop opportunities for walking and cycling, and ensure our connection to the outside world through motorways, railways, ports and airports remain excellent. The further development of technology and digital opportunities will also enable Halton to be more accessible to the world.

**(e) Well Served**

People need to have good access to a range of services that are appropriate to their needs and that make their lives worthwhile. This includes good schools, further and higher education opportunities and lifelong learning, high quality health, leisure and social care facilities, including quality services for vulnerable adults, children and families. In addition a good range of information, advice and signposting is needed, and wherever possible services should be situated together to make access easier.

**(f) Well Run**

There has to be a sense of pride, responsibility and civic values which present themselves in a place that is well governed and managed. This includes democratic, representative and accountable governance through Halton Borough Council with community wellbeing at its heart. It also encompasses effective community engagement and enabling active participation by local people in the decisions that affect their lives. A strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector is a sign of success along with effective partnerships that lead by example.

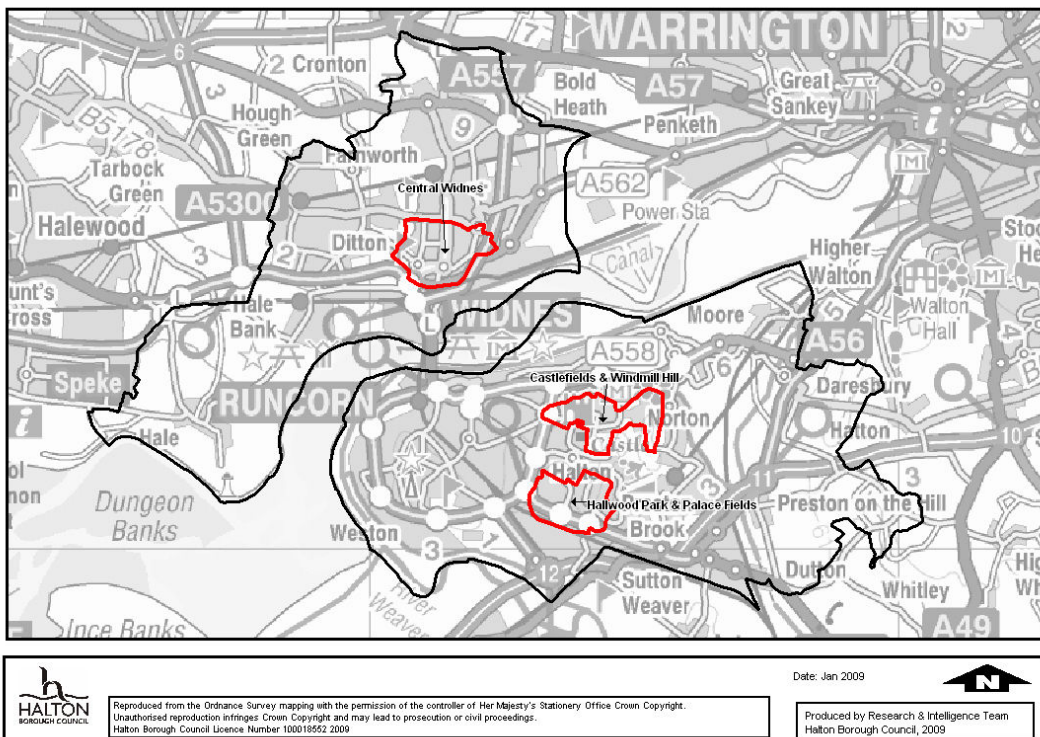
The objectives and targets outlined in this Strategy and all the improvements aspired to need to be adequately resourced in order to make happen. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the Borough.

## Issues

### 1. Social Exclusion

This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods.

Since 2006 Halton has received ring-fenced funding from the 'neighbourhood element' part of the then Safer & Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. The money is to develop Neighbourhood Management in those areas of the Borough that fall within the 3% most deprived nationally under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2005. The funding runs until 2010. In Halton work is focused on three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which falls within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill. The map below shows the boundaries for these 3 neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood Management is designed to help close the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the rest, with regards to health, education, employment and crime. The development of neighbourhood management in Halton is being directed by a strategic partnership board that



consists of many of the key local service providers and partners. This board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

One key example of this is the effort to reduce worklessness in the neighbourhood management areas. The gap between out of work benefit claimants within the neighbourhood management areas and Halton overall had reduced since 2006, but has increased slightly in the last months, probably as a result of the economic downturn.

According to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2007 Halton has again improved its overall deprivation score but it remains amongst the 30 most deprived areas of England. Halton has become less deprived overall on a national scale but the gap between the most affluent and deprived areas of the borough is growing. Serious progress must be made to increase wealth and to narrow the gap for those who are most disadvantaged if residents are to enjoy the quality of life that many others take for granted.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation have diminished in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency, which may increase in the current economic climate. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. Halton is also characterised by high levels of personal debt, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

## **2. Economic Climate**

The adverse economic climate now has major implications for us all. The Halton Strategic Partnership has a role to put in place measures to support residents and businesses and where possible provide intervention measures to try and prevent house repossessions, loss of jobs, etc. Where they do occur we need to ensure services are there to help pick up the pieces, whether this is access to training, benefits, debt advice, target hardening against burglary, alcohol abuse support or counselling.

On top of the implications of the current economic climate on the residents of Halton, there are implications for partners in terms of meeting its Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets by March 2011. Several of Halton's LAA indicators are likely to be severely affected by the current climate, with others indirectly impacted upon.

### **3. Climate Change**

Halton has adopted a climate change indicator, per capita CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, as part of its LAA. This cross cutting indicator includes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic housing, business and the public sector and road transport. Local, regional and national partners and organisations will work together to encourage and influence residents, businesses and other organisations to make CO<sub>2</sub> reductions and also to put our own house in order.

There has already been much progress around tackling climate change. Halton is committed to the Carbon Strategy and Reduction Plan and a target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> by 20% by 2015. As part of the strategy, we have invested in a number of areas to reduce energy costs and consequently CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions.

### **4. Sustainability**

The goal of sustainable development – integrating and improving environmental, economic and social outcomes both now and in the future – is at the heart of the strategy. This Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of Halton through to 2025 that will contribute to the overall sustainable development across the UK.

Part of Halton's success has been its ability to change and evolve, and its resilience in the face of adversity. It has had to cope with the loss of much of the manufacturing industry it formerly depended on. The effect of this was dramatic, leading to population loss and a legacy of deprivation across the communities of Halton. However, the position has stabilised and welcome signs of an improvement can now be seen. This resilience is the key to the future. The Halton Strategic Partnership sees this as one of the strengths on which a sustainable future can be built.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

### **5. Equality & Diversity**

Building stronger communities through community engagement must be a key outcome for the strategy. There has been much progress in this area of work since 2006. For example, an Equalities and Community Cohesion Group now meets regularly and reports to the Halton Strategic Partnership.

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment.

This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression and looks to enhance quality of life by supporting individuals and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion. Our policies apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated, valued and able to participate fully and constructively in the life of the local community. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate

to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

## 6. Population

Following national and regional trends, Halton's population continues to age with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population:

**Younger people (0-14 year olds):**

projected to grow by 2% (2006-2021).

**Working age (15-64 year olds):**

projected to decline by 2% (2006-2021).

**Older people (65+):**

projected to grow by 43% from 16,400 in 2006 to 23,500 in 2021.

The growth in older people will increase the demands for both formal and informal support. While small decreases in the working age population mean there are fewer people to provide and pay for this additional support.

## 7. Housing

The priorities set out within the Halton Housing Strategy 2009-11 mirror the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is recognised that many housing objectives can make a contribution to more than one of the Sustainable Community Strategy's aims and objectives. This is a summary of some of the main areas that link to the Sustainable Community Strategy. A full breakdown of these areas is set out in the table attached to the Housing Strategy.

The Government and the regional housing board have identified the "big issues" for housing for the next decade. Halton does not necessarily exhibit these problems to the same degree as other areas, so the challenge for Halton is to develop solutions and secure resources for local problems that are not reflected in national or regional policy.

Partnership working will be key to this process and we will endeavour to work with partners across local authority boundaries to seek joint solutions to common issues and to help shape sub regional policy.

There is an emerging affordability issue in the Borough, caused by the relationship between house prices and local incomes. Consequently the demand for social rented housing has increased in recent years but the number of available social rented dwellings has declined. Equally the private rented sector cannot fully meet the demands of those unable to afford to buy or access social rented housing due to low supply and high rents.

Other housing demand issues include a mismatch between demand for private sector terraced housing and the number of terraces available (which could result in market decline in poorer areas) and the predicted demographic change in the elderly population which is likely to result in increased demand for supported housing and related services.

In terms of housing condition, the private sector is generally in good condition although there are concentrations of older terraced housing with the potential to fall into decline without investment by the owners. The condition of privately rented property is generally poorer.

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are on target to meet the 2010 target of making all homes decent, which in turn should improve energy efficiency. Although vacancy levels are generally comparable with national and regional figures the proportion of private sector dwellings vacant for more than six months is a growing cause for concern.

Overcrowding is higher in the social rented than owner occupied sectors, though there is potential to alleviate this through making better use of the housing stock.

In relation to local populations and communities, Halton has a very small Black and Minority ethnic population, although the demographics of that population are rapidly changing due to Eastern European migration.

Although homelessness remains an issue in Halton, the number of presentations has dropped considerably since the last Housing Strategy was produced. Recent prevention service developments for homeless people are proving successful and should have a positive impact on acceptances and the number of people in temporary accommodation.

Worklessness is an issue on many social housing estates across Halton and the Council is working with RSL partners to develop projects aimed at tackling worklessness on these estates.

The Council is improving provision for Gypsies and Travellers in accordance with the recommendations of the Cheshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, with the development of a 14 pitch transit site.

Supply and demand analysis for particular client groups reveals a need for increased accommodation for the elderly, particularly extra care accommodation, making better use of the existing stock of adapted dwellings

and a range of accommodation for people with mental health problems offering varying levels of support.

Government expenditure on housing is set to increase nationally; however, this will be specifically targeted at housing growth and affordable housing at the expense of private sector renewal. It will also be targeted at specific interventions developed at a sub regional level.

The Council is likely to receive a reduced capital allocation over the term of the Strategy and there is uncertainty over the levels of funding available for adaptations and new supported housing schemes.

## **8. Community empowerment and engagement**

It is now recognised that both individuals and whole communities can and should take some responsibility for improving quality of life. This requires action especially through Local Government and other public and voluntary sector services, to empower local communities so that they develop skills and can access resources to play their part effectively.

## **9. Cross Cutting Targets**

There are many key targets that we work towards achieving in partnership, all of which are included in the improvement targets in each of the five priority areas within this document. See pages 19, 24, 28, 32 and 35 for detailed target information.

## **HOW WILL WE MAKE IT HAPPEN IN HALTON?**

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

### **Money**

The organisations that make up the Partnership already spend hundreds of millions of pounds of public money each year in Halton. Much of this goes to maintain essential services like health, policing, schools, transport and waste collection that we tend to take for granted. The way money is spent on these statutory services – ‘mainstream budgets’ – has to be steadily re-focused to achieve the specific objectives and improvement targets within this Strategy. The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a tool to help partners refocus their budgets.

The Strategy also provides a framework to help identify and secure additional funding for the borough from a variety of sources. It sets out shared policy objectives along with clear aims and targets across the five agreed key themes. This gives a framework in which partners can make budgetary decisions that reflect Halton's priorities.

Halton received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, which provided tremendous support (more than £30million) to the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy. In 2007 Halton was awarded a further £16million from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, to continue with the important projects already serving the communities needs, up until 2011.

Local Area Agreements provide a mechanism for the partners to genuinely work together to achieve the same goals and to spend the resources discussed above. They provide an opportunity to map resources and activity, streamline current processes, pool and align budgets, eliminate duplication, attract new funding and to target activity to where it is most needed to achieve the overall vision for Halton. In particular agreements will target funding at the most deprived neighbourhoods and towards specific at-risk groups.

### **People & Assets**

Allied to cash, the efforts, skills and determination of people living and working in the borough are key to success. This applies to individuals interested or already active in helping their local community as well as to those who work in public, voluntary and other organisations serving Halton. We need to boost skills and knowledge and stimulate confidence and motivation that will strengthen the Borough's capacity to help itself. We must ensure that we are organised and co-operate in ways that are effective and deliver real benefits. Also, we need to provide better ways for people to work collaboratively and across organisational boundaries to increase their own job satisfaction and their impact on the challenges they deal with.

Most of the steps we need to take in moving Halton forward will involve some use of land, buildings, equipment and materials. Hundreds of millions of pounds are currently invested in publicly owned physical resources of various kinds within the borough. We need to make optimum use of these assets, cutting out any unnecessary duplication and ensuring they are well adapted to local requirements.

In particular we have to respond to the rise of consumerism and the desire of people to access a range of services through a single portal. The advent of Halton Direct Link, Health Care Resource Centres, extended schools and Children's Centres provide models of exemplary service delivery which are highly valued by local people. Increasingly, partners will need to look at much greater efforts towards co-location and joint use of facilities. Not only is this more cost efficient, but it gives partners a proper customer focus.

### **Intelligence**

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:



- a) A data 'Observatory' that holds key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. The Observatory provides data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton.
- b) The Partnership has a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough.
- c) The Partnership website provides an easy to access source of material on all aspects of the Halton Strategic Partnership's work throughout the borough. The site covers the full range of activities from events and award ceremonies to new policy changes. There are dedicated sections for each of the priority areas that outline the aims and objectives plus provide access for meeting minutes. There is also a newly added policy section, developed to keep partners up to date with any changes.

## MANAGING RISKS

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this Sustainable Community Strategy the Partnership will adopt a Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. The Strategy will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual Specialist Strategic Partnerships, and will categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks
- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals.

A major review of strategic risks was carried out in 2006 when this Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted. That was followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the Specialist Strategic Partnerships as part of their action planning and Local Area Agreement process.

## **HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

The targets in this plan are a first step towards aligning our vision for Halton in 2025. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people, building on the work done to date. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

A range of high level outcomes have been set in the Strategy. These provide a benchmark and clarity in how our progress can be measured in the future. For all five themes there are several key objectives and a small number of key targets for each. In particular these reflect the government floor targets, local public service agreements and key desired outcomes. Together these form a 'score card' for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

We want to be judged by what we do and not by what we say. Every year the progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy will be reviewed and the scorecard published as part of our Annual Report. This will allow for scrutiny of the work of the Partnership. Local people are the best judges of how well we are doing. The Partnership works on their behalf and they are best placed to venture an opinion on how the quality of life in Halton rates. As well as the scorecard the Partnership will repeat its Quality of Life survey at regular intervals to track public perceptions of how well the Strategy is being implemented. This regular dialogue is a key part of our performance-monitoring framework. We genuinely want to know what people think of the things we do, how we go about tasks and what we should pay attention to in the future.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the Strategy will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the Strategy is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The Strategy establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF HALTON**

Wholesale improvement in the quality of life enjoyed by local people can only come about if a significant part of the community is involved in making it happen. This can take place informally, in many different ways within the community itself. However this has to be complemented by action taken with the support of a variety of public, voluntary and other bodies.

The views of the public were an important factor in deciding the overall themes and direction of this Sustainable Community Strategy. Channels of communication like the borough's Area Forums and the Police Community Action Meetings provide extra ways to share, discuss and resolve local issues. A whole range of services actively consult with and involve their customers, and staff from a range of organisations work closely with local people on a day-to-day basis.

The Halton Strategic Partnership sees itself, through this Strategy and the actions of partners, as providing leadership. This can only be achieved if they remain in touch with the people and communities they represent and serve. The Strategy aims to create an environment in which everyone can get involved in making things happen in Halton. We want to foster active participation by as many people and agencies as possible. The Partnership will look for ways to make itself more accountable to communities through events, panels, area forums and open and transparent decision-making processes. A number of steps define this:

**Customer focus** – Services and processes have to be designed around the needs of the people who actually use them. At the same time users need to have an appropriate role in specifying the services that are delivered.

**Consultation & engagement** – Partners will create specific and purposeful opportunities for people to give their views on what is needed and how it should be delivered. Wherever possible people should be actively involved in decision-making, service specification and design.

**Communication** – Letting people know what is happening, how they can get involved and encouraging dialogue between partners and local communities is vital. Various media and methods will be used in appropriate and sensitive ways to build and maintain the communication effort.

The Partnership has spent a considerable effort in developing an inclusive approach to engagement through its bespoke strategy and network arrangements. Full details are available on the Partnership website. Community empowerment is about members of a community feeling able to achieve their own goals, with some measure of control over the processes and strategies to attain these. It is a process whereby communities are encouraged to become increasingly self-reliant in improving their neighbourhoods and livelihoods. It is a cyclical, participatory process where local people co-operate in formal or informal groups to share their knowledge and experiences and to achieve common objectives. It is a process rather

than a blueprint, and one that underpins this Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

This Sustainable Community Strategy highlights key objectives for each strategic theme and improvement targets by which success can be judged. These targets collectively form the Partnership Scorecard. We will report back to partners and the public each year on progress against this Scorecard.

If we succeed in achieving our targets, they will translate into real improvements for local people, including:

- longer, healthier lives
- a better urban environment and reasons to feel pride in Halton
- higher standards of education and skills and the greater employment and other life chances that go with them
- fewer people trapped by poverty, excluded or held back through some form of deprivation or disadvantage
- the freedom to feel safe and enjoy life in an attractive neighbourhood

If you have any queries or comments you would like to make about this Sustainable Community Strategy, please contact:

The Halton Strategic Partnership Team,  
c/o Halton Borough Council,  
Municipal Building,  
Kingsway,  
Widnes,  
WA8 7QF

Telephone 0151 424 2061  
or email [lsp@halton.gov.uk](mailto:lsp@halton.gov.uk)

You can find out more detail on the work of the Partnership on our website:  
[www.haltonpartnership.net](http://www.haltonpartnership.net)

**REPORT TO:** Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Children and Young People

**SUBJECT:** The relationship between the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board and the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To enable a representative from the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool to be appointed to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

**(1) the Executive Board and Full Council be requested to agree the appointment of a Dioceses representative for Chester and Liverpool, as a non-voting co-optee, on the Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is given.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- The Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool are entitled to nominate a representative to sit on the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.
- At present this position is vacant however a name for this position has been submitted, Joyce Dippnall.
- Operating as an independent representative the views of the Dioceses will be expressed.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool fulfil their right to a representative on the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

### **4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**



5.1 None applicable.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

6.1 Establishing a formal relationship between the Dioceses and Children and Young People PPB will strengthen the Council's ability to monitor and review progress on priorities.

### **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

6.2 None applicable.

### **A Healthy Halton**

6.3 None applicable

### **A Safer Halton**

6.4 None applicable.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

6.5 None applicable.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to respond appropriately to requests for information and referrals would result in the CYP PPB contravening current legislation.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The procedures and processes described in this report will enable a much broader range of people to contribute and influence scrutiny and commissioning decisions.

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

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

**REPORT:** Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate

**SUBJECT:** Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Board of developments regarding the priority for the Children's Trust 'children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live' (Narrowing the Gap - NtG)
- 1.2 To decide on strategies which will support, monitor, evaluate and challenge developments for how well 'children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live'

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Policy and Performance Board agree the strategies to be used to develop the priority: 'Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live'.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### ***Getting to grips with the gap***

- 3.1 To narrow the gap is defined as closing the distance in outcomes between children who do well and those who do not. This could be for example in terms of health and / or education.
- 3.2 The gap represents a complex mix of factors relating to people and places such as prevailing cultures and subcultures, the ability to access services, economic activity, migration patterns, educational achievement and perceptions around life chances. We are dealing with areas and people where a complex range of factors present barriers to accessing the full benefits of a thriving Borough. This cannot be solved simply but needs to be approached with the tool box containing the widest range of services and measures and with a built in flexibility that allows some local variation and response to community engagement. To support children where the 'gap' needs to be narrowed

requires services that can respond to non-normative conditions, i.e. those found on the wrong side of the gap. This is how we can avoid simply compensating for the gap.

- 3.3 Most children and families are part of their local community, whether this is defined by geography (a village, estate, neighbourhood), by a common tie that binds families together such as culture or faith, or by an activity such as the learning community created by children's centres, schools and colleges. Communities are varied and diverse and include babies, children, adolescents and adults, but also elders, public services, voluntary organisations and community groups. Communities are made by families and provide important support to families. Strengthening communities improves the well-being of children and families. Engaging with vulnerable children, young people and families is best done through open access services based in children's centres, schools and other neighbourhood centres, which employ local people.
- 3.4 Some groups of children are more likely to fall behind than others and many children belong to more than one group and for most the gap is more than one outcome. Some illustrative examples of the groups where children and young people are more vulnerable of falling behind include:
- Children from poorer socio-economic groups (including white 'working class' boys)
  - Children in care
  - Children with disabilities
  - Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
  - Children excluded from school
  - Children with poor school attendance records
  - Children from different ethnic minority backgrounds
  - Young Offenders
  - Young carers
  - Children at risk from significant harm – who are being abused or neglected or who are at great risk of it
  - Children living with 'vulnerable adults', such as those with serious drug or alcohol problems, or who are mentally ill
  - Children not fluent in English
  - Children who are asylum seekers/ refugees.
- 3.5 In Halton there has been a considerable amount of success in terms of for example education. We need to ensure however that all young people are making and having the same opportunity of achieving.
- 3.6 The Children's Trust has as one of it's key priorities:

## **Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live**

To address this area and ensure that there is progress and impact on this priority 2 key approaches are being taken:

- i. Key indicators from the Children and Young People's Plan are being planned, developed, monitored and evaluated. These include decreasing the achievement and attainment gap for vulnerable young people and increasing the percentage of vulnerable young people in education, employment and training
- ii. Focusing on specific vulnerable groups consider educational attainment and achievement, parenting and access to pre-school provision.

Questions are being asked for example:

What are the most effective components of systems and processes which support prevention and early intervention?

How can parents and carers be supported to improve outcomes for their children?

How are more effective and productive links between services created?

What works to narrow the gap?

Building on the good practice already existing in the Borough and developing new ways of approaching this priority the target is to ensure that 'children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live'

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council's priorities are further developed through the PPB and used to support the Children's trust priorities.

### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

#### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Vulnerable children and young people in Halton have better outcomes and the gap is narrowed.

**6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

All young people have improved life chances.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Vulnerable children and young people in Halton have better outcomes and the gap is narrowed..

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

The main risk is in terms children and young people not succeeding unless the gap is narrowed.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

All work will take into account equality and diversity implications.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Narrowing the Gap	LGA website	Judith Kirk
Narrowing the Gap in outcomes for Vulnerable Groups	nfer website	Judith Kirk
Narrowing the Gap – the inspection of children's services	Ofsted website	Judith Kirk

**REPORT:** Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate

**SUBJECT:** Improving health outcomes for children and young people in Halton

**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 scrutiny topics to be undertaken in the next municipal year under the broad heading of 'improving health outcomes for children and young people in Halton'
- 1.2 To decide on strategies to develop, monitor, evaluate and report on scrutiny topics and other key health developments specifically for children and young people

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Policy and Performance Board finalise and agree development of the topics to be included in the Board's 2009/10 work programme.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In February 2009 the Department of health and the department of children, schools and families published "Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: The strategy for children and young peoples health"
- 3.2 The strategy identifies parents as the key to achieving the best physical and mental health and well-being outcomes for their children. The strategy sets out the principles of the relationship between parents and services, and will establish what parents and their children can expect from their services.
- 3.3 Children and young people are healthier today than they have ever been but it is recognised that to deliver the Government's ambition of making England the best place for children to grow up by 2020, we need to support families in securing world-class health and well-being outcomes for their children. Better support

in the early years and through childhood and adolescence will lay the foundation for better health and life chances in adulthood.

- 3.4 The strategy sets out the plans for universal, targeted and specialist support across three life stages – early years and pregnancy; school-age children; and young people – as well as the additional support for children and young people in need of acute or ongoing health care. Crucially, it identifies how the range of services in contact with children and young people can work better together, and with families to achieve common aims.
- 3.5 Using information from the strategy and also bespoke information about needs of children and young people in Halton the Children and Young People PPB will decide and develop scrutiny topics based on the common themes and services linked to physical, mental and sexual health. This work will support the narrowing health inequalities.
- 3.6 The policy document to support this locally is the PCT “Ambition for Health “. This is a public health strategy document has 6 ambitions for a healthier Halton, the first 3 statements relate to children and link to the National Healthy child Strategy Document.
- 3.7 Other related documents CYPP LAA operationally support the strategy documents.

#### **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**

**1.0** None under the meaning of the Act



**REPORT TO:** Children & Young People PPB

**DATE:** 1 June, 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 4th 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

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & Performance Board;**

- 1) Receive the 4th 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**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
N/A		

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

**DIRECTORATE:** Children & Young People  
**SERVICE:** Business Support & Commissioning  
**PERIOD:** Quarter 4 to year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Business Support & Commissioning fourth quarter period up to year end 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

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 Building Schools for the Future

The BSF Strategy for Change Part 2 was submitted on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The authority received conditional approval to this strategy on the basis that additional information was provided on; pupil numbers, the level of capital receipts, the affordability of the Programme, the arrangements for extended services provision, the location and size of the proposed Academy and the timescale for the establishment of the All Through Trust School. This additional information was provided by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Formal notification was subsequently received in March 2009 confirming that the outstanding information requirements had now been met and the Strategy for Change Part 2 confirmed.

The Outline Business Case is now being prepared and will be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. The seven key sections of the Outline Business Case include the following information; an Executive summary, background, details of the projects within the Programme, how value for money will be achieved, details on how the capital and revenue costs of the

Programme will be met, the authority's readiness to deliver and how change will be led and managed throughout the Programme

### **2.1 Building Schools for the Future**

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### **2.2 Procurement of A Joint LEP**

A Local Education Partnership is a public private partnership between the Local Authority, Buildings Schools for the Future Investments LLP (BSFI) and a private sector partner selected in open competition under the European procurement rules. Its primary purpose is to ensure that the BSF investment is efficiently and effectively used to deliver transformation. To secure market interest, share expertise and costs Halton and Warrington have agreed to develop a joint LEP and a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed which will specify the details and scope of the services to be covered, the governance and financial arrangements and the style of the LEP.

### **2.3 Secondary Re-organisation**

Approval was given by Executive Board to commence statutory consultation on the SEN unit proposals. Consultation commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and the representation period ended 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. The proposals sought to discontinue the current SEN unit provision at Halton High and The Grange Comprehensive from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and to establish the following SEN Resource Provision from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011:

- The Grange Comprehensive School – resource provision to accommodate 6 pupils with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder with 5 additional outreach places for pupils in other high schools;
- St Peter and Paul Catholic College – as above;
- The Grange Comprehensive School – resource provision to accommodate 10 pupils with Speech and Language and

Communication Difficulties;

- The Bankfield School – as above; and
- Wade Deacon High School – resource provision for pupils with hearing impairment and specific learning difficulties.

The outcome of the consultation will be considered by Executive Board on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

#### **2.4 Primary Capital Programme**

In January 2009 the Primary Capital Strategy was revised and resubmitted to the Department for Children Schools and Families. Following assessment by the DSCF it has been confirmed that the revised strategy has been approved and the funding will be released for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. The estimated Primary Capital Grant the authority will receive over the two year period from 2009-2011 is £8,378,000. This funding will support projects at All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Controlled School in Widnes, Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Catholic Primary in Runcorn and the development of the Primary element of the All Through School At The Grange.

#### **2.5 ICT Projects**

There are a number of major ICT projects in progress at the moment and all are progressing well. The Contact Point project is in the later stages of development and the contact point team went 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 was extended to provide computers with internet access to all children in Care aged 11-15 in September.

The Carefirst6 project is also progressing well – all database and application servers are installed. The Database servers are now being used within a live environment. The application servers are currently not live but the Carefirst6 system build is being completed. The rollout of Carefirst6 will start at the end of February 2009. We are currently agreeing resources to support the systems together with Integrated Children Systems(ICS) – Electronic Social Care Records(ESCR).

#### **2.6 Workforce Development**

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) have produced the 'One Children's Workforce Tool' which audits the integration of the workforce within a Children's Trust area. We started working on the tool in January and the process includes a questionnaire, focus groups, and scenario workshops for staff in all sectors of the Children's Workforce.

The tool also gathers the views of children, young people, parents and carers to give a full perspective of the current position. The tool measures the progress of workforce development in the Children's Trust on a continuum from 'fragmented' to 'integrated and reformed'. The findings of the audit will form the basis of an action plan to be submitted to CWDC by June.

### **3.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Buildings Schools for the Future**

The Outline Business Case will need to be completed and approved by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. Each Governing body within the Programme will need to provide written confirmation that they will meet the schools financial contribution. Written confirmation as to the affordability of the Programme must also be provided by the Section 151 Officer of the Council.

After submission the Outline Business Case is then considered over the next two months by the DCSF and Partnerships for Schools. During this period it is likely that further information, amendments and clarifications may be sought before the final Outline Business Case is approved.

#### **3.2 Gateway Review**

A Gateway Review will be undertaken between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 by 4ps. This review is to confirm that the business case in Halton is robust, affordable and achievable. It also explores whether appropriate advice has been obtained, whether there has been dialogue with the market and the interest has been gauged. It looks at the identification and mitigation of risk, whether the Programme is likely to achieve its goals and whether the authority is ready for the next stage in the Programme following the submission of the Outline Business Case.

A range of written evidence will be provided to the team and interviews will be undertaken of key staff and stakeholders.

#### **3.3 Secondary Re-organisation**

A report will be taken to Executive Board on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 requesting permission to undertake school organisation consultation in Runcorn. To increase the diversity and choice in Runcorn consultation will be needed to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College to 1350 places following the completion of the BSF development. Permission will also be sought to undertake consultation to discontinue Halton High and for the Sponsor to establish an Academy once the Expression of Interest and Funding Agreement are in place. Finally statutory consultation will need to be undertaken to expand the age range of The Grange Comprehensive and discontinue The Grange Juniors, Infant and Nursery so that All Through 0-16 provision can be established by April 2010.

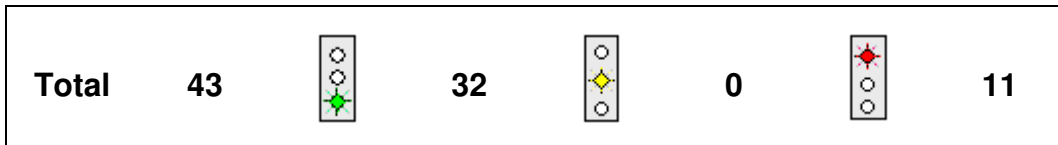
**3.4 ICT Projects**

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.

**3.5 Children’s Trust Performance Framework**

A new performance framework for the Children’s Trust will be implemented in 2009-10 using the principles of Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA). The Children’s Trust have agreed 3 high level priorities for the year and a different approach will be taken to progress these entrenched issues. The framework uses performance data as the starting point of the process and ‘turning the curve’ exercises will gather information on the story behind the figures. This will include the input of children, young people, parents and carers as well as using the detailed knowledge of the issues from front line staff. The process will be facilitated by OBA champions on each of the Children’s Trust groups with training planned in the next couple of months. The Framework is also to be replicated for the Safeguarding Board to ensure consistency of approach.

**4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES**

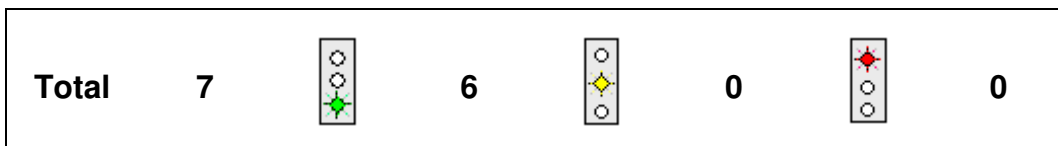


The majority of milestones (32) have been successfully met this, year, whilst 11 have not. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

**5.0 SERVICE REVIEW**

Nothing to report this quarter.

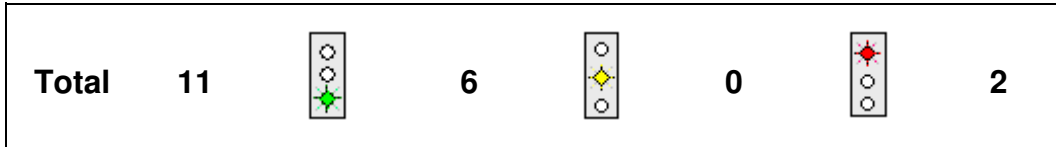
**6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



6 of the “Key” Indicators have met their targets for the year. The

remaining indicator, BSC LI12 (sickness absence) cannot be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

**6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



6 “Other” indicators have met their targets and 2 have not. 3 indicators cannot be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

**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 monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 5

**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 reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 6








**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**













<p>Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators Appendix 4- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures Appendix 5 – Progress against High Priority Equality Actions Appendix 6 - Explanation of traffic light symbols</p>
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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		Proposals for SEN re-organisation and permission to commence consultation on The Heath, The Grange Comprehensive, Junior, Infant and Nursery and Halton High have been agreed. All actions agreed for completion by March 2009 have been done.
		Enter Wave 6 Building Schools for the Future, May 2008		Completed
		Agree Primary Capital Strategy, June 2008		Revised Primary Capital Strategy agreed by DCSF in March 2009
		Agree Phase 3 Children's Centres, Mar 2009		Phase 3 Children's Centre Capital Development Programme has been agreed by Executive Board.
		Complete BSF Strategy for Change Part 1 and 2, Nov 2008		Strategy for Change Part 1 and Part 2 have both been agreed by DSCF and Partnership for Schools
BSC 2	To deploy resources effectively and efficiently	Implement medium term Financial Plan, Sep 2008		Further development required as it has been difficult to map partnership resources. This work will be finalised in May 2009
		Implement revised Gershon efficiencies, Sep 2008		Revised Gershon arrangements implemented in timescale.









Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Re-align resources to meet priorities through service review, Mar 2009		<p>The following 3 key priorities agreed by Children's Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young People are successful when they leave school;</li> <li>• Children and Young People do well wherever they live and whatever their needs; and</li> <li>• Children and Young People are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.</li> </ul> <p>Funding including WNF has been identified to support these three priorities.</p>
		Identify alternative funding sources, Mar 2009		<p>Opportunities have been taken to bid for additional funding such as "Cross Government Co-location Fund" for capital projects. Contributions by other Trust Partners have been secured for some areas of development e.g. data development which has had health funding. Charges for Services have been reviewed and where appropriate increased.</p>
		Develop exit strategy for short term grants, Sep 2008		Confirmation of grant levels received until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
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.
		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 on an ongoing basis, 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.
		Develop systems and analysis re 'narrowing the gap for vulnerable children' , Mar 2009		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



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		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. There has been some slippage in the timescales due to funding restrictions.
		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 and implemented 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.
		Implement new process of exit interviews to inform recruitment and retention strategy, Sep 2008		Exit interviews have been piloted with specific groups of staff. The learning from this process will inform implementation. There has been some slippage in timescales.

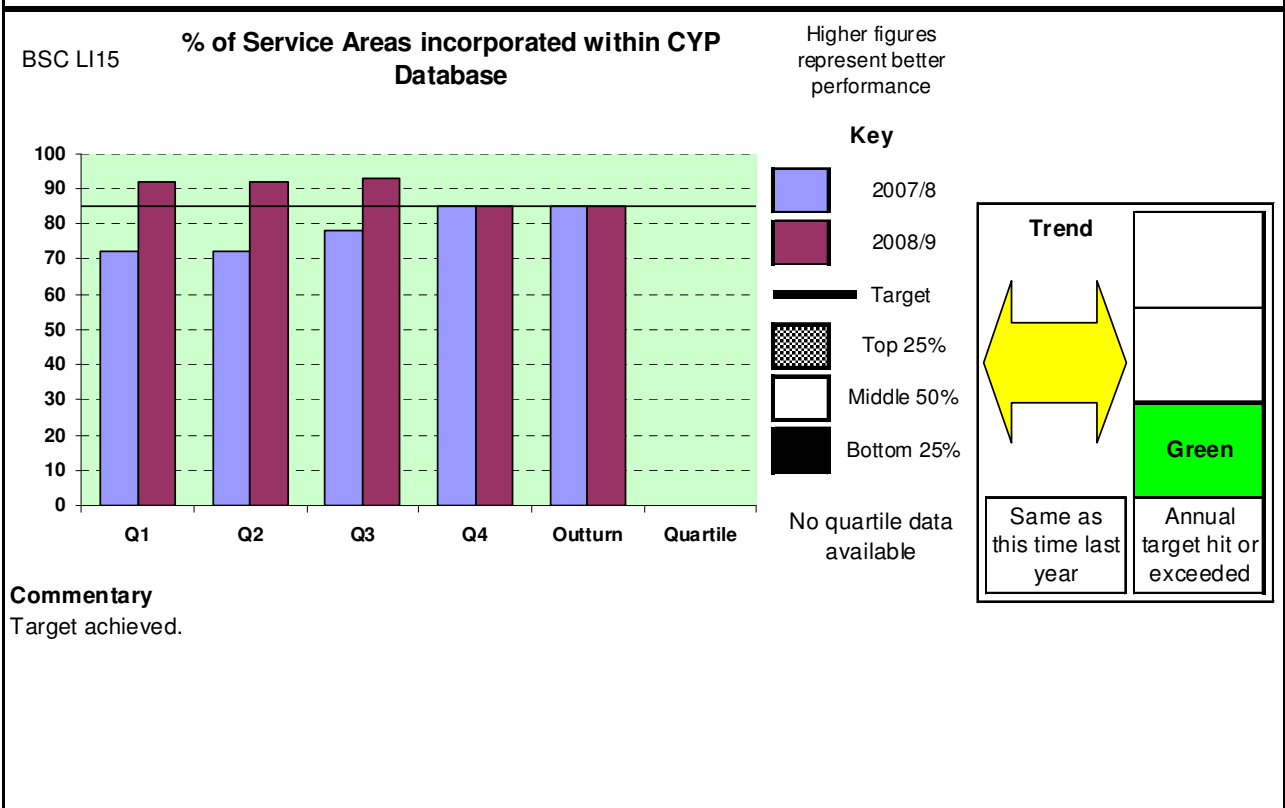
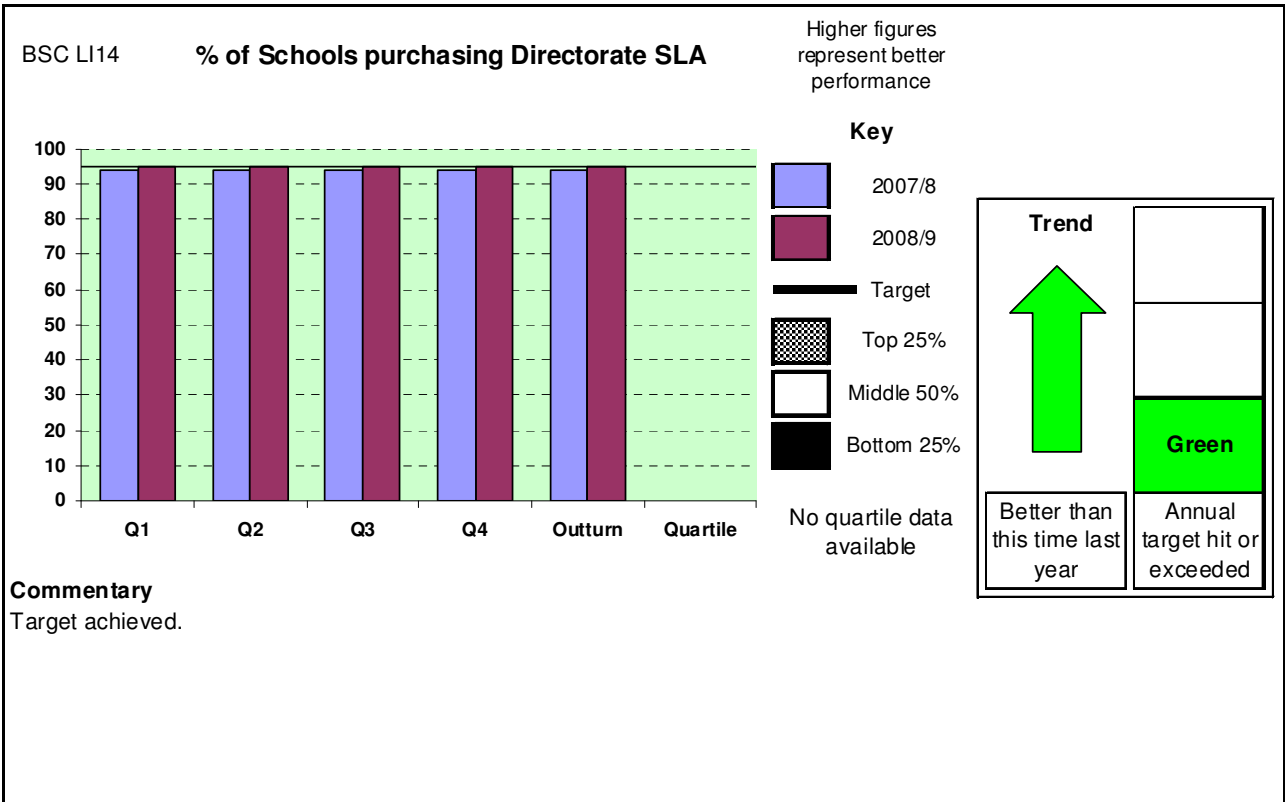
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Complete review of administrative support to Specialist Services, Mar 2009		Review report has been completed however any implementation is on hold pending the corporate Efficiency Review.
		Establish an action plan to minimise 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 established 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 Joint Intelligence & Commissioning Unit (JICU) development
		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 the process has focused on localities rather than service areas.

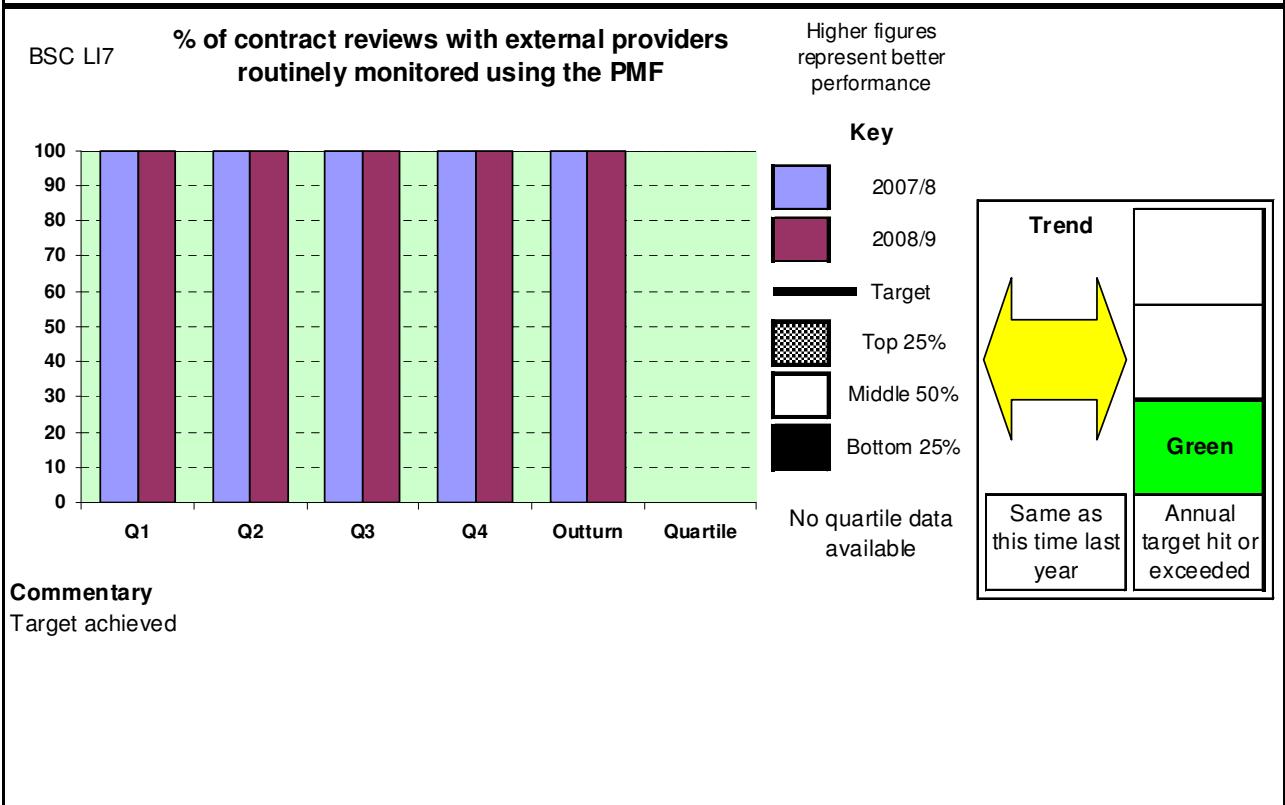
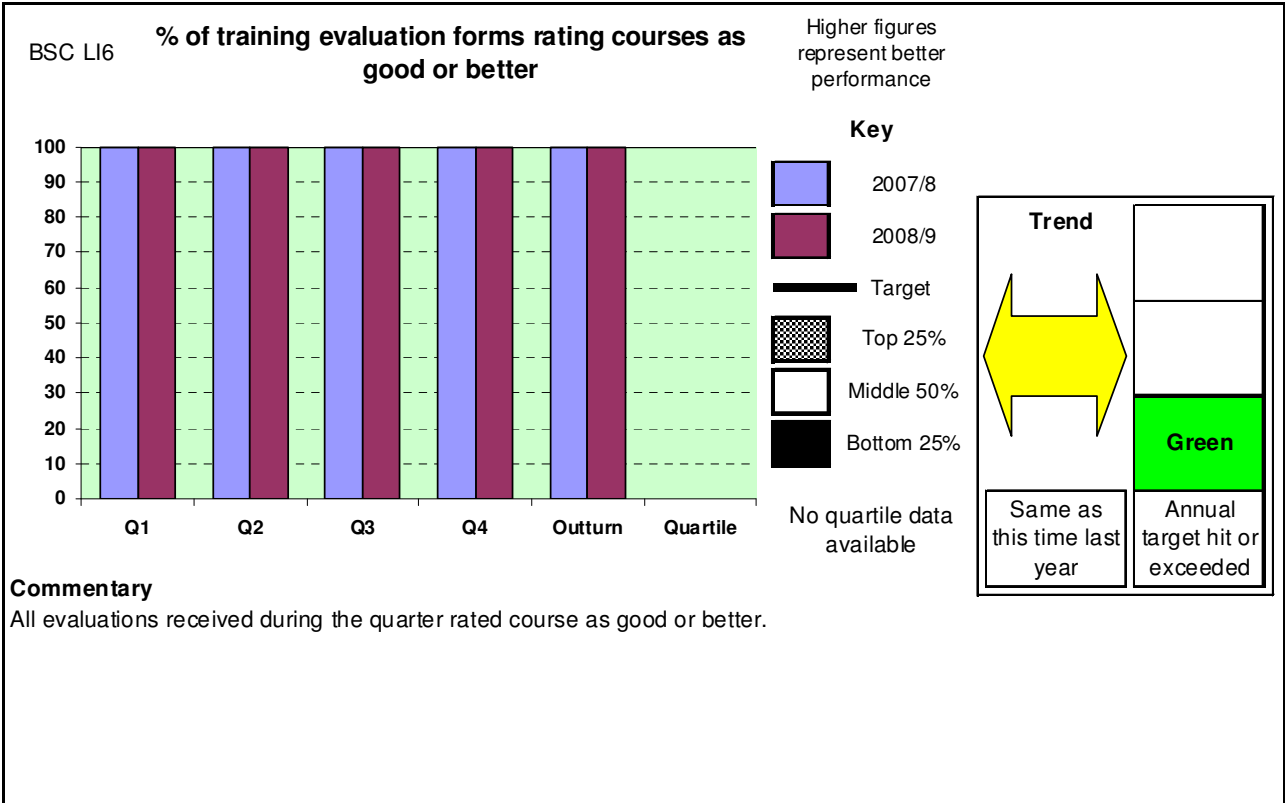
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To co-ordinate performance management of the CYPP priorities and report to Alliance Board, Mar 2009		Performance monitoring arrangements have been set up to enable reporting against the CYPP priorities.
BSC 7	To develop integrated 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. This will be done through the JICU and there has been some slippage on timescale.
		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		All commissioned services are performance managed against outcomes that fit the CYPP priorities.
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 and systematic EIA's are required so training will be developed and rolled out.

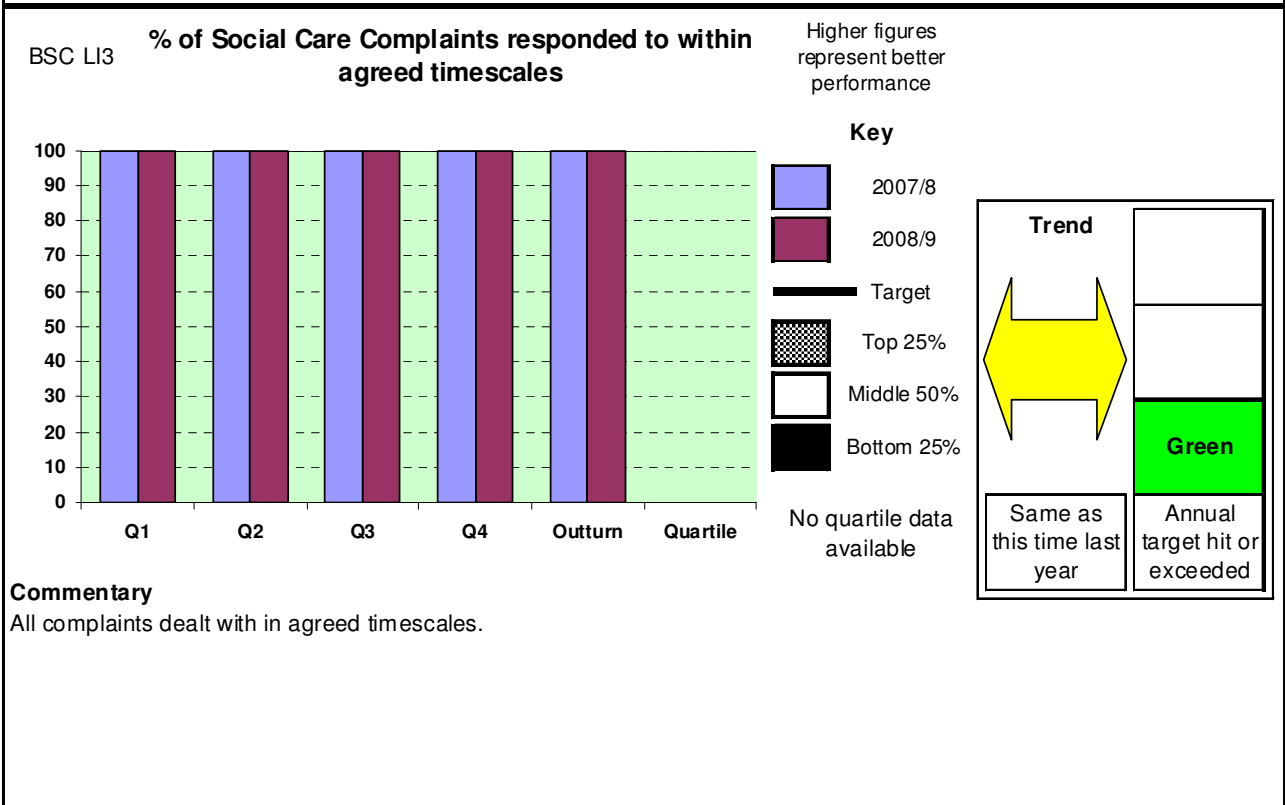
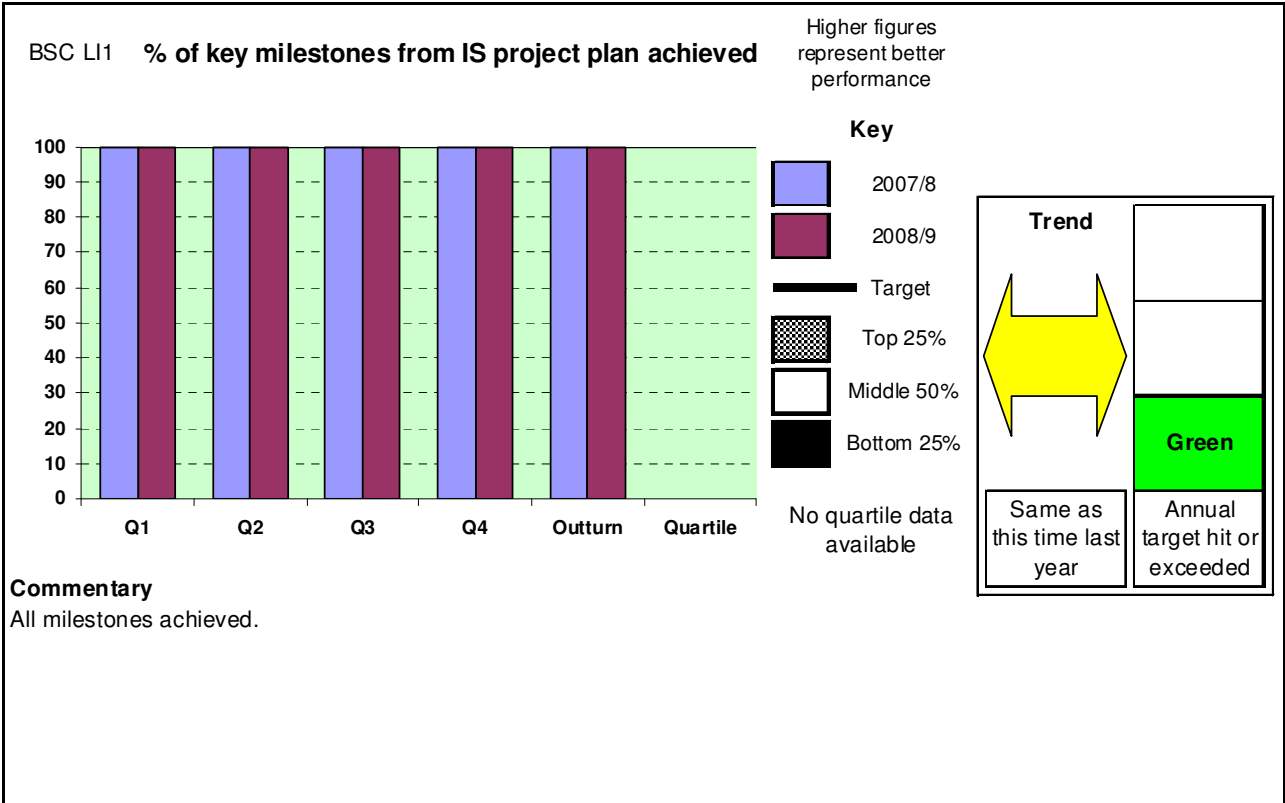
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Directorate equality plan to be reviewed, Sep 2008		Completed
		To embed stakeholder engagement and participation, Mar 2009		Processes for embedding stakeholder engagement and participation are being developed but will not be implemented until 2009-10
		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 have increased.
		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 of a Children's Trust	Agree and implement a structure for the Children's Trust, Apr 2008		A structure has been agreed and implemented meeting the statutory requirements
		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		There has been some slippage in establishing the new operational structures so Business Plans are not yet in place.










Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		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
















**BSC LI12**, % of days lost to sickness absence, data not yet available. The new system for recording is now in place and a baseline established for comparison in 2009/10.

Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<b>Corporate Health</b>						
BSC LI13	Staff turnover rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline to be agreed for 2008-09 year end. Data not available at present.
BSC LI16	Number of CAF's completed	214	175	75		A further 75 CAF's were completed during Q4 taking us well beyond the target for the year.
<b>Cost &amp; Efficiency</b>						
BSC LI11	Gershon Efficiency Savings	2.5	3.0	3.0		Target has been achieved.
<b>Fair Access</b>						
BSC LI19	% of Milestones within BSF project achieved	100%	100%	100%		All milestones achieved
BSC LI20	% of Milestones within Primary Capital project achieved	N/a	100%	100%		All milestones achieved
BSC LI8	% of Equality Impact Assessments completed	70%	100%	75%		There has been a slight improvement however a more robust system is being implemented to ensure all EIA's are completed.
BSC LI21	Number of Service Areas subject to Strategic Needs Analysis	N/a	4	0		The focus of SNA has altered to localities rather than service areas.
<b>Quality</b>						
BSC LI5	Number of "positive" news stories published in local	278	300	78		78 positive news stories during the quarter, target for the year achieved.

<sup>1</sup> Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**



Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	media about the Directorate					
<b>Service Delivery</b>						
BSC LI2	Number of people accessing the CIS Kiosks at Children's Centres	380	400	N/A	N/A	The kiosks have been removed
BSC LI4	% of Statutory Returns completed within set timescales	100%	100%	100%		Target achieved
NI 198	Children travelling to school, mode of transport usually used	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New national indicator no data currently available

Key Objective (Service Plan Ref. Only)	Risk Control Measures	Progress	Commentary
<b>BPR1</b>	Timeline for each phase of the project agreed and monitored. Clear consultation strategy shared with stakeholders including vision and rationale for school organisation. Transition support measures identified. BSF project team to be established		BSF project team has been established. Project plan is in place and all key milestones have been hit. Strategy for Change 2 has been submitted and approved and the outline business case will be submitted in April.
<b>BPR5</b>	Conduct Exit Interviews with all leavers and use data to inform review of Recruitment & Retention Strategy. Implement revised Directorate Recruitment & Retention Strategy  Action plan developed and implemented to minimise the impact on affected service areas		Recruitment and retention Strategy has been reviewed with a particular focus on hotspot areas. Staff survey successfully piloted in Specialist Services has now been rolled out across the rest of the Directorate. Exit questionnaires are used with all leavers and they are given the opportunity to have an Exit interview with an independent manager.
<b>BPR10</b>	Alliance Board to provide strategic drive with a structure established to ensure progress and accountability in each of the critical strands. Robust and transparent commissioning process in place based on the agreed Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework Integrated working training provided on multi-agency basis to ensure a common understanding of key issues amongst staff from all services		New structure for the Children's Trust has been implemented. Robust commissioning process in place and has been used for approx £5million of expenditure to date. Integrated working training programme in place with excellent attendance and evaluation.

<b>HIGH Priority Actions</b>	<b>Target</b> (Resp. Officer)	<b>Progress</b> (Traffic lights)*	<b>Commentary</b>
Develop and implement a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 09 DM Planning & Performance		A programme of training has been running for more than 2 years and staff are identified for courses via the EDR process. E&D training is also included in the induction standards for new staff.
Co-ordinate rolling programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 09 DM Planning & Performance		A rolling programme is in place however, there have been some gaps identified in completion of EIA's. The Children's Trust Equalities group is currently developing mechanisms to ensure completion and improve quality and impact of assessments.
Develop and implement a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation	March 09 DM Planning & Performance		Stakeholder engagement and participation is being developed across all service areas however further development is still required. Implementation will take place during 2009-10.
Evaluate accessibility of all buildings	March 09 DM Finance & Resources		A rolling programme is in place to evaluate the accessibility of our buildings.
Collect and manage data to inform the Directorate Equality Strategy	March 09 DM Management Information & Communication		Data is collected to enable us to monitor the progress of vulnerable groups and to identify hotspots in localities.



The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<b><u>Green</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<b><u>Red</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved.</u></p>

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

**DIRECTORATE:** Children & Young People  
**SERVICE:** Preventative Services  
**PERIOD:** Quarter 4 to year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Preventative Services Department fourth quarter period up to year-end 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

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 Teenage Pregnancy** – In January the latest performance information was released by DCSF (Department for Children Schools and Families) in relation to teenage pregnancy. This revealed a significant increase in under 18 conceptions in Halton. Subsequent dialogue with GONW and Teenage Pregnancy Unit has been positive, reinforced by good partnership working and additional investment emerging from the PCT in this area.

#### **2.2 My Place**

In March the Local Authority was notified of it's successful bid to My Place for a capital grant towards the development of a world-class youth facility at the former Kingsway Medical Building. At this stage the LA is being offered 'an in-principal capital grant' of £2.5m. This funding will be confirmed on approval of a Capital Plan, Business Plan and Partnership Plan later in the year.

#### **2.3 Early Learning and Childcare**

We received notification of a funding allocation to support the provision

of free places to most disadvantaged two year olds in the LA. The funding allocation is for 77 two year olds. Steps are being taken to establish criteria to identify and target this number, and secure the provision for the children and families concerned.

**2.4 Young People’s Alcohol and Drug Treatment Plan**

The LA received positive endorsement from the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse of its draft plan and was commended for it’s high quality. In particular it stated, “the panel felt that your plan was of a sufficiently high quality to warrant acceptance. That it celebrates Halton’s many successes in the successful development of a fully integrated young person’s substance misuse service. It was also noteworthy that the priorities within the plan have been identified through consultation with young people”.




The 2007/8 school attendance figures published in February 2009 show that the improvement in school attendance over the last four years has been sustained. Attendance at primary schools in Halton last year was marginally above the national average and Secondary attendance was 0.2% short of the national average having improved significantly since 2003/4.

**3.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

**The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill**

Children’s Centres are not currently recognised in legislation, although the integrated services they offer to children and families have a statutory basis in the local authority duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide integrated early childhood services. Under Government proposals contained within the Bill, children’s centres will be established as a recognised part of children’s services infrastructure, and will have a statutory basis. The Government propose to use the Act to establish that all children’s centres in existence at the date of Royal Assent are captured as children’s centres for the purpose of the statutory requirements. Local Authorities, working with their statutory partners, would be required to assess the need for children’s centres in their area, and to establish and maintain sufficient children’s centres to meet that need. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide children’s centres with a statutory footing, so that their provision is not seen as the outcome of time-limited funding regime, but becomes a long term statutory commitment and part of the established landscape of early years provision.

**4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES**

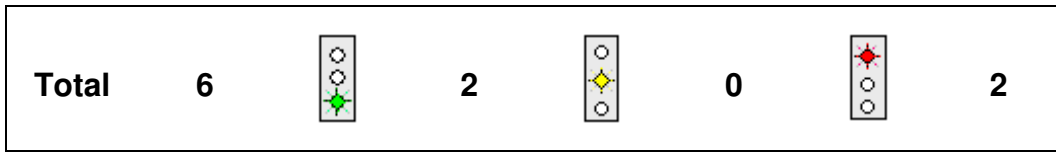
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>
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Most milestones (26) have been achieved this year. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

**5.0 SERVICE REVIEW**

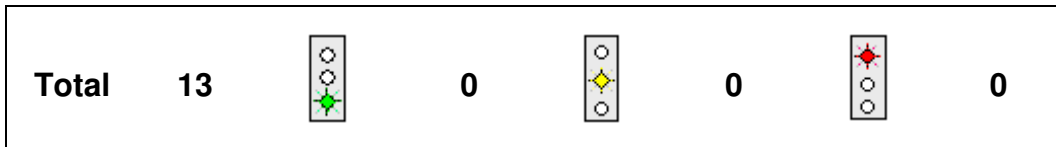
Steps are underway to establish teen health drop – in clinics in each high school wherever possible to provide the widest range of health advice and support to young people who may not otherwise access that health support in their communities. Discussions are underway with each Headteacher to look at the provision and delivery of the clinics, which will commence in some High Schools from half term, and all from September. The clinics will signpost young people where appropriate to specialist services (ie. for substance misuse), but may provide higher levels of sexual health services such as pregnancy testing, issuing of contraceptives etc. Appropriate protocols in relation to confidentiality, safeguarding and information sharing are being developed.

**6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



Of the 6 key indicators for the service, 2 are on target. A further 2 indicators have been assigned an red light,. 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 not be available to be reported. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

**6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

**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 monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 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 reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 5

## 10.0 APPENDICES





Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones  
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Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators  
Appendix 4- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures  
Appendix 5 – Progress against High Priority Equality Actions  
Appendix 6 - 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>The establishment of the Early Years Enhanced Provision Panel has enabled the offer for children with LDD to be broadened to all registered early years settings in the private and voluntary sector as well as maintained settings and supports parental preference /choice of setting for early years education for children with LDD.</p> <p>Early Years Enhanced provision is enabling children with LDD to access resources and their entitlement to early years education and supports the Early Years transition process.</p>






Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To ensure that there is sufficient provision to deliver the free early years entitlement for 3 & 4 years 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.
		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's 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.




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To move into phase 3 of Children Centre Planning, Sep 2008		On 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2009 Executive Board approved the proposal to use Phase 3 Children's Centre capital to enhance and maintain existing children's centre stock.
		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		Is commencing at the end of April 2009.
		Implement a system to effectively commission services underpinned by a strategic needs analysis, and meeting local and national targets, Mar 2009		A strategic needs analysis has been completed including locality profiling to ensure effective commissioning of services.
		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.








Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
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		Ongoing. Health Visitors visits project rolled out November 2008- due for assessment end of April 09. Project will focus amongst few on breastfeeding and postnatal depression. Childhood obesity information received annually; Teenage pregnancy information received on monthly basis. HBC and PCT Halton & St Helens to finalise Tier 2& 3 agreements.
		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 have been developed to locate appropriate health staff in children's centres.

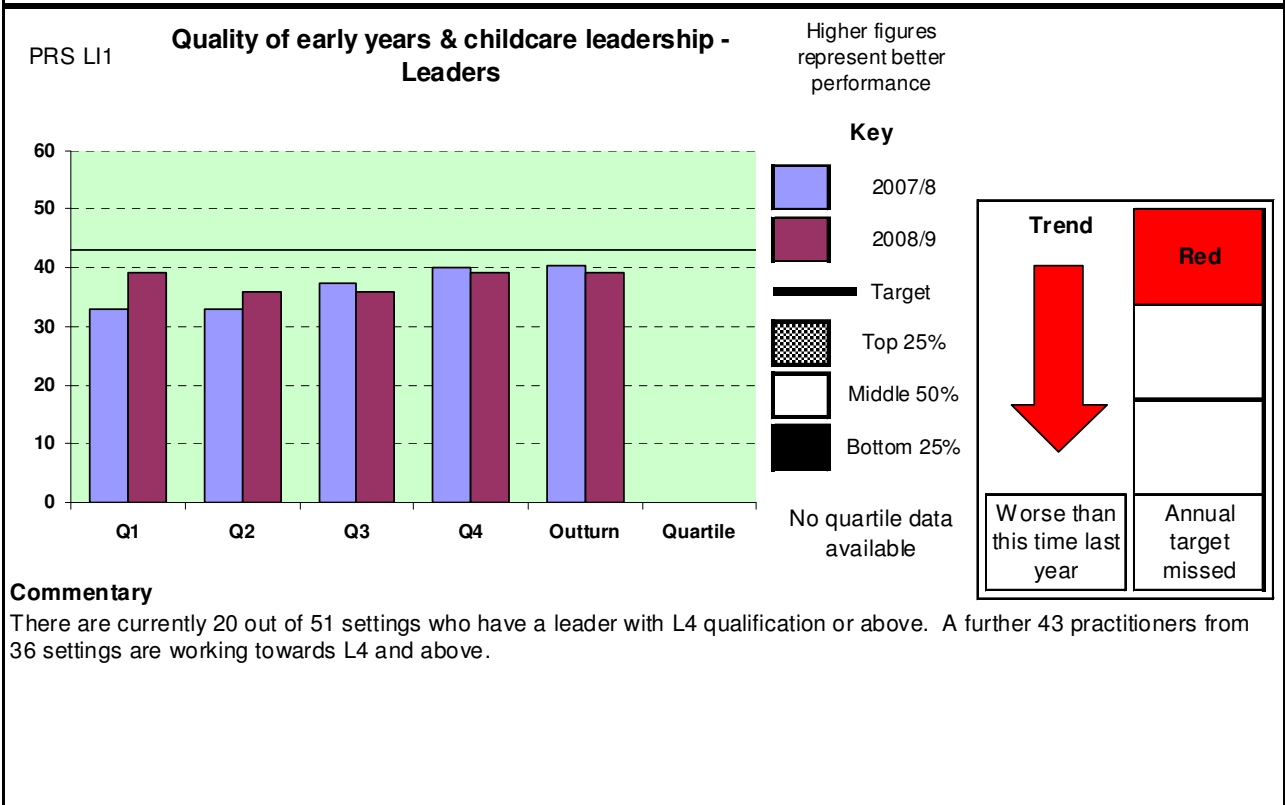
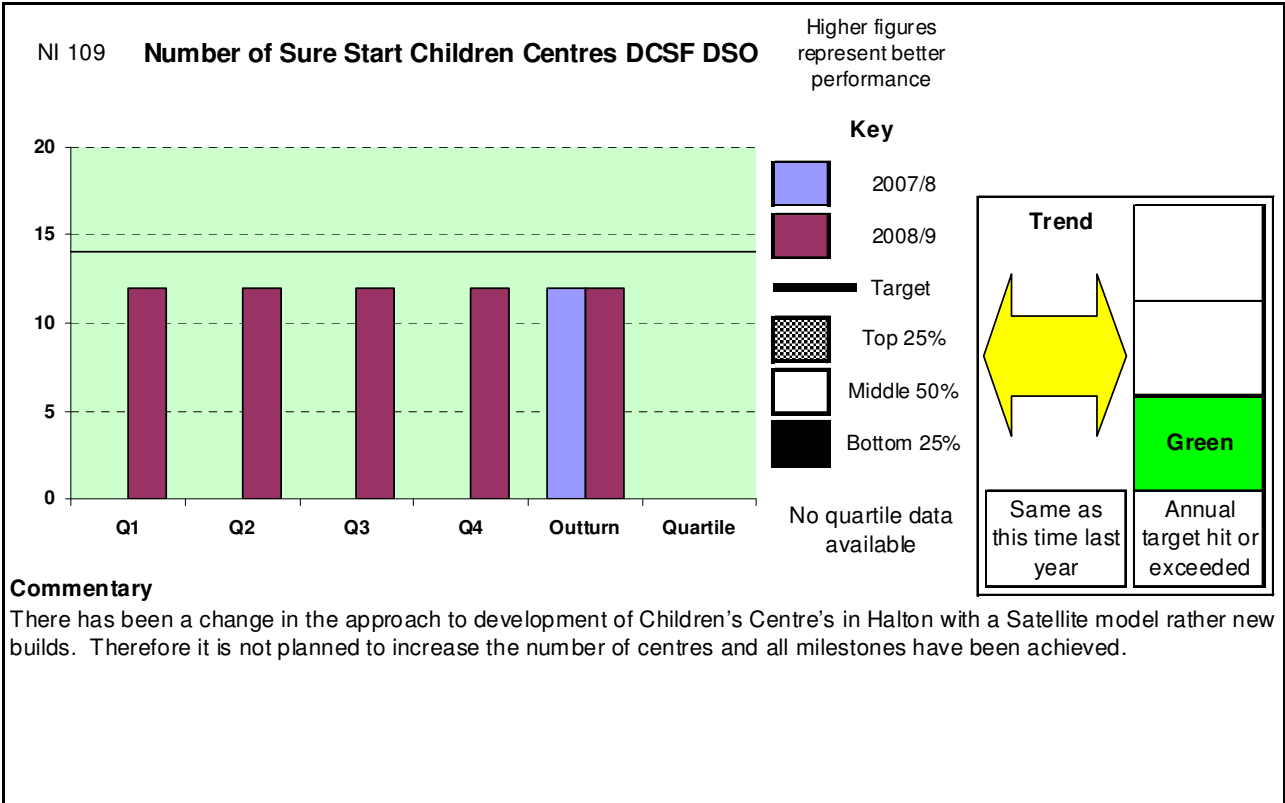
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To develop relevant and accessible information for young people on drugs and alcohol, their effects and support services across Halton, Mar 2009		A young person's interactive information tool – Youth Bytes – is to be piloted in four schools across Halton. Youth Bytes provides information and advice on a range of issues and services pertinent to young peoples needs.  The IYSS interactive information CD rom continues to be promoted across schools and young people's services.
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 high 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.

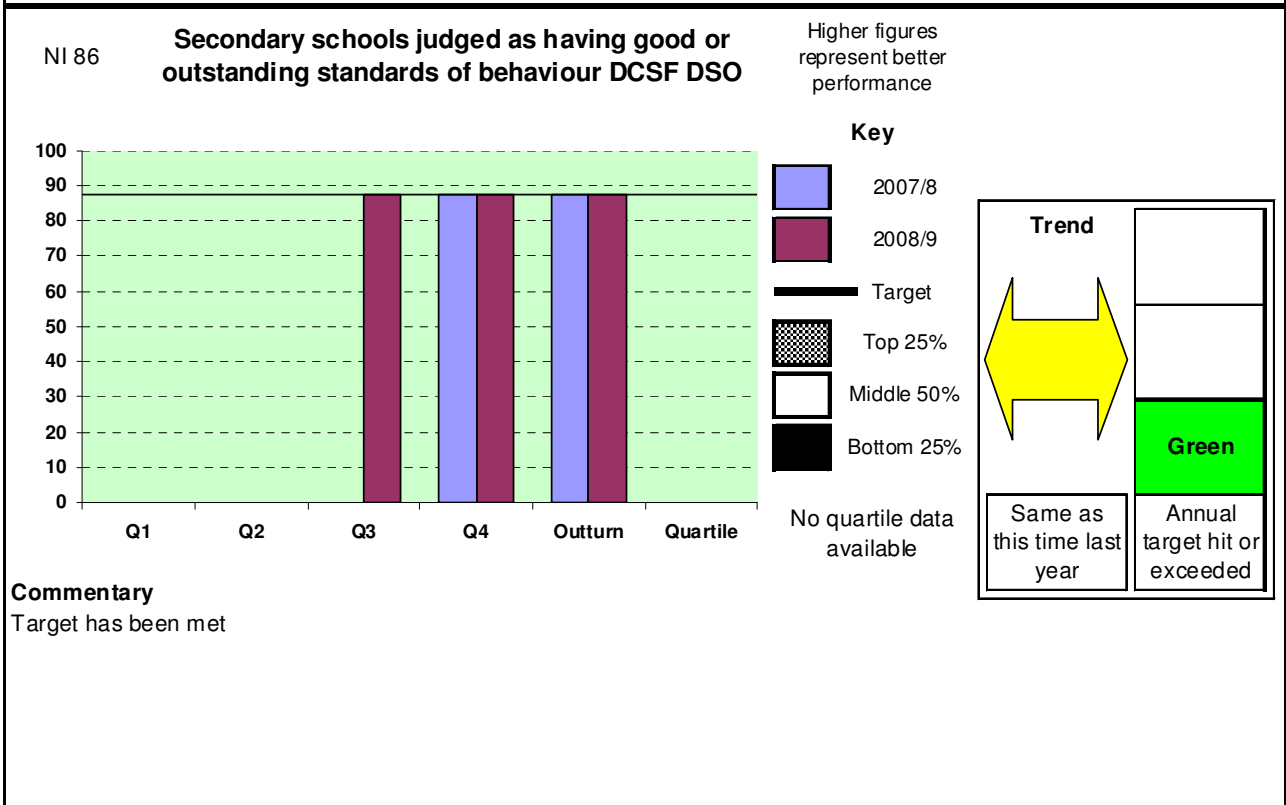
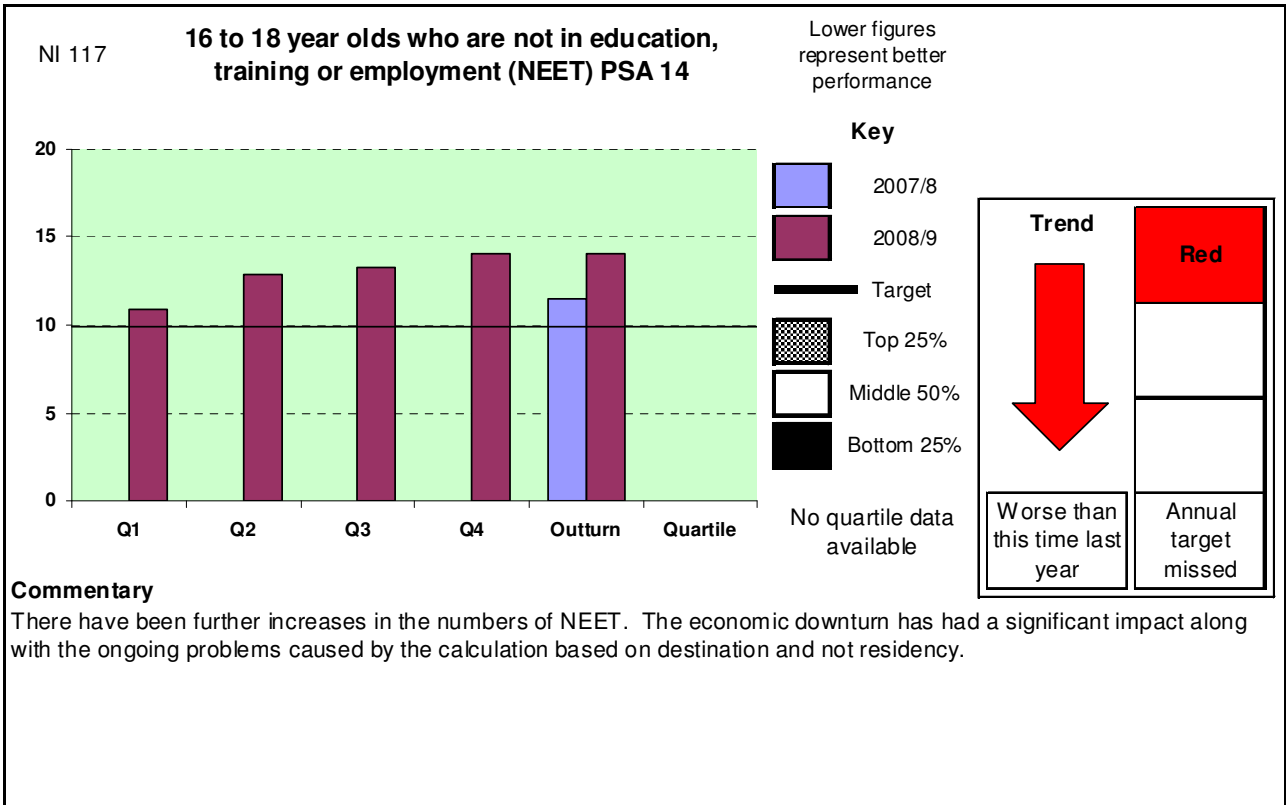
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Develop a broader, high quality alternative curriculum ensuring accredited outcomes, Sep 2008		Engagement Services now established and placing the majority of pupils placed in alternative curriculum in the borough.
		Establish 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.
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		Steps being taken to secure this role via GMCP. A range of the actions identified have been implemented, but there has been slippage on timescales in some areas.
		Increase engagement in the Youth Parliament by 10% or more Young People voting in the election of Halton MYP, Mar 2009		Target has been met
		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.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
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		A Tier 1 protocol is already in place. However, a draft Tier 2 & 3 agreement is currently being negotiated between LA & PCT. Indications suggest that sign off is imminent. In addition developments are underway to establish a teenage pregnancy / sexual health data group. The group will develop and research plans for each of the key issues identified within the TP plan.
		100% of sexual health services commissioned through Preventative Services implement the "You're Welcome" quality criteria, Mar 2009		'Your Welcome' Champion has been assigned to Denise Roberts, Children and Families Commissioning Manager. All services currently commissioned are working toward implementation of 'Hear by Rights' and 'Your Welcome'
		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		<p>Teen Drop In services have been established in some hotspot areas to provide a holistic preventative service for young people including access to sexual health advice and contraception. The first of the drop-ins has now been established and is being delivered from the Grange Youth Hub.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with Headteachers in High Schools to secure Teen Health Drop-In Clinics on school sites.</p>
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 <sup>st</sup> October 2009.
		Establish a directory of positive activities for young people, Mar 2009		Is expected to be up and running by May 09. Young design team have now developed the sight, and preview presentation is currently being consulted with all relevant partners.
		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 and work placements are one strand of the overall strategy. At March 2009 19 young people who are NEET accessing newly launched WNF funded apprenticeship scheme.
















**NI 110**, Young Peoples participation in positive activities. 67.8%, this is a new national indicator for the current year, and this is the first time it is being reported. Recently released TellUs3 survey data has been used to establish this baseline figure on which future targets will be based. A target was not set for the current year and no traffic light is assigned.




**NI 118**, Take up of formal childcare by low income working families. This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available.

Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<b>Fair Access</b>						
NI88	Number of extended schools	65%	54%	65%		The extended schools agenda continues to develop well in Halton and has been recognised as good practice by the TDA. There is confidence in achieving the government target of all schools delivering the full core offer by 2010. Schools at risk of not meeting the target have been supported in their development of the agenda.
PS LI3	% of pupils receiving full time provision from 6th school day after exclusion	100%	100%	83.33%		There has been a drop from 100% to 83.3%. There are very small numbers involved and in real terms this equates to 1 young person from a cohort of 6.
NI116	Proportion of children in poverty	27%	26%	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator with the baseline set at 27% for 2007-08. No update is currently available
<b>Quality</b>						
NI 199	Children & Young People's Satisfaction with Parks and Play areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
<b>Service Delivery</b>						
NI53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	15.5%	18%	N/A	N/A	Information not available
NI55	Obesity among primary age children in Reception Year	11.7	N/A	9.9	N/A	There has been a reduction in number of children measured as obese in Reception



<sup>1</sup> Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**

Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI56	Obesity among primary age children in Year 6	22.4%	21.3%	21.4%		There has been a significant improvement to 21.4% just missing the targets for the year.
NI69	Children who have experienced bullying	N/A	N/A	41.5%	N/A	This is a new national indicator and the baseline has been set using the Tellus 3 survey
NI87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	7.2%	9%	6.4%		Data for school year 2007/2008
NI91	Participation of 17yr olds in education or training	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
NI112	Under 18 conception rate	+1.9	-27	+49		Rate has increased significantly during the year with the % change in rate +49 against a target of -27. A review of sexual health services will consider new ways of working to improve performance in this area.
NI113	Under 20 Chlamydia rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
NI114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0.40	0.37	0.18		The rate has more than halved during the year well below the target.
NI115	Substance misuse by young people	N/A	N/A	12.6%	N/A	This is a new national indicator and the baseline has been set using the Tellus 3 survey
<b><u>NI117</u></b>	16-18 year olds NEET	11.5%	9.9%	14.02%		There have been further increases in the numbers of NEET. The economic downturn has had a significant impact along with the ongoing problems caused by the calculation based on destination and not residency.

Key Objective (Service Plan Ref. Only)	Risk Control Measures	Progress	Commentary
<b>PS4</b>	<p>Project plan established for the Health Integration project and monitored by a Steering Group.</p> <p>Integrated working training provided for staff from all agencies to increase understanding of each others roles and the integration agenda</p> <p>Increasing use of integrated process such as CAF and Lead Professional</p> <p>Information sharing protocol to be agreed to improve use of local data for planning services</p>		<p>The health integration project has led to a number of key functions being delivered on a community basis from Children’s Centres. This is now being further developed through the Locality pilot which is establishing a multi-agency core team to provide preventative services. There is increasing use of CAF and it is to be further developed as the key integrated process within the locality model.</p>
<b>PS8</b>	<p>Use of Outcomes Based Accountability ‘Turning the Curve’ exercise.</p> <p>Establishing local systems for collating data to provide more update to date picture to inform planning.</p> <p>Targeting of support services at hotspot wards</p>		<p>A new performance framework for the Children’s Trust based on the OBA principles. Locality profiles have been established to enable targeting of resources at identified need in hotspot wards.</p>

HIGH Priority Actions	Target (Resp. Officer)	Progress (Traffic lights)*	Commentary
Ensure staff participate in a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 2009 OD and all DM's		A programme of training has been running for more than 2 years and staff are identified for courses via the EDR process. E&D training is also included in the induction standards for new staff.
Participate in programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 2009 OD and all DM's		There have been some gaps identified in completion of EIA's. The Children's Trust Equalities group is currently developing mechanisms to ensure completion and improve quality and impact of assessments.
Embed a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation in all aspects of Service Delivery	March 2009 OD and all DM's		Stakeholder engagement and participation is being developed across all service areas however further development is still required. This will be implemented during 2009-10.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<b><u>Green</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<b><u>Red</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

**DIRECTORATE:** Children & Young People  
**SERVICE:** Specialist Services  
**PERIOD:** Quarter 4 to year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Specialist Services Department fourth quarter period up to year-end 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

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

### 2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

#### 2.1 CHILDREN IN CARE

The inspection regime for regulated services (children's homes, adoption and fostering services) has been subject to some changes in approach after a national benchmarking exercise by Ofsted. Inspection visits are becoming more challenging as the expectations of Ofsted are raised and the focus develops. Reports on inspections are becoming shorter, with very clear statements on issues that must be rectified immediately and those, which should be addressed in the medium term as good practice.

One of the issues that is key to a successful inspection in a children's home, is evidence that the Regulation 33 visits which are undertaken by Councillors are robust, consistent and of a high quality. A briefing will be delivered to members of the Children and Young People PPB in June, with a view to recruiting more Councillors to undertake the visits and to address the content of each visit.

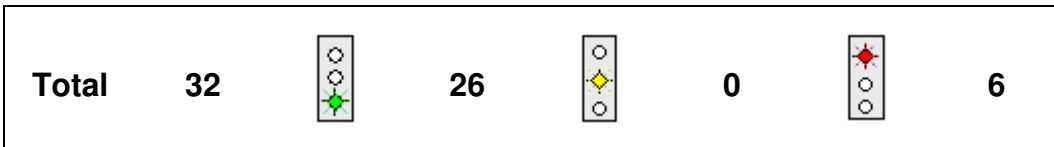
**3.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

**3.1 Children in Care**

The number of children in care has risen over the quarter. Many of the children are very young children where there has been a family history of significant issues and where the action of bringing them into care has been planned and part of a Court process.

The continuing difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of foster carers impacts on where these children are able to be placed and demand for placements continues to be greater than the local supply.

**4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES**

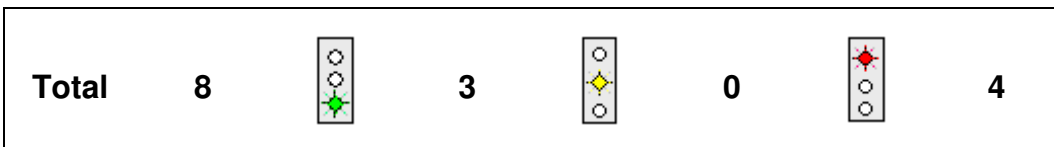


Most milestones (26) have been achieved this year, whilst 6 have not. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

**5.0 SERVICE REVIEW**

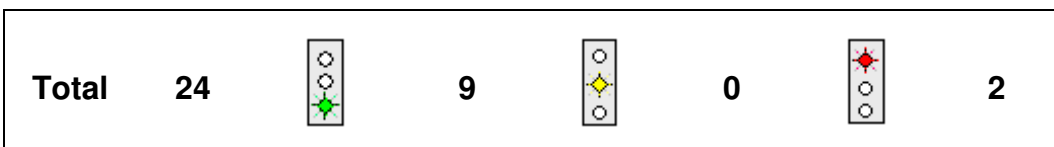
Nothing to report this quarter.

**6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



3 “Key” indicators have met their targets and 4 have not. 1 indicator cannot be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

**6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



9 “Other” indicators have met their targets and 2 have not. 13 indicators cannot be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.



## 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 monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

For details please refer to Appendix 5

## 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 reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.








For details please refer to Appendix 6








## 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- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures  
Appendix 6 – Progress against High Priority Equality Actions  
Appendix 7 - Explanation of traffic light symbols

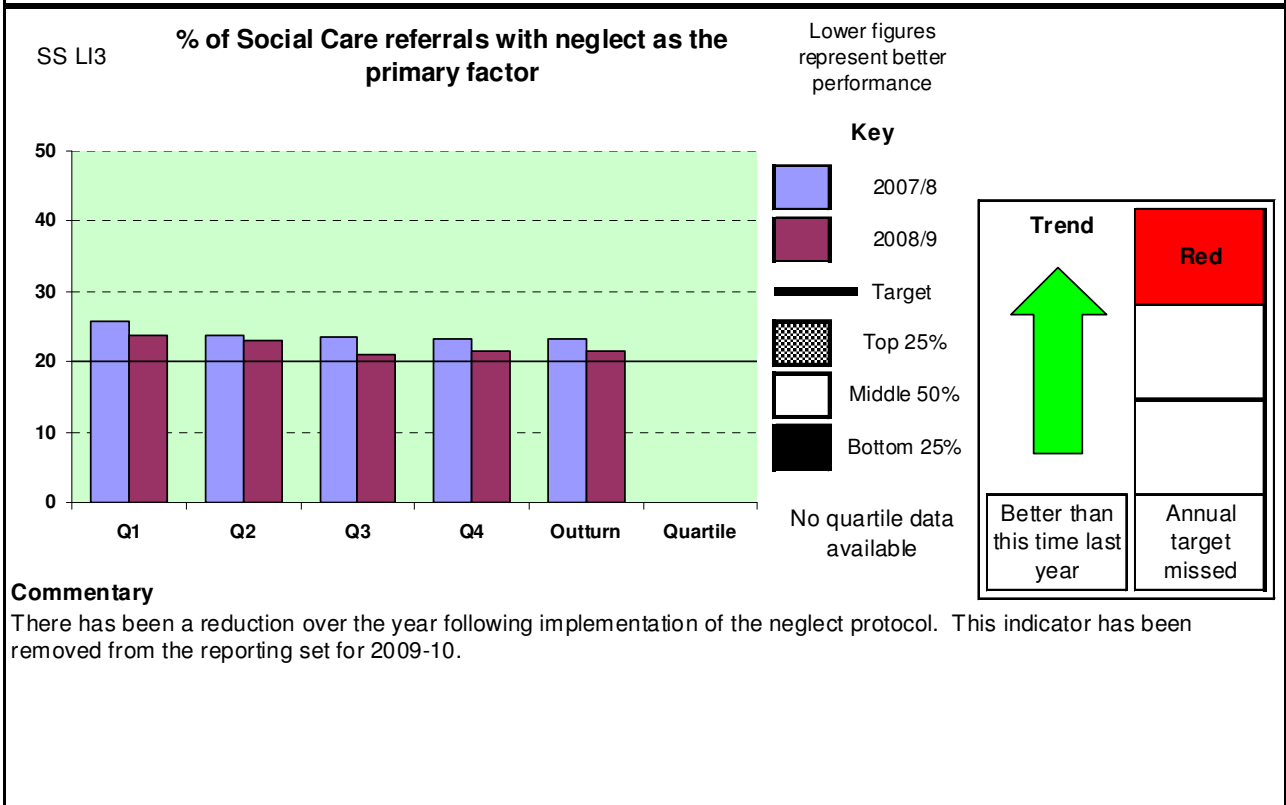
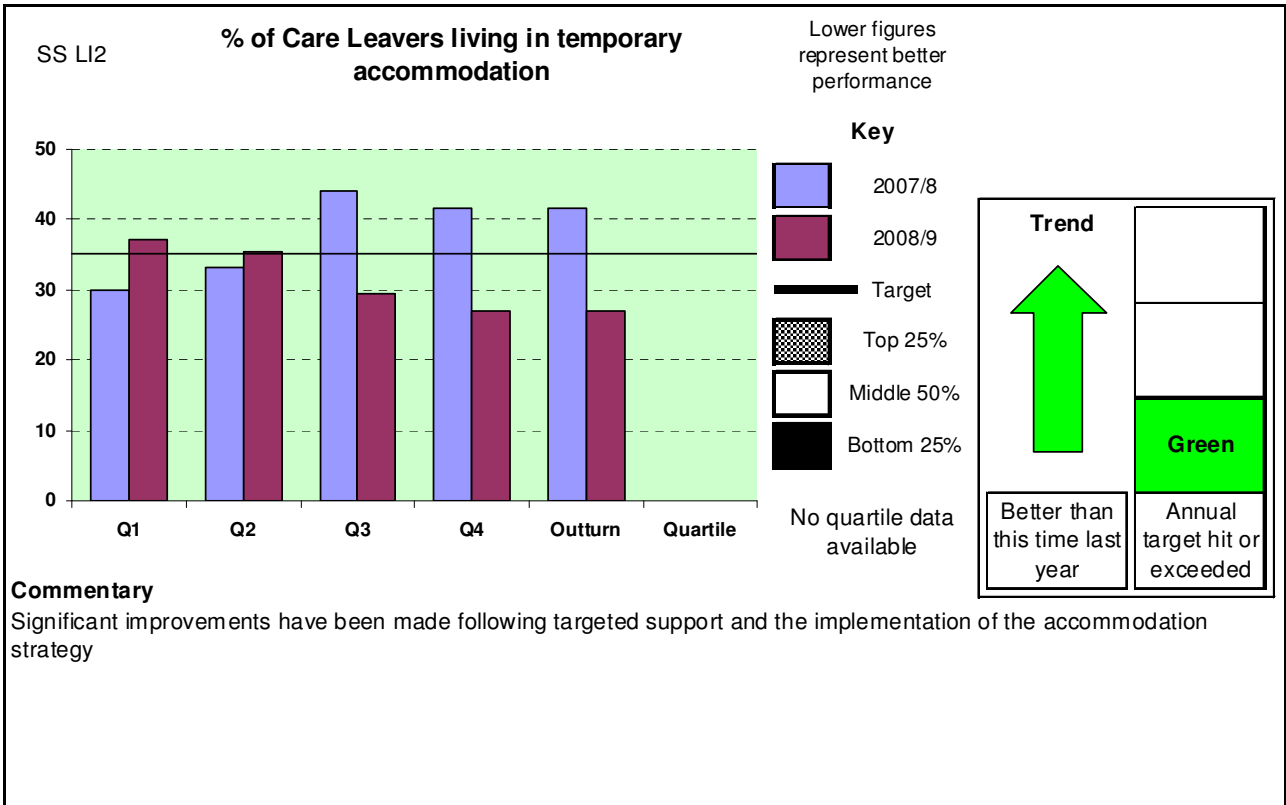
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
SS 1	To improve outcomes for looked after children	Children in Care mini trust integrated into single Children's Trust, Mar 2009		The new Children's Trust arrangements are now in place
		All children in Care have an up to date PEP, Mar 2009		100% completion achieved
		All children in Care are offered a Health Assessment during the year and those that refuse are given alternative access to health services		System in place to ensure compliance
		All children in Care identified as at risk of offending during the year are referred to YOT		Referral process in place and all those identified as at risk have been referred
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		Completed in partnership with St Helen's
		Stop admission of under 18's to adult mental health wards (except in exceptional circumstances) through further development of transitional services, Mar 2009		There are concerns about the quality of tier 3 and 4 CAMHS provision in the Borough. These concerns are being jointly investigated with the PCT investigated
		Develop specialist CAMHS 24/7 cover, Mar 2009		There are concerns about the quality of tier 3 and 4 CAMHS provision in the Borough. These concerns are being jointly investigated with the PCT investigated

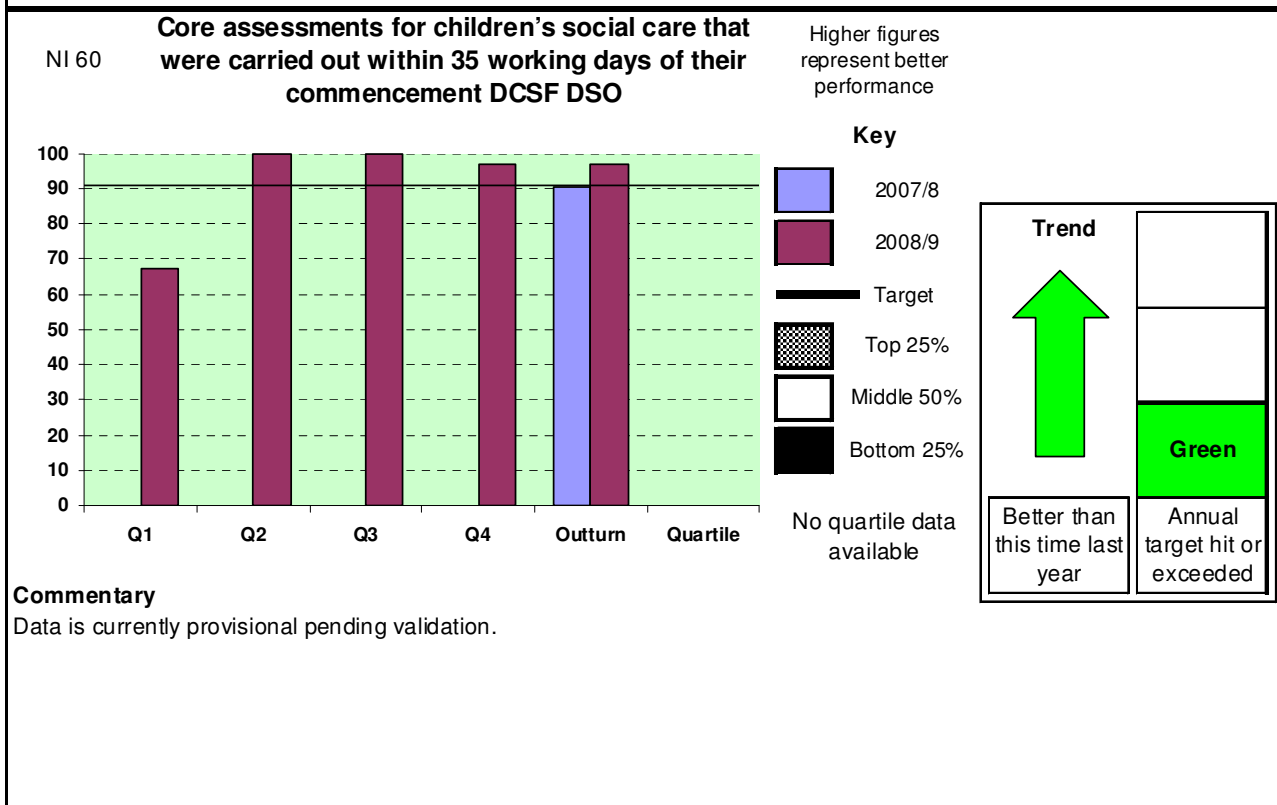
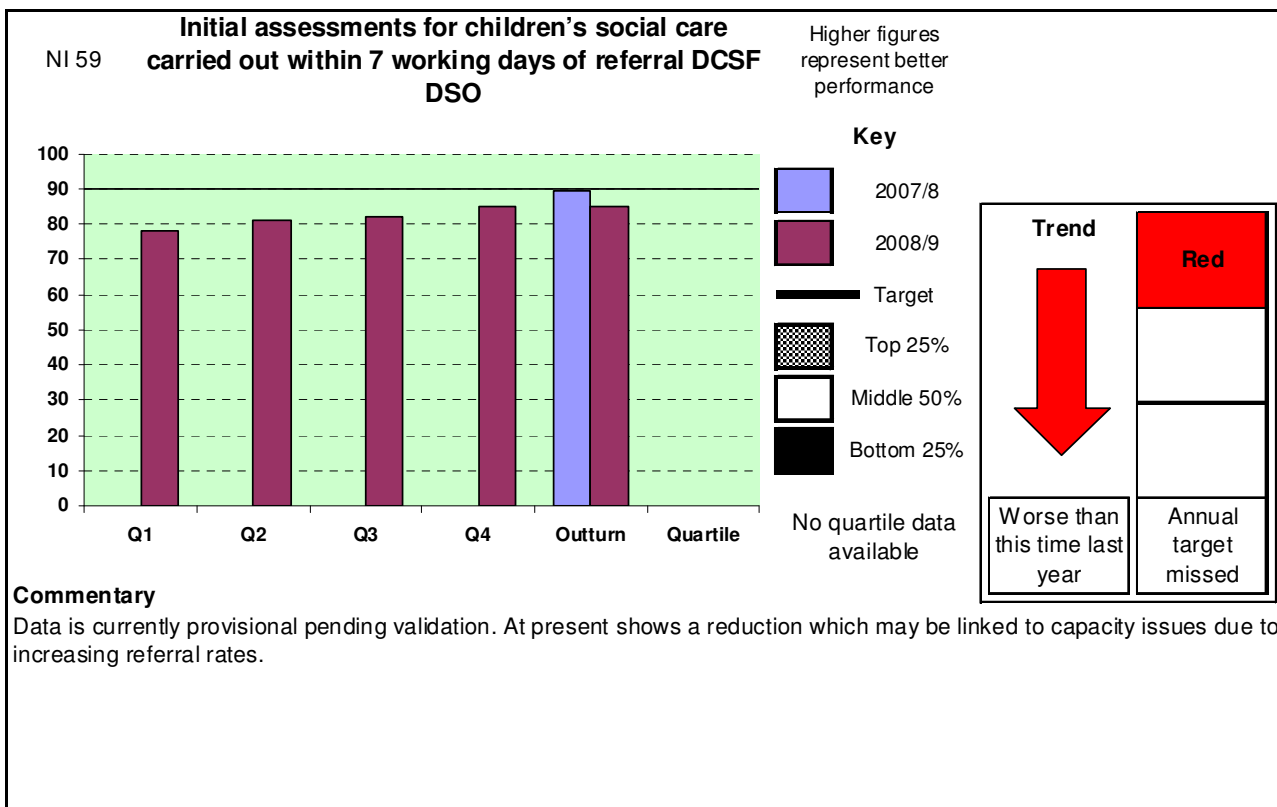
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Actions identified within the Emotional Health and Wellbeing action plan completed within agreed timescales		All actions identified for 2009-10 have been completed
SS 3	To ensure the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities 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		Actions identified for 2009-10 have been completed.
		Increase the number of work placements offered to Children in Care and Care Leavers by 10% against baseline, Mar 2009		10 apprenticeships to be developed for care leavers, however these are not in place yet
		Hold a Corporate Parenting conference to launch the new pledge and the Children in Care Council, Sep 2008		Successful conference held on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2008
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		The new Children's Trust arrangements are now in place
		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		Initial review undertaken and further work now in progress.
		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		This has been discontinued. The review of CAF is now to be done locally drawing on lessons form SCR, case auditing and data review.

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		Recommendations have been implemented in full
		Introduce induction standards for all new Foster Carers, Mar 2009		Standards introduced and carers working towards achievement
		Target recruitment of baby adopters and adopters outside the borough to increase the number of adoptions during the year		Recruitment Strategy in place and work ongoing in order to meet demand.
		Provide a programme of training for carers to meet their identified needs during the year		Programme is in place
		Implement competency based assessments for carers, Mar 2009		Implemented
SS 6	To provide a range of support and accommodation services for young people over 16 yrs and for care leavers	Implement revised Accommodation Strategy, Sep 2008		Implemented
		Identify partnership opportunities for commissioning of semi-independent accommodation e.g. development of Supported Lodgings, Mar 2009		Arrangements identified and being developed
		Accommodation Support Worker to track all housing applications by Care Leavers during the year		Completed

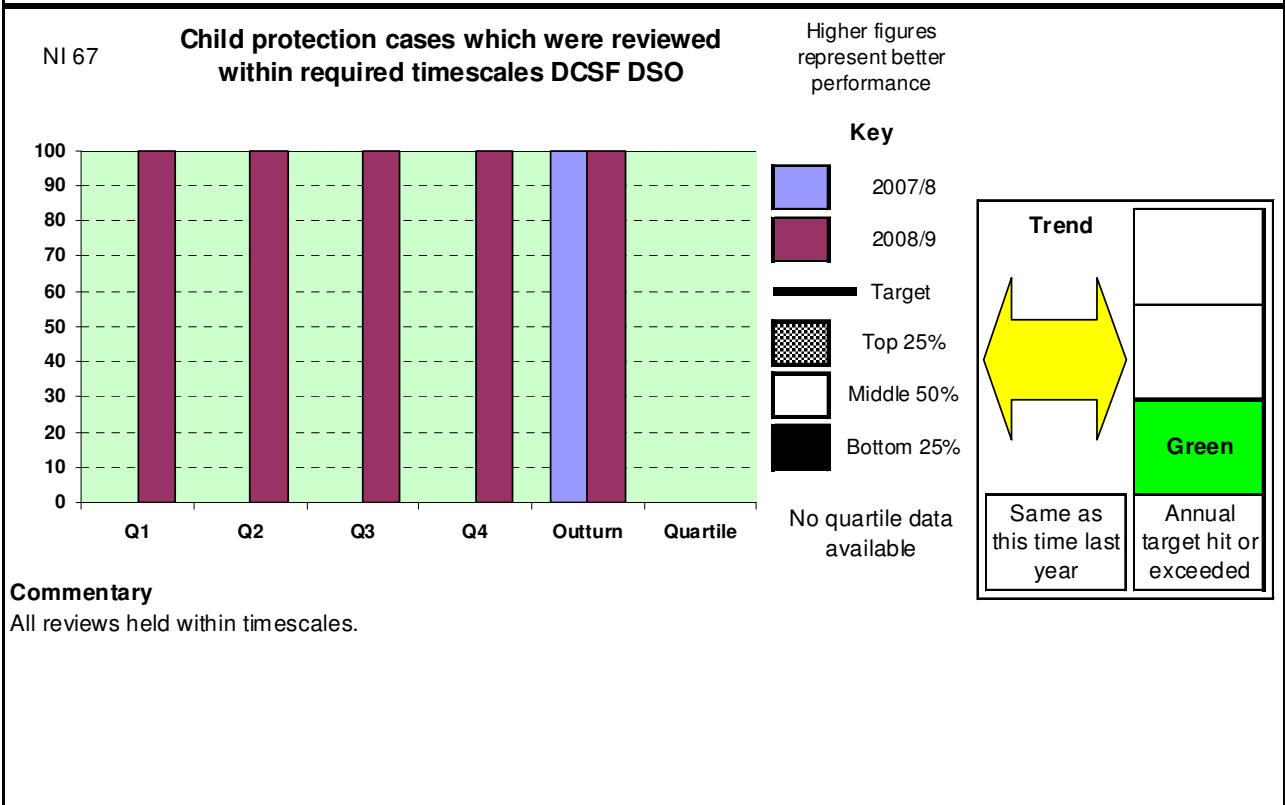
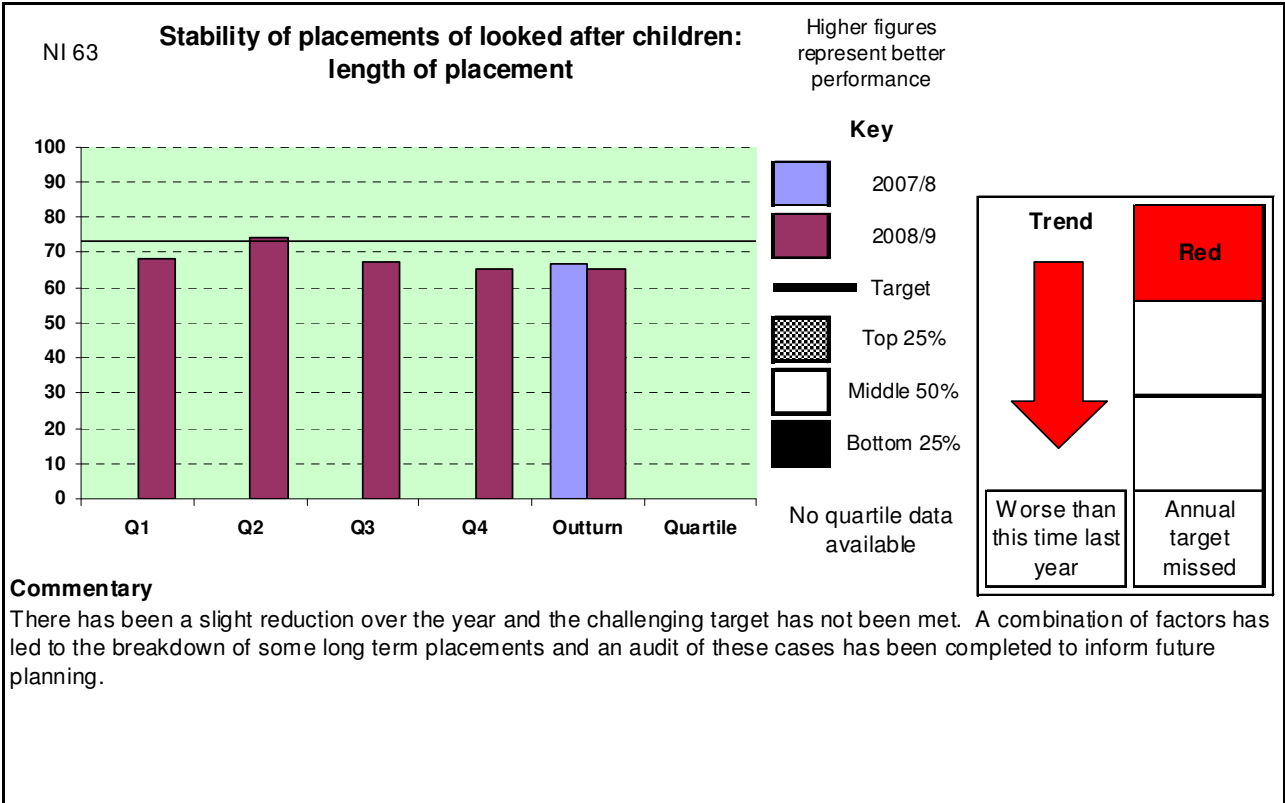
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Advocate for RSL's to increase options for care leavers via Housing Partnership Board, Mar 2009		Advocacy role has led to a decrease in the number of care leavers in temporary accommodation
SS 7	To increase awareness and engagement 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		Completed. A performance framework is now in place and is being monitored by the HSCB
		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		Programme is in place
		Provide safeguarding training to the same accredited standards as professionals for a further 20 parents, Mar 2009		Delayed due to recruitment difficulties for the safeguarding policy officer post following job evaluation
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 in this age group have been offered a plan.
		Review of Carer's Strategy, Mar 2009		There has been some slight slippage in the timescales and now due to be completed in Mid May

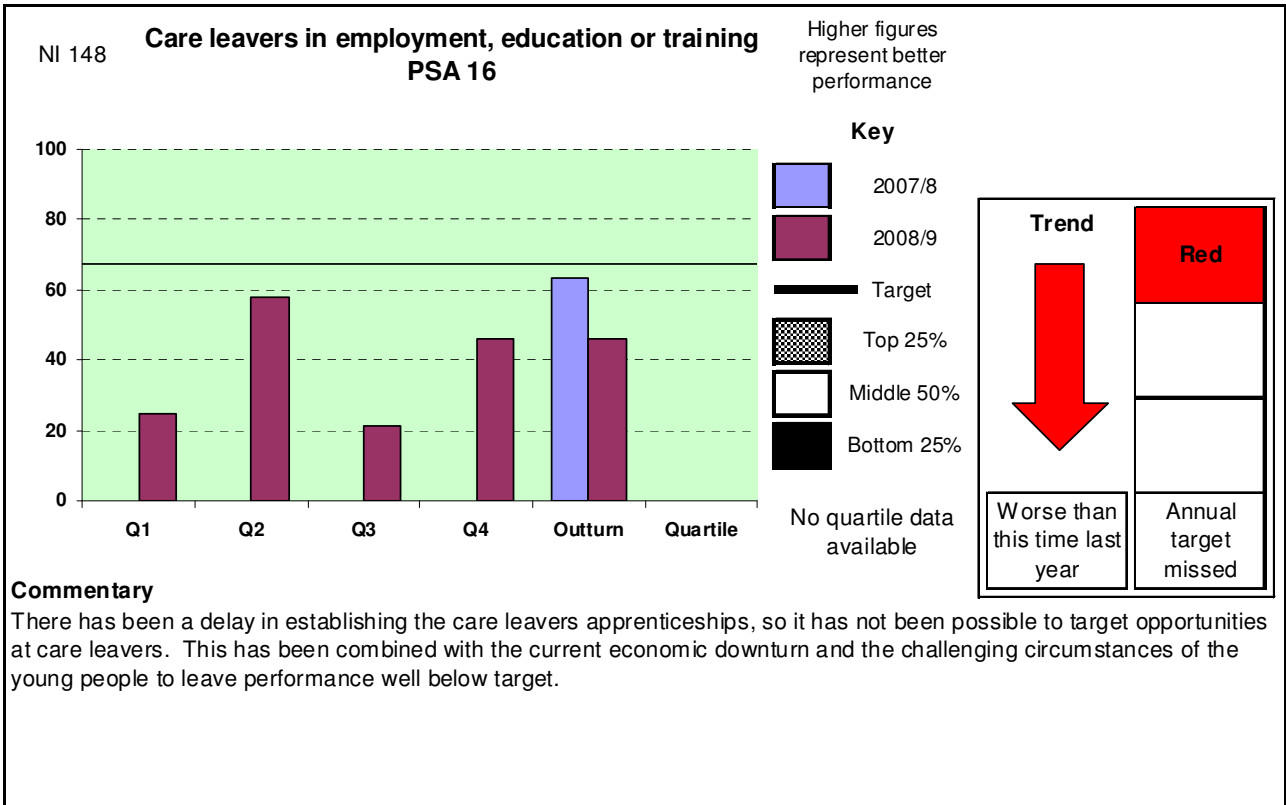
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Full implementation of Aim Higher for Disabled Children, Sep 2008		Expansion of the programme nationally now means implementation will be phased over a longer period until 2011. Action plan is on target.
SS 9	To improve choice and level of short break provision	Baseline information established on range and volume of short break provision, Sep 2008		Completed
		Needs analysis undertaken, Mar 2009		Completed
		Implementation of Pathfinder pilot for Short Break Provision, Sep 2008		Completed





















**NI 111**, First time entrants to the Youth Justice System, aged 10 – 17. Cannot be reported as data is not yet available.


Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<b>Fair Access</b>						
SS LI1	% of LAC achieving at or above the level forecast using FFT data	N/A	N/A	KS1-100% KS2-75% KS3-44% KS4-100%	Refer to Comment	Currently, we can only report in terms of end of Key Stage (KS) cohorts in line with Fischer Family Trust (FFT) predictions. However, we are working closely with schools to be able to obtain more accurate within KS progress data, so should hopefully be able to provide a more robust picture in future. An additional complication is that we only have access to FFT predictions for our children in care placed within Halton Schools. For end of KS cohorts (Halton Schools only) the results are as follows: <u>KS1</u> - 100% achieved in line with FFT predictions. <u>KS2</u> - 75% achieved in line with FFT predictions – one boy received an MLD statement and was disapplied from the SATs. <u>KS3</u> - 44% achieved in line with FFT predictions – 4 young people did not achieve their predicted level in English; 2 did not achieve their predicted level in Maths and 2 in Science. <u>KS4</u> - 100% achieved in line with FFT predictions


<sup>1</sup> Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**

Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
SS LI6	% of Children assessed with complex needs accessing mainstream education	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new indicator for the current year, and no target was set. Data systems are under development to allow reporting on this indicator, although it is likely it will be reviewed as an indicator.
<b>Quality</b>						
SS LI5	% of Children participating in person centred transition reviews to enable them to influence their own outcomes	N/A	N/A	100%		All children participated in their transition reviews. (Although a target wasn't set at the start of the year, maximum performance has been achieved, therefore as green traffic light is assigned).
<b>Service Delivery</b>						
NI43	Young people convicted and sentenced to custody	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI44	Ethnicity of offenders on Youth Justice disposals	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI45	Young offenders engaged in suitable education, employment and training	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI50	Emotional Health of Children	N/A	N/A	70.2		This is a new national indicator with the benchmark set using the Tellus 3 Survey. Halton performance was the 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest nationally.



Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI51	Effectiveness of CAMHS services	12	13	N/A	N/A	Awaiting data
NI54	Services for Disabled Children	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI58	Emotional and Behavioural Health of Children in Care	N/A	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI61	Stability of CiC adopted following agency decision to place for adoption	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI62	Stability of placements of CiC: number of moves	8.7%	8.5%	6%		Data is currently provisional pending validation. At present shows a further improvement.
NI64	Child Protection plans lasting 2 or more years	3.2%	3%	0%		No children have had a CP Plan for more than 2 years which would indicate robust planning systems
NI65	Children subject to a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time	7.1%	10%	3%		There has been a further reduction which may be due to an increase in care proceedings.
NI66	Children in Care cases reviewed within timescales	100%	100%	100%		All reviews held within timescales
<b>NI67</b>	Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales	100%	100%	100%		All reviews held within timescales
NI68	Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	95%	95%	90.9%		This data is currently provisional depending on the results of validation checking and CPR3 Return




Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI70	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children	575	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	This information is reported to Dept Health via a data warehouse and 2008/09 Data will not be available until May 2009 at the earliest results published at <a href="http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk">www.hesonline.nhs.uk</a>
NI71	Children who have run away from home/care overnight	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New National Indicator data not currently available
NI 99	Looked after children reaching L4 in KS2 English	100% (6 out of 6)	50%	50%		There were only 4 children in the KS2 cohort, 2 girls and 2 boys. Both girls achieved L4 in English (50%) and this was in line with expectations. However, one of the boys did not take his SATs as he has an MLD statement and was disapplied. The remaining boy achieved L3, and this was in line with his 2 level progression
NI 100	Looked after children reaching L4 in KS2 Maths	83% (5 out of 6)	50%	25%		There were only 4 children in the KS2 cohort, 2 girls and 2 boys. Only one girl achieved L4 in Maths (25%). One of the boys did not take his SATs as he has an MLD statement and was disapplied. The remaining boy achieved L3, and this was in line with his 2 level progression. However, the remaining girl did not achieve her 2 level progression nor Level 4. During the last academic year an educational psychology assessment did identify that she has difficulty within the mathematical area of leaning, additional support has now been put in place to assist her with this and with her transition to

Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						secondary school.
NI101	Children in Care achieving at least 5 A*-C GCSE	8.3%	9%	18%		There were 17 young people in the cohort, 9 boys and 8 girls. Of this group 8 young people had a statement of SEN, with a further 3 being at School Action level and 2 being at School Action Plus level on the SEN Code of Practice. 18% of the cohort achieved at least 5 A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths. This was broadly in line with expectations for the cohort and 2 young people achieved higher results than expected.
NI147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	78.6%	80%	N/A	N/A	New national indicator data not due for validation until July 09



LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 07/08	Perform 08/09 Q4	Traffic light	Commentary
11	<p><b>Improved opportunities and levels of participation in education, training and employment by children in the care of Halton Council.</b></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%	92.6%		A further increase in performance reached the LPSA Stretch Target. Performance has been audited and signed off.



Key Objective (Service Plan Ref. Only)	Risk Control Measures	Progress	Commentary
SS1	Children in Care Strategy and action plan have been developed in response to the Care Matters consultation. Children in Care Council established with clear links to the accountable roles of Director of Children's Services and Lead Member.		Implementation of the strategy is progressing well and will be supported by the development of a Placement Strategy focusing on develop quality provision in Halton. Children in Care Council has been established and is working well.
SS6	Accommodation Strategy revised and due for implementation. Links being established to housing providers and advocacy provided on behalf of Care Leavers to secure appropriate accommodation. Accommodation Support Worker based with the Young People's team to support care leavers during transition to independent living.		Accommodation for Care Leavers is still a major issue, however progress has been made in reducing the % of care leavers living in temporary accommodation.

HIGH Priority Actions	Target (Resp. Officer)	Progress (Traffic lights)*	Commentary
Ensure staff participate in a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 2009 OD and all DM's		A programme of training has been running for more than 2 years and staff are identified for courses via the EDR process. E&D training is also included in the induction standards for new staff.
Participate in programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 2009 OD and all DM's		There have been some gaps identified in completion of EIA's. The Children's Trust Equalities group is currently developing mechanisms to ensure completion and improve quality and impact of assessments.
Embed a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation in all aspects of Service Delivery	March 2009 OD and all DM's		Stakeholder engagement and participation is being developed across all service areas however further development is still required. This will implemented during 2009-10.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<b><u>Green</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<b><u>Red</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved.</u></p>

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

**DIRECTORATE:** Children & Young People  
**SERVICE:** Universal & Learning Services  
**PERIOD:** Quarter 4 to year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Universal & Learning Services Department fourth quarter period up to year-end 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

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

### 2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

#### 2.1 National Challenge

To access the funds the LA, in partnership with the schools, have produced a plan that includes all costs. The plan has been agreed with the DCSF (Department for Children Schools and Families) and as a result significant funding has been received by our schools to support and sustain improvements (£235,000). Each school has developed a single, robust, highly focused school improvement plan focusing upon raising attainment (a Raising Attainment Plan or RAP), which has been agreed with the DCSF, LA and National Strategies. This plan identifies the support the school needs and how much it will cost. The LA has worked in partnership with the schools and the plans produced include all costs that schools will incur.

A National Challenge (NC) Advisor has been appointed by the LA to provide support and challenge to National Challenge Schools, including undertaking the role of the School Improvement Partner. In addition the NC Advisor will monitor how the school implements its improvement plan and report regularly on progress to the IA and the National Strategies

(the SSIA).

**2.2 Destination Survey**

Destination survey of Year 11 learners completed to inform curriculum planning. Plans are well developed for the rollout of the next four diplomas. Early indicators are that the Flexible provision offered from January has had some impact on the overall NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) statistics.

**2.3 Inclusion**

SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit Review for Secondary Resourced Provision – statutory proposal has been published in February 2009. 6-week representation period coming to an end.

SEN Unit Review for Primary Resourced Provision – initial consultations have taken place on the proposals, permission to consult on revised proposals will be sought at the next Executive Board meeting in June. There has also been an Early Years SEN Review the outcome of which may lead to a change in structure.

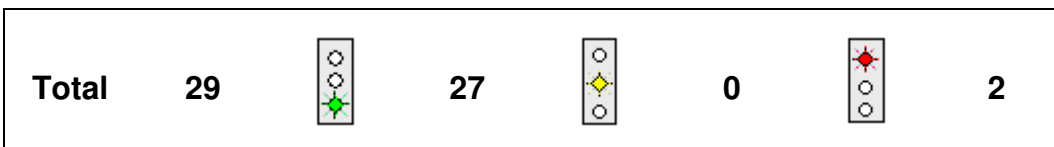
Establishment of Head Teacher Special interest group SEN. This group will propose changes in the areas of STAMP criteria and processes using comparative local & National LA models. This will include Enhanced Provision. Recommendations from this group will need to proceed to a wider consultation before changes are ultimately approved.

**3.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

**3.1 Construction Built Environment Diploma**

Some issues regarding learner behaviour and satisfaction on the Construction Built Environment diploma have emerged. The 14-19 team have worked with the lead provider to implement actions to address the issues. Retention remains very good on both L1 & L2.

**4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES**






Most milestones (27) have been achieved this year, whilst 2 have not. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

**5.0 SERVICE REVIEW**




Nothing to report this quarter.

**6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>
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Of the 7 “Key” performance indicators where targets were set, 2 targets were achieved. 6 new indicators have no targets and subsequently no traffic lights have been applied. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

**6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
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All “Other” performance indicators that had targets set have received green traffic lights. Of the remainder 10 have recorded an outcome without a target set, and 5 cannot be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

**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 monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 5.

**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 reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 6.




**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- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures  
Appendix 6 – Progress against High Priority Equality Actions  
Appendix 7 - Explanation of traffic light symbols


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		Extensive training opportunities in place. Uptake from Schools good, particularly in the areas of Data and ASD. The number of children accessing targeted support has increased.
		Provided 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





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Establish links with School Improvement Partners to ensure the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed in detail through the Single Conversation, Sep 2009		All SIPs (School Improvement Partners) 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. Following SIP reports an analysis of the information contained within them is undertaken by the SIP Manager and a meeting organised with key members of staff to assess the need for additional support in our schools.



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>Funding has been provided by the National Strategy to enable consultant support for implementation of letters and sounds materials (Communication Language and Literacy Development – CLLD). In 2008/09 18 schools and associated pre-schools implemented a CLLD type project. A further 44 schools and 23 PVI or nursery classes have attended phase 1 phonics training. In 08/09 a further 10 schools were supported by CLLD to implement the programme. As a result the schools have increased the % of children operating within the age expected phases of the program. In relation to the I Can accreditation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 settings accessed training.</li> <li>• 6 settings achieved supporting level accreditation</li> <li>• 1 setting achieved enhanced accreditation</li> <li>• 9 settings underway with supporting level accreditation</li> </ul> <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		All settings have implemented EYFS. 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 and Early Years Consultants. The School Improvement Team's capacity continues to be enhanced through the secondment of a nursery Head Teacher.
		Alignment between early years and school improvement has been implemented, Mar 2009		This has been achieved through collaboration around the development of the Early Years Outcome Duty Action Plan is supporting a clear and shared focus on the statutory EYFS targets. The EYOD plan is now emerging from a final re-write, the process of which is proving to be effective in centralising focus upon shared outcomes and collaborative working. This includes work with colleagues from the Preventative Service.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		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 – Qualified Teacher Status, FSP moderators and the Senior School Effectiveness Officer and advisory head teacher for early years. The monitoring of the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance systems on standards is also undertaken by the National Strategy RA for Early Years and the National Assessment Agency 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>This has been achieved through the effective use of data to identify schools that are, or are at risk of, underperforming. There is an increased focus up on the identification of and offer of support for 'coasting' schools where value added measures indicate underachieving pupils / groups. Improving Schools Programme (ISP) continues to be used to support whole school improvement in target schools. Consultant support for 08 / 09 allocated in light of latest National Challenge test data. Funding for ISP schools 09/10 has been reduced to half due to high performance in 08. Two Schools in an Ofsted category have been removed this term – Simms Cross and Ditton Primary. There is now one primary school in an Ofsted category – Weston. 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>




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To reduce the number of schools at risk of formal categorisation by 20% through the implementation of the alerts and trigger system, Mar 2009		<p>The draft alerts and triggers document has now been completed. The draft document has been trialled with a consultative HT group who will be feeding back to colleagues at their next meeting (April). The aim is that the use of the criteria will be agreed following the trial and that an electronic recording system will be in place for the new academic year.</p> <p>In the meantime intelligence to support the categorisation of schools is based upon evidence-based intelligence from a range of colleagues including SIPs and link advisers.</p>
		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 2010 targets, 87.2% schools set targets in line with FFT D. This is an improvement of nearly 12% from last year.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
ULS 4	To Improve Educational Outcomes for all Children at Secondary Level	50% of schools will be following Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning Programmes (SEAL), Mar 2009		There are now 87.5% of secondary schools implementing the SEAL programme.
		The number of schools identified as in need of targeted intervention are reduced by 33%, Mar 2009		There are currently 2 secondary schools identified as in need of targeted intervention – Halton High and The Grange Comprehensive. This represents a reduction on previous years.
		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, which has informed Consultant deployment.




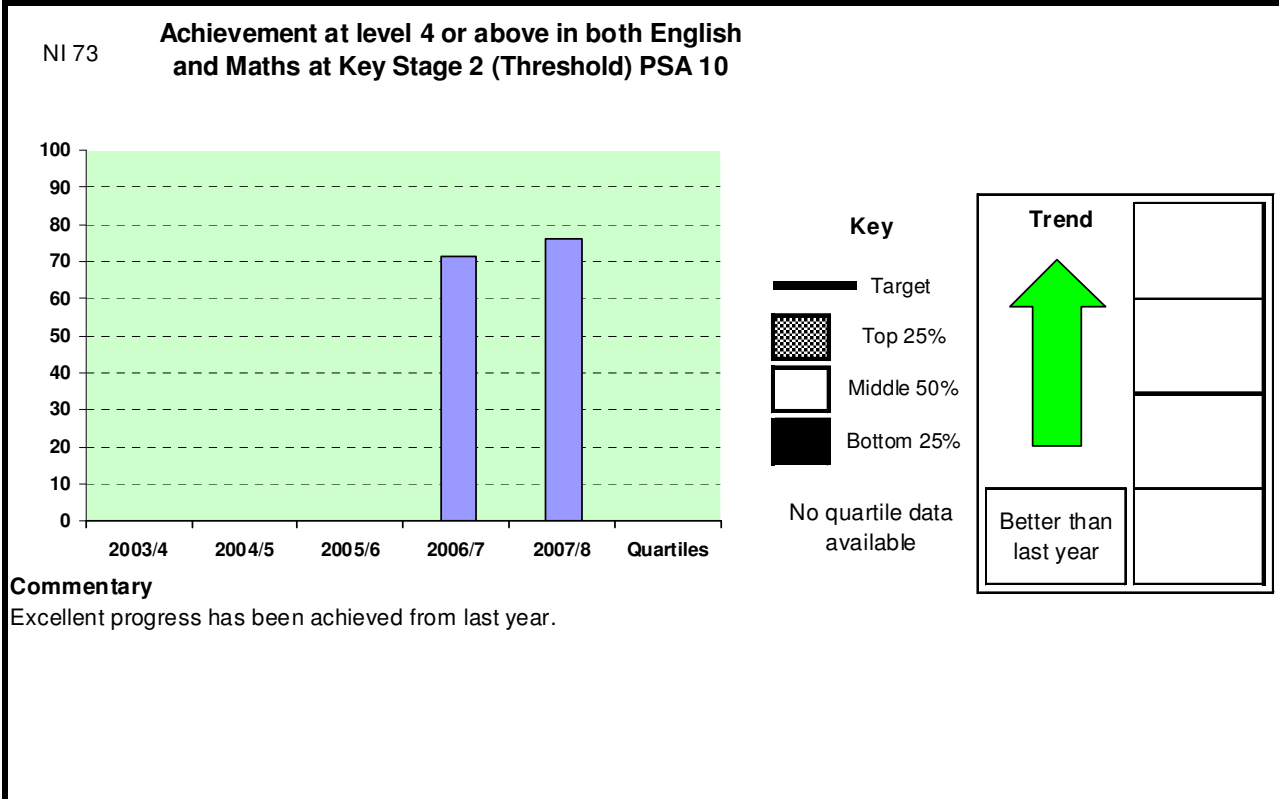
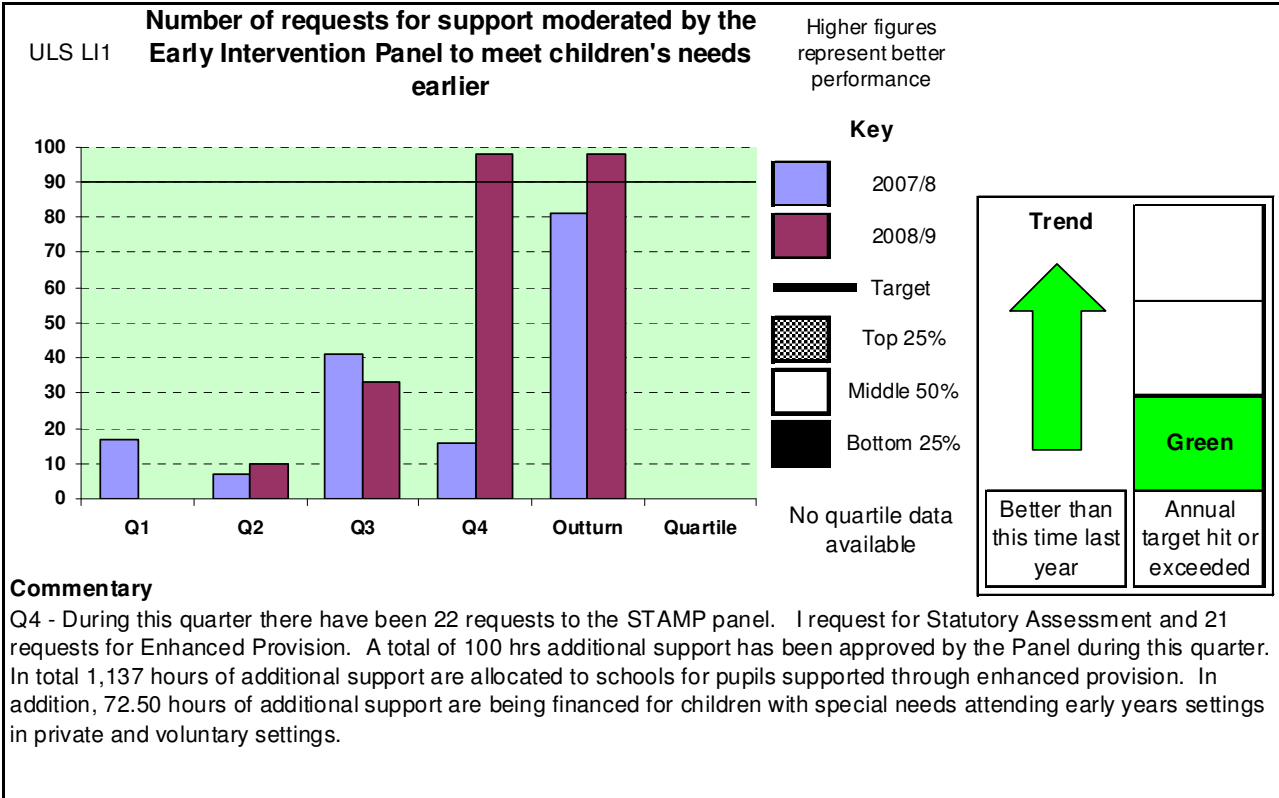
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Implementation of the alerts and trigger system to reduce the number of schools at risk of formal Categorisation by 25%, Mar 2009		<p>The draft alerts and triggers document has now been completed. The draft document has been trialled with a consultative HT group who will be feeding back to colleagues at their next meeting (April). The aim is that the use of the criteria will be agreed following the trial and that an electronic recording system will be in place for the new academic year.</p> <p>In the meantime intelligence to support the categorisation of schools is based upon evidence based intelligence from a range of colleagues including SIPs and link advisers.</p>
		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 2010 all schools set targets at FFT 'D' or above (i.e. 100% Of schools).
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		Milestones agreed and diploma rollout agreed at all 3 levels subject to successful Gateway application. L3 landscape to be determined once detailed mapping has taken place.

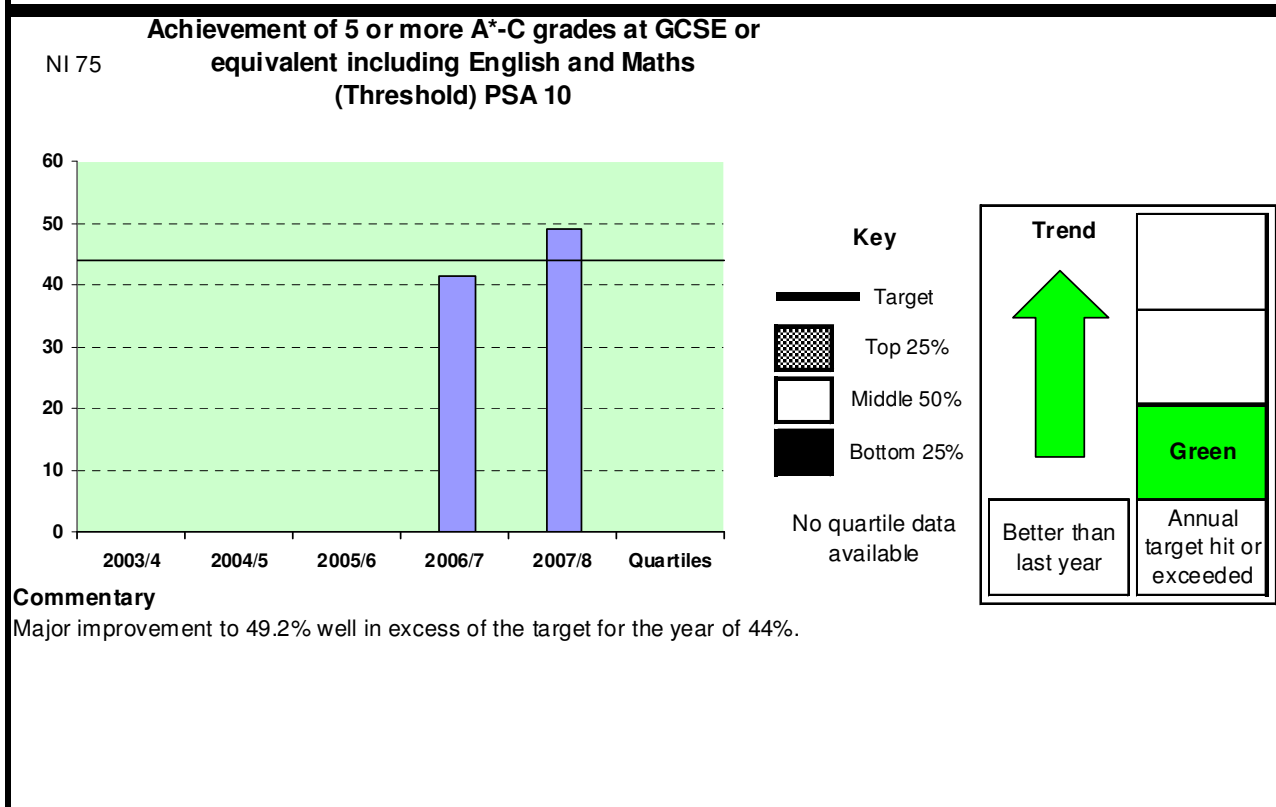
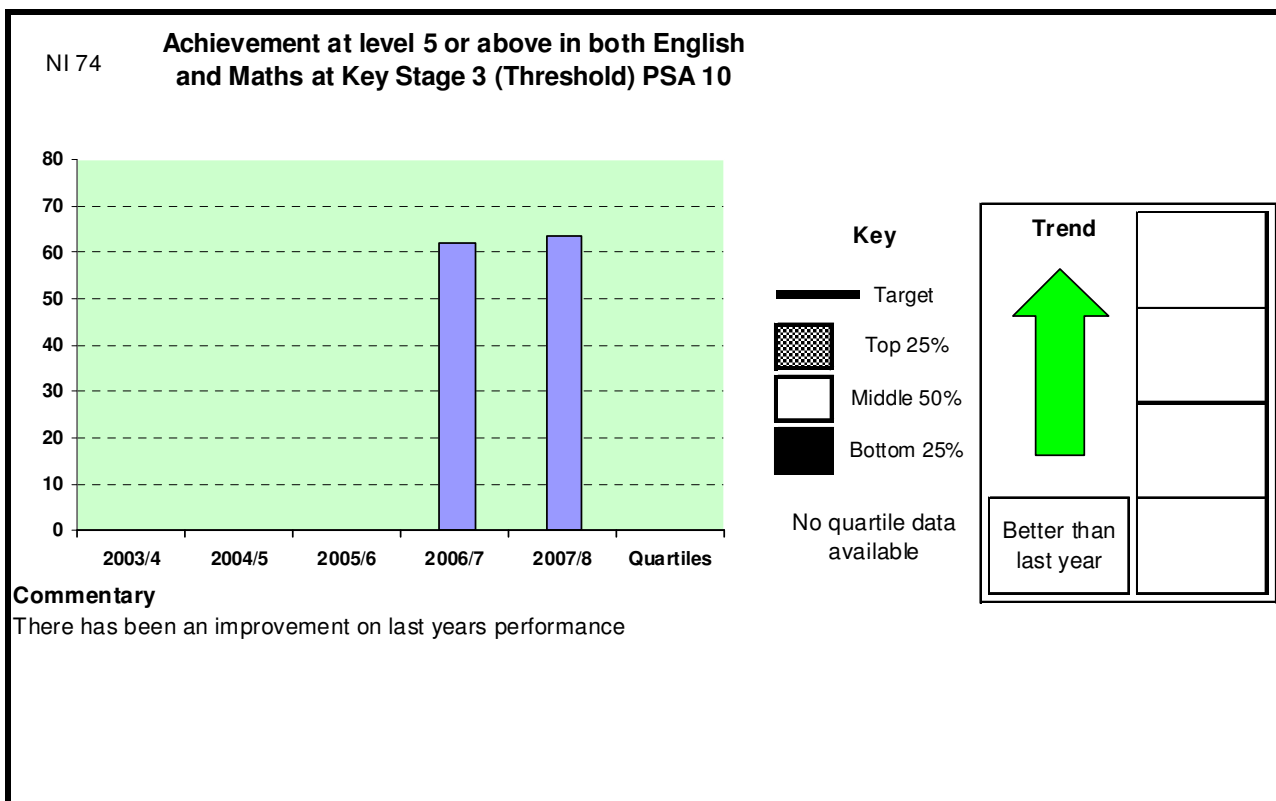
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Map all current provision offered to inform needs analysis and the development of a local 14-19 Education Plan, Mar 2009		Mapping exercise completed and presented to the 14-19 Partnership in March. A more detailed analysis of the curriculum including travel to learn areas out of borough is now underway. This information will determine the future post 16 offer to young people in Halton.
		Collaboratively deliver the Construction and Built environment diploma to 45 learners at levels 1,2&3, Mar 2009		Level 3 failed to recruit, retention good at level 1 and level 2 however some complex issues regarding delivery are emerging.
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 )
		85% 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		Implemented

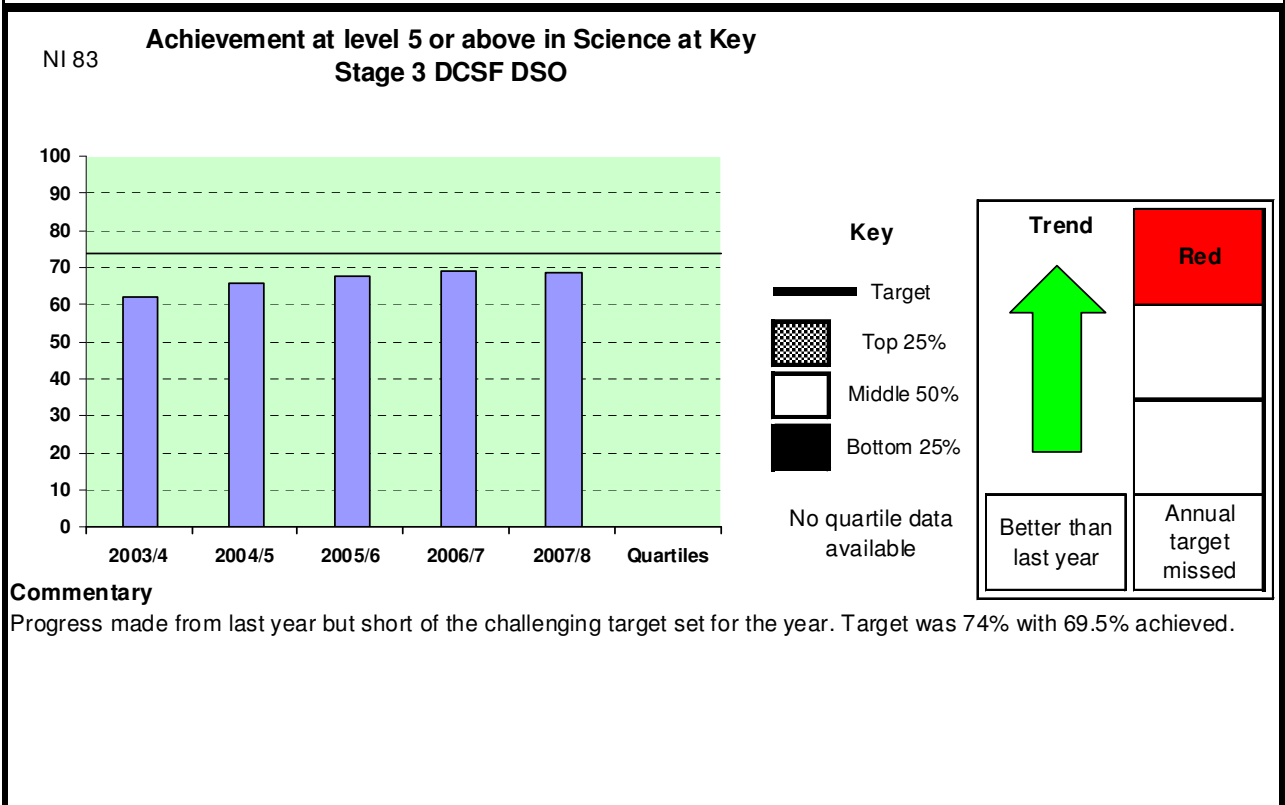
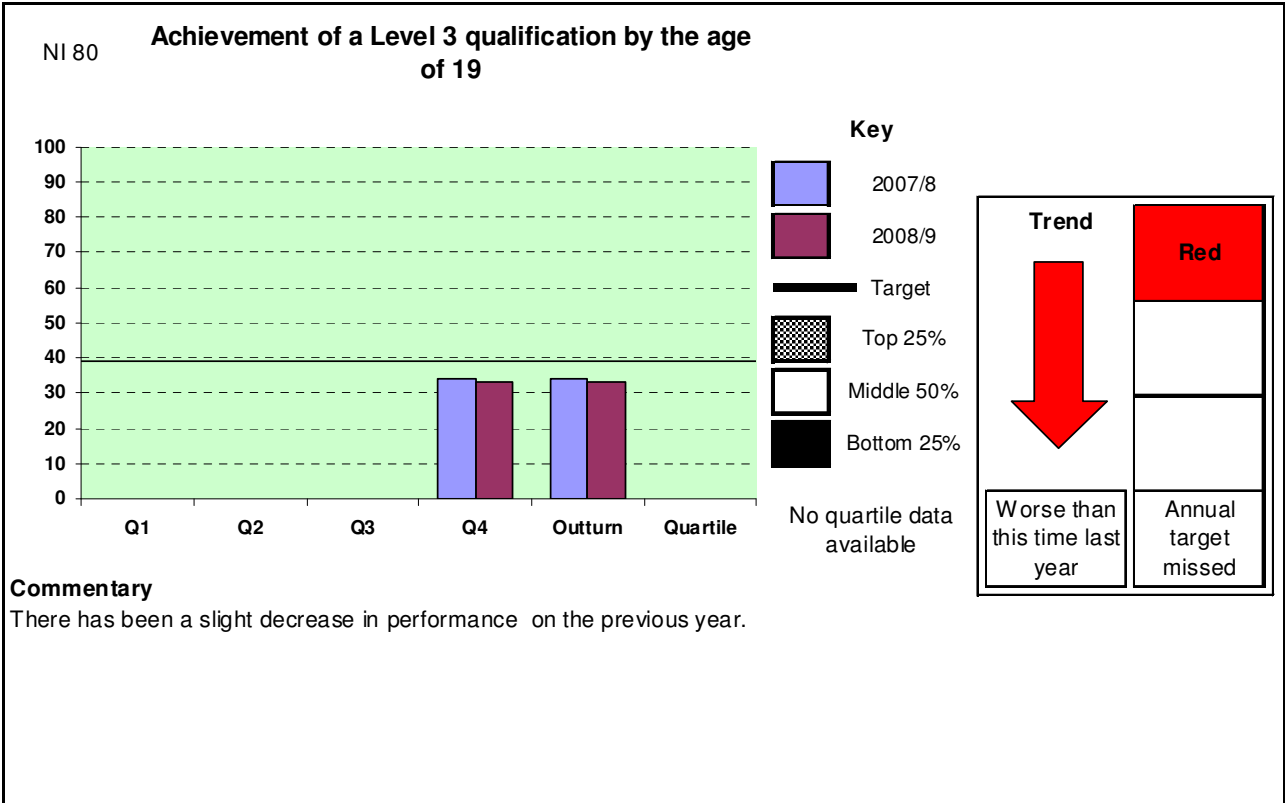
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Provide support to schools so that 94% achieve National Healthy School Status, Mar 2009		89% of schools had achieved the National Healthy School Standard below the target for the year.
ULS 7	To Enhance Opportunities for Vulnerable 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		Enhanced Provision reviewed annually via a Review Panel. Process for recycling resources is in place and over £1million has been allocated to schools for additional support.  This is monitored through SEN Service. Final draft guidelines for Infant Assessment Unit Provision circulated.
		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		Restructure of SEN Assessment Team Complete. Caseworkers and development officers appointed and in place. Enhanced action plus resource and support has been implemented.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		<p>Increase the number of children accessing the commissioned outreach services from Special Schools to support them in mainstream schools, Mar 2009</p>		<p>Referrals for outreach support for pupils with medical/physical needs, through SLA with Chestnut Lodge including support to private &amp; voluntary settings, facilitating increased access to mainstream provision.</p> <p>Outreach for ASD from Brookfields. Protocol for referral and tracking involvement agreed through Service level Agreement (SLA) increasing access for pupils with ASD to mainstream provision.</p>
		<p>Support the development of Specialist Resourced Provision, particularly in the areas of ASD language and Communication, Mar 2009</p>		<p>Statutory proposal published February 2009 for secondary resourced provision. Proposals include resourced provision for ASD/Aspergers, SPAL (speech and language) and Social Communication and Hearing Impaired (HI) resourced provision</p> <p>Confirmed April 2009.</p> <p>Primary Resourced Provision - initial consultations have taken place.</p> <p>It is anticipated that reviewed proposals will be submitted to Exec Board for permission to further consult.</p>

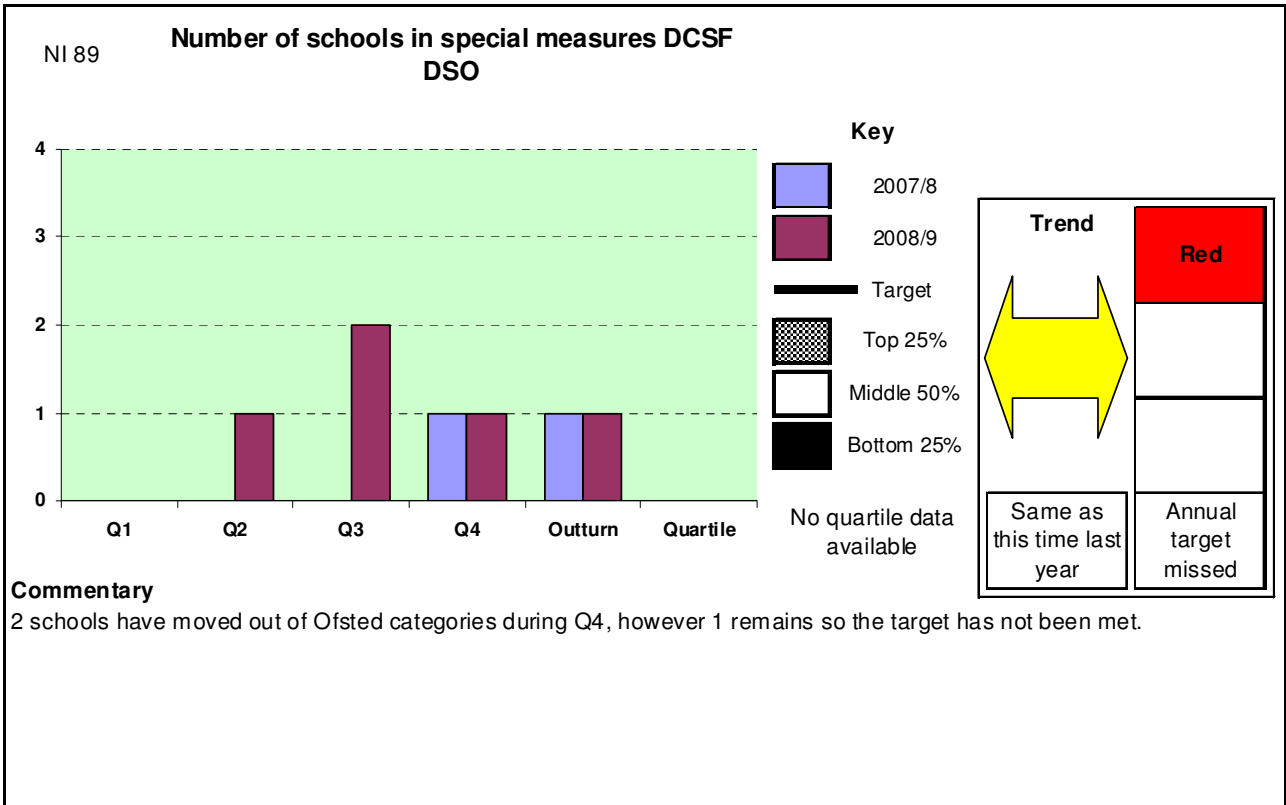
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Develop the processes of Transition Planning, to include Early Years, Mar 2009		<p>Extensive Training Programme in place covering a range of areas including Person Centred Planning, ASD Awareness and MAKETON.</p> <p>Child's voice taken into account during transition process across schools</p> <p>Multi-Agency Transition Planning in place. Early Years Transition Panel and Parent Conference in place and ongoing.</p>

















<b>Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Actual 2007/8</b>	<b>Target 08/09</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b><u>NI93</u></b>	Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in English	N/A	N/A	85%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
<b><u>NI94</u></b>	Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in Maths	N/A	N/A	81%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
<b><u>NI97</u></b>	Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in English	N/A	N/A	62%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
<b><u>NI98</u></b>	Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in Maths	N/A	N/A	24%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established




Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<b>Fair Access</b>						
NI52	Take up of School Lunches	N/A	N/A	N/a	N/A	New national indicator, no data available
NI57	Children & Young People's participation in high quality PE and sport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New national indicator, no data available
NI90	Take up of 14-19 Diplomas	N/A	N/A	25	N/A	New national indicator a baseline has been set using 2008 enrollment
<b>Service Delivery</b>						
NI72	Early Years Foundation Stage attainment	43.9%	44.8%	45.4%		There has been a significant improvement exceeding the target for the year.
NI79	% of young people achieving Level 2 qualification by 19	62%	65%	65%		Target for the year has been achieved
NI81	Inequality gap in achievement of Level 3 qualification by 19	N/A	N/A	19%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
NI82	Inequality gap in achievement of Level 2 qualification by 19	N/A	N/A	26%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
NI84	Proportion achieving 2 or more GCSE A*-C in Science	N/A	N/A	56.3%	N/A	New national indicator baseline established
NI85	Post-16 participation in physical sciences	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New national indicator, no data available
NI92	Achievement Gap at Early Years Foundation Stage	33.8%	31.7%	30.4%		There has been a significant increase in performance exceeding the target for the year
NI95	Proportion progressing by two	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Discontinued as a national indicator, no data

<sup>1</sup> Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**



Ref <sup>1</sup>	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	levels at KS3 in English					available
NI96	Proportion progressing by two levels at KS3 in Maths	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Discontinued as a national indicator, no data available
NI102	Inequality gap of children eligible for FSM and peers achieving expected levels at KS2 and KS4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New national indicator, no data available
NI103	SEN Statements issued within 26 weeks	100%	100%	100%		During this quarter, 14 Statements were due to be finalised and issued, of the 19 proposed statements issued this quarter 5 were not due to be finalised.
NI104	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 English and Maths (Threshold)	N/A	N/A	40.4%	N/A	New national indicator baseline has now been set.
NI105	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths (Threshold)	N/A	N/A	32.1%	N/A	New national indicator baseline has now been set.
NI106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to HE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	New national indicator, no data available
NI107	KS2 attainment for BME groups	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data available
NI108	KS4 attainment for BME groups	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data available

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 06/07	Perform 08/09 Q4	Traffic light	Commentary
9	<p><b>Improve educational achievement at Key Stage 4.</b></p> <p>The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSE's at grade A* to C or DFES equivalents, including English &amp; 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).

Key Objective (Service Plan Ref. Only)	Risk Control Measures	Target / Deadline	Progress	Commentary
<b>ULS1</b>	<p>Vulnerable children to be supported in mainstream education to give them the best opportunities to achieve.</p> <p>Good practice from the Education Support Services for Children in Care to be rolled out to other Vulnerable Groups.</p> <p>Improved tracking of vulnerable children and early identification of those at risk of underperformance</p>			<p>Reduction in the number of receiving extra support up to 5 hrs, as needs can now be met within schools' resources as a result of the new funding formula for schools implemented in April 2008.</p> <p>Good practice is being shared across service areas.</p> <p>Improved tracking is in place following development of the CYP Database</p>

HIGH Priority Actions	Target (Resp. Officer)	Progress (Traffic lights)*	Commentary
Ensure staff participate in a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 2009 OD and all DM's		A programme of training has been running for more than 2 years and staff are identified for courses via the EDR process. E&D training is also included in the induction standards for new staff.
Participate in programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 2009 OD and all DM's		There have been some gaps identified in completion of EIA's. The Children's Trust Equalities group is currently developing mechanisms to ensure completion and improve quality and impact of assessments.
Embed a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation in all aspects of Service Delivery	March 2009 OD and all DM's		Stakeholder engagement and participation is being developed across all service areas however further development is still required. This will be implemented and embedded during 2009-10.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<b><u>Green</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<b><u>Red</u></b>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>



**REPORT TO:** Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 01<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Local Area Agreement Refresh and 2008-09 Performance Report

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report on progress towards meeting Local Area Agreement targets at the end of the first year of the Agreement.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION THAT:**

- i. The report is noted.
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information on the actions being taken to deliver the LAA targets.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The revised Local Area Agreement (LAA) was signed off by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The purpose of the LAA is to agree a set of targets for Halton with government and local partners. Named partners have a duty to co-operate in striving to achieve these targets. There were 34 indicators in the LAA, together with statutory education and early years targets. The agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

3.2 The Agreement was "refreshed" in March 2009. The indicators and targets were reviewed with Government Office. There were a number of gaps and estimates in the original agreement, and the principle changes were to fill these gaps using information that had become available between June 2008 and March 2009 such as the results of the Places Survey. A summary of the changes is attached as appendix 1. It is not expected that there will be many further changes, except in one area. The economic downturn will inevitably have an impact on the likelihood of achieving some targets relating to the economy and housebuilding, and the government has identified a list of indicators for which targets will be reviewed before the end of March 2010, by which time the impact of the downturn will be clearer.

3.3 A report on progress over the first year of the Agreement is attached at Appendix 2, covering those indicators which fall within the responsibilities of this particular Policy and Performance Board. This is based on the targets in the refreshed agreement.

3.4 In reading the report members should bear in mind that:

1. All the national indicators are built into the quarterly service plan monitoring reports. The intention of this report is pick out the LAA indicators from the different service plans so that it is possible to see a clearer picture of progress overall.
2. Certain indicators are only reported some time after year end, so in those cases no progress report is yet available. There are also some survey based indicators for which no further data will be available until the survey is repeated in 2010.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Local Area Agreement reflects the priorities in our community strategy for improving the quality of life in Halton. It is the main mechanism by which government will performance manage local areas. It is therefore important that we monitor progress, and that members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the improvement targets are achieved.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as a delivery plan for the sustainable community strategy and as such is central to our policy framework.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Achievement of our Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for our comprehensive area assessment. Further consideration of any areas of under-performance may give rise to other implications for the Council and its partners.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 This report deals directly with progress and delivering one of our five priorities.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents of Halton in accordance with the objectives of our community strategy. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance, and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

**9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the LAA is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

10.1 Document:

Local Area Agreement 2008. Place of inspection 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Municipal Building.  
Contact officer – Rob MacKenzie (0151 471 7416)

## APPENDIX 1

## CHANGES TO HALTON'S LAA OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – March 09

Ref	Description	Reason for Change
NI 5	Overall satisfaction with the area	Targets now agreed, provisional data became available early 2009 following Places Survey.
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	Targets now agreed, data became available early 2009 following survey conducted by Office of the Third Sector.
NI 8	Adult participation in sport	Had used local data, now have national data which became available early 2009 following Sports Participation survey.
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	Minor typing error corrected.
NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	Small changes to targets as provisional Places Survey data now being used instead of local data.
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	Presentation style was changed by GONW, and more up to date data was made available.
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders.	Presentation style changed.
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	Small changes to targets as national definitions now being used instead of local data.
NI 33	<i>Arson Incidents</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates – Rate per 100 000 admissions	Baseline updated which impacted on targets.
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment	Baseline updated which impacted on targets.
NI 53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.
NI 56	<i>Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6</i>	<i>No Change.</i>
NI 63	<i>Stability of placements of looked after children</i>	<i>No Change.</i>
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	Small changes to targets as baseline supplied has been revised by GONW.

## APPENDIX 1

Ref	Description	Reason for Change
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Updated baseline, targets remain the same.
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	Survey data now available and being used.
NI 116	<i>Proportion of children in poverty (To be reviewed in 2010)</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 117	16-18 year old not in education, training or employment WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)	National data now available and being used.
NI 120	<i>All-age all cause mortality</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 123	<i>16+ current smoking rate prevalence</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 139	People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently.	Places survey data now available and being used.
NI 142	<i>Number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 150 C4	Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	This indicator has been deferred and used as a placeholder due to lack of relevant data available. Will be reviewed in the next refresh.
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)	Minor typing error corrected.
NI 154	<i>Net additional homes provided (To be reviewed in 2010)</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher WNF Reward Indicator	Baseline has changed and targets reviewed, taking into account the economic climate.
NI 171	VAT registration rate (To be reviewed in 2010)	National data now available and being used.
NI 175	<i>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 186	<i>Per capita CO2 emissions in LA area</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 192	<i>Household waste recycled and composted</i>	<i>No change.</i>

## APPENDIX 1

**PLEASE NOTE THAT TWO INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM HALTON'S LAA. THESE ARE:-**

Ref	Description	Comment
NI 124	People with long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition	Data unavailable
NI 173	People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits	Data unavailable

**Halton Local Area Agreement Annual  
Progress Report  
2008 - 09**

**Children & Young People**

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets for Halton Local Area Agreement.

It provides both a snapshot of performance at 2008 – 09 year-end and a projection of expected levels of performance to the period 2011.

The following traffic light convention has been adopted to illustrate both current and projected performance in relation to each of those measures and targets within the LAA.

#### ***Traffic light convention 2008 / 09***



2008 – 09 target has been achieved or exceeded.



2008 – 09 target has not been achieved

#### ***Traffic light convention for 2011 projection***



2011 target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.



The achievement of the 2011 target is questionable



2011 target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.

The following indicators are not included within this performance report:

<b>NI</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Reason</b>
95	Proportion progressing by 2 levels in KS3 English	Data presently unavailable
96	Proportion progressing by 2 levels in KS3 Maths	Data presently unavailable





## Performance Overview

## CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref	Description	08/ 09 Target	2011 Target
72	Early years foundation stage attainment		
73	Proportion achieving level 4 at KS2 in both English and Maths		
74	Proportion achieving level 5 at KS3 in both English and maths		N/A
75	Proportion achieving 5 A-C GCSE's including English and Maths		
83	Proportion achieving level 5 at KS3 in Science		N/A
87	Secondary school persistence absence rate		
92	Achievement Gap at Early Years Foundation Stage		
93	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS2 in English		
94	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS2 in Maths		
95	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS3 in English	N/A	N/A
96	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS3 in Maths	N/A	N/A
97	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS4 in English		
98	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS4 in Maths		
99	Proportion of children in care achieving level 4 at KS2 English		
100	Proportion of children in care achieving level 4 at KS2 Maths		
101	Proportion of children in care achieving 5 A – C GCSE's		
53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth		
56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6		
63	Stability of placements of looked after children		
80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification at age 19		
111	First time entrants to Youth Justice System		
112	Under 18 conception rate		
115	Substance misuse by young people	N/A	
116	Proportion of children in poverty		
117	16 – 18 Year olds not in education, training or employment		

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



### NI 72 Early Years Foundation Stage Attainment

Baseline 2007 – 08 <sup>1</sup>	2008 - 09			2011 (July 2010 target)	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
43.9%	44.8%	45.4% (2007/08 school year)		52%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Steady progress has been made and the target exceeded. In order to achieve the 2011 target an increase of 6.6% is required by July 2010 as this is when progress towards this target will be measured – i.e. against the 2010 EYFSP results. This represents an increased trajectory compared to previous gains in the same time scale. However, a detailed and focused action plan has been produced to address the Early Years Outcome Duty targets and through closer alignment across EYFS and continued support of National Strategy advisers every effort will be made to ensure success.

### NI 73 Proportion achieving L4+ at KS2 in both English and Maths

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
71.7%	N/A	76% (2007/08 school year)		77%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Compared to the percentage of pupils attaining level 4+ in both English and maths in 2007 (71.8%) excellent progress has been made in KS2 attainment in both English and maths in 2008 resulting in 76% of pupils attaining a level 4+ in English and maths combined – an overall increase of 4.2%.


As a result of this rapid progress and current trajectory it is expected that the 2011 target of 77% will be achieved.

In 2008, the number of schools attaining below floor targets decreased compared to previous years following intensive support for target schools. Success has been recognised by the DCSF, but has resulted in a 50% reduction in the amount funding for this targeted support.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated baseline figures, relate to the 2007 – 08 financial year.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



### NI 74 Proportion achieving L5+ at KS3 in both English & Maths

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
62%	N/A	63.6%		N/A	N/A

#### Supporting information / commentary

From 2009, KS3 assessment will no longer rely on testing and this indicator has been removed from the National Indicator Set and LAA.

### NI 75 Proportion achieving 5 A\*-C GCSE including English and Maths



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
41.1%	44%	<b>49.2%</b> (2007/08 school year)		49%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

% achieving 5 A\*-C including English and Maths increased by 8.5%, from 40.7% to 49.2%, which means there has been a major rise of 15.9% over the last two years. This moves Halton in line with the national average and exceeds the 2011 target for the end of the LAA period. Positive engagement by schools with the Secondary National Strategy and the effective, targeted and bespoke support from Local Authority School Improvement Professionals challenging and encouraging practice and management within the schools is making a real difference to the outcomes for young people in our schools.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE


### NI 80 Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
33.5% (2006/07)	38.9%	33.0%		42.22% (PSA) 54%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Although the 2008 - 09 target for this measure has not been achieved future performance will be positively influenced as a result of improved level 2 performance beginning to impact and also the implementation of new administrative arrangements for post 16 educational provision.



### NI 83 Proportion achieving L5+ at KS3 in Science

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
68%	74%	68.4		N/A	N/A

#### Supporting information / commentary

From 2009, KS3 assessment will no longer rely on testing and this indicator has been removed from the National Indicator Set and LAA.

### NI 87 Secondary School persistent absence rate



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
7.2% (2006/07 school year)	9% (half days missed)	6.4% (2007/08 school year)		5%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Persistent absence continues to reduce in Halton Secondary Schools and we are on trajectory to hit the 2011 national target for LA's of 5% PA.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 92 Achievement Gap at Early Years Foundation Stage

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011 target (July 2010)	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
33.8% (LA % gap between median and bottom 20%)	31.7%	30.5% (2007/08 school year)		27.66%	

#### Supporting information / commentary



The early years are crucial to chances of later success – children who achieve well in the early years are much more likely to be successful in future education and in later life. A focus on narrowing the gaps between the lowest achieving and the rest is the best way to ensure that all children regardless of background are able to reach their potential and that those at risk of poor outcomes are given as much help and support as possible.

Whilst the gap has decreased caution is required in interpreting this data as the median point score for all children decreased to 87 from 90 in the previous year. This has affected the results. The average score of the lowest 20% did increase from 59.6 to 60.5. Further focussed work is required to narrow this gap further whilst at the same time also improving results for all children.

Given the trajectory from 2008 attainment (30.5%) and the 2011 target of 27.66% that will be measured against the EYFSP data in July 2010, there is a required reduction in the attainment gap of 2.84%. The details of actions to be taken to address this gap are outlined in the Early Years Outcome Duty action plan.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 93 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in English

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
63.1%	N/A	85.0%		89%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Excellent progress has been made on this target and this reflects the continued improvement in Primary Schools. For pupils not achieving expected levels at the end of KS2 it is nevertheless important that they also make 2 levels progress where possible.



In addition to universal support for schools to support acceleration of progress in English, targeted programmes of support have included a Raising Boys Attainment project and also the embedding of the use of writing assessment criteria and skills, including the Ros Wilson 'Big Write' programme.

To ensure that progress towards English targets are met for 2009 / 10 a programme of 1 to 1 support has been introduced to targeted schools to support intensive tuition in English in years 5 and 6 for pupils not making expected progress.

Because of the substantial gains made against this target between 2007 and 2008, there is a risk that the 2011 target may not be met because a possible 'plateauing' would impact upon sustainability of this increase – the focus will however ensure that high standards attained in 2008 are sustained.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 94 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS2 in Maths

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
61.4%	N/A	81.0%		87%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Excellent progress has been made on this target and this reflects the continued improvement in Primary Schools. For pupils not achieving expected levels at the end of KS2 it is nevertheless important that they also make 2 levels progress where possible.

To ensure that progress towards maths targets are met for 2009 / 10 a programme of 1 to 1 support has been introduced to targeted schools to support intensive tuition in maths in years 5 and 6 for pupils not making expected progress. This will also support the addressing of issues relating to the progress of girls in maths.

Because of the substantial gains made against this target between 2007 and 2008, there is a risk that the 2011 target may not be met because a possible 'plateauing' would impact upon sustainability of this increase – the focus will however ensure that high standards attained in 2008 are sustained.

### NI 95 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS3 in English

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
18% (267 out of 1479)	N/A	-	-	N/A	N/A

#### Supporting information / commentary

Data Unavailable. From 2009, KS3 assessment will no longer rely on testing and this indicator has been removed from the National Indicator Set and LAA.



**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE****NI 96 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS3 in Maths**

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
51% (755 out of 1491)	N/A	-	-	N/A	N/A

**Supporting information / commentary**

Data Unavailable. From 2009, KS3 assessment will no longer rely on testing and this indicator has been removed from the National Indicator Set and LAA.

**NI 97 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in English**



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
59% (KS3 to KS4 – 885 out of 1505)	N/A	62%		73%	

**Supporting information / commentary**

Progress has been made from the 07/08 baseline. However if the current rate of improvement continues (+3%) It is unlikely we will meet the target of 73%. Targeted interventions via the SIP process are aimed at reversing the trend and improving performance in this area.





**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE****NI 98 Proportion progressing by two levels at KS4 in Maths**

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
26% (395 out of 1525)	N/A	24%		32%	

**Supporting information / commentary**

This indicator reflects the number of pupils at the end of KS4 making 2 levels progress in Maths between KS3 and KS4, as a percentage of the number of pupils at the end of KS4. This indicator has declined from the baseline and is not on target for 2011. Targeted interventions via the SIP process are aimed at reversing the trend and improving performance in this area.



**NI 99 Proportion of CiC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in English**

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
100% (6 out of 6)	50%	<b>50%</b>		37.5%	

**Supporting information / commentary**

There were only 4 children in the KS2 cohort, 2 of whom attained level 4 at English.

**NI 100 Proportion of CiC achieving Level 4 at KS2 in Maths**



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
83% (5 out of 6)	50%	<b>25%</b>		37.5%	

**Supporting information / commentary**

There were only 4 children in the KS2 cohort of whom 1 achieved Level 4 Maths.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



### NI 101 Proportion of CiC achieving 5 A\*-C GCSE

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
12.5% (1 out of 8)	18.75%	<b>18%</b>		25%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

There were 17 young people in the cohort, 9 boys and 8 girls. Of this group 8 young people had a statement of SEN, with a further 3 being at School Action and 2 being at School Action Plus on the SEN Code of Practice. 18% of the cohort achieved at least 5 A\* - C GCSEs including English and Maths. This was broadly in line with expectations for the cohort and 2 young people achieved higher results than expected.

### NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
12.1% (Q.2 2008)	18% (indicative, will be refreshed 09/10)	<b>14%</b>		23% (indicative, will be refreshed 09/10)	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Performance is lower than target. This is a result of lower uptake of breastfeeding and drop off in breastfeeding from in first few days and weeks following birth. 3 breastfeeding support groups in place with a resource pack outlining support developed. 25 premises undergoing assessment for Baby welcome award being delivered through local parents managed by the King's Cross project. Health visitors are providing more intensive support in first few weeks. Maternity support workers are now providing support to breastfeeding mothers up to 6 weeks. Get Closer campaign is being rolled out to Runcorn. Early Years premises award rolled out in Halton. Nutritional training for people in early years took place in January 09. Advanced training for midwives and health visitors planned but not yet taken place.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



### NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
22.4%	21.3%	21.4		21.3%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

There has been a significant improvement in performance, however the target has just been missed. We are well on course to achieve the 2011 projection. Substantial resource has been identified within the Commissioning Strategic Plan for childhood obesity. The PCT is currently tendering for services to enable us to meet this target.

### NI 63 Stability of placements of looked after children



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
69%	73%	<b>65.22%</b>		81.5%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Placement stability has not remained static for the last two quarters and continues to be an area of focus. A wide range of resources and services can impact on this issue - access to health services, education provision, support services, finance, advice and guidance - and the CiC Partnership Board continues to work with all agencies to ensure that access to appropriate services is possible for children and their carers.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



### NI 80 Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
33.5% (2006/07)	38.9%	<b>33.0%</b>		42.22% (PSA) 54%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Although the 2008-09 target for this measure has not been achieved future performance will be positively influenced as a result of improved level 2 performance beginning to impact, and also the implementation of new administrative arrangements for post 16 educational provision.

### NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
1960 (rate per 100,000) (249)	1875 (rate per 100,000) (239)	<b>196</b>		1836 (rate per 100,000) (234)	

#### Supporting information / commentary



The target for 2011 will be achieved by maintaining the actual figures from 2008/09. The adoption of early intervention projects such as YISP, Operation Stay Safe, alongside Cheshire Constabulary's commitment to restorative justice have all impacted on the positive figures to date.

In addition, the Constabulary are no longer subject to targets which encouraged the criminalisation of young people inappropriately. The FTE target is also monitored through the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board Performance Improvement Meetings which are held bi-monthly at Cheshire Police HQ, thereby ensuring all partners in the Criminal Justice System are focussing on the need to restrict First Time Entrants.

Gareth Jones, Head of Service at the YOT is also a member of the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board as well as local strategic partnerships i.e. Children's Trust, Safer Halton Partnership etc. and he continues to monitor the FTE target.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 112 Under 18 conception rate

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
3.6% (2006 baseline, change from 1998)	-27% (change from 1998)	<b>49.1%</b>		-55% (change from 1998)	

#### Supporting information / commentary

Halton's conception rate for under 18s continues to be an issue. Since the baseline was established in 1998 we have seen a fluctuating picture in the nos. of conceptions reported and there has been no sustainable reduction over time. In fact the recent increase puts Halton as the 7th worst performing local authority area in the country. In February 2009, ONS released data which covered the calendar year for 2007. This showed that since 1998 rates have increased in Halton by 49.1%, rates have increased from 2006 (48.8 per 1000, 125 actual) to 2007 (70.3 per 1000, 179 actual).

In order to reach our target by 2010 we need to see a reduction of 125 conceptions. In light of this, a number of areas have been progressed. These include:

Halton will be using Strategic Health Authority contraception funding to improve access to services

Increase support to parents through greater investment in the Teenage pregnancy support team

Development of a Teenage Pregnancy strategic group across the PCT footprint

Further development of the condom distribution scheme across the Borough Identified links between alcohol and teenage pregnancy and use information to commission services

Development of Teenage drop in clinics and a dedicated young persons outreach service

Use of the 'your welcome criteria' quality standards across service delivery  
Implementation of consultation feedback

Development of evaluation tools across services


Completion of the PCT sexual health audit

Commitment to increase investment by improved commissioning in light of sexual health review

Development of peer 2 peer programme in college

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 115 Substance misuse by young people

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
12.6%	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	Refer comment	9.8%	



#### Supporting information / commentary

From April 2009 a new target within the LAA set by GO NW we will only receive data on an annual basis. We will be measured locally on how many young people report as using a substance within the "tell Us "survey undertaken within secondary schools. Performance this quarter has been extremely positive with 32 young people accessing our specialist treatment service. In addition there has been a wealth of activity undertaken including the development of an mobile outreach service. This service will target our "hotspot" areas across Halton where young people gather on Friday & Saturdays.

The service is to be co-ordinated by Young Addaction but actual delivery off the mobile will be multi agency, this will ensure young people within our vulnerable communities will receive the appropriate advice, information and support to meet their needs. Finally Halton's Young people Substance Misuse Treatment Plan was signed off by the National Treatment Agency and GO NW the LA received positive endorsement from the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse of the plan and was commended for its high quality.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
27%	26%	<b>Refer Comment</b>		24.2%	

#### Supporting information / commentary

The measurement of this indicator is under review by GONW.

The current measures use benefit claim rates and as such this important NI is intrinsically linked to NI153.

#### Progress using latest MI available to DWP

This indicator is under JSA Halton April 2008 = 2493 - March 09 = 4501 an increase of 81%.

Employment rate 70.4% Dec 07 – 70.0% March 08.

Working Age People not working:

May 2008 =16,002 = 21.2% working age population (this figure has increased substantially)



Latest Job Outcome Target figures for DWP at September 08 = 1978 some 83.9% of 08/09 profile target.

Given the economic downturn the likelihood of achieving this NI target over 3 years is substantially reduced.

The ELS SSP will continue to maximise partnership resources including the WNF to support priority group working age customers from deprived wards into sustainable employment and therefore the effect upon dependent children.

## Halton LAA – Annual Progress Report 2008 – 09

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE****NI 117 16-18 year old not in education, training or employment**

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
11.5%	9.9%	<b>13.2%</b> (2008)		7.7%	

**Supporting information / commentary**

Halton has had a long-standing difficulty in keeping young people in EET (Education, Employment and Training), with the % of young people in NEET being among the highest in the country. Despite efforts to address this issue, progress has been limited/marginal. Information from the Halton Economic Development and Tourism Review (2008) states that the distribution of high and low unemployment is broadly the same in 2008 as it was in 1998, showing little change in deprivation levels. There is also a high correlation between NEET and adult unemployment geographical concentrations showing a high risk of an intergenerational legacy, which poses issues with cultural change and entrenched views on employment and educational attainment that are hard to break.

Incentive based re-engagement initiatives are supporting young people into EET e.g. Activity Agreement Pilot – a national pilot that is being delivered across Merseyside (including Halton). Dedicated targeted support (e.g. work with teenage parents) can make an impact alongside universal youth support services but this is resource intensive. There is an issue of progression routes from foundation to level 1 to higher level courses for NEET young people and this is being addressed through the 14 to 19 Partnership. There is a high proportion of young people motivated by employment based opportunities in Halton and these are limited in the current economic climate. NEET characteristics can help identify young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. In particular attainment levels at all key stages, attendance, and school action/school action plus and we are working with schools to ensure more effective preventative measures are in place for those young people at risk of becoming NEET when they leave school.

There is currently a NEET Strategy and Annual Action plan in place to address the issue of NEET and this is being driven by a multi-agency NEET Strategy Group.



**REPORT:** Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate

**SUBJECT:** Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Reports 2008-2009

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT**

1.1 To receive the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Report for 2008-2009

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED:**

**That the 2008 – 2009 Annual Report submitted for the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board be received**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Article 6 of the Constitution requires each Policy and Performance Board to submit an Annual Report to Council outlining their work, making recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods as appropriate.

The Annual Report (see attached) has been submitted to the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board for consideration and has been agreed.

### **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 RISK ANALYSIS**

None

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None

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

None under the meaning of the Act



Cllr. Mark  
Dennett  
Chairman  
Children &  
Young People  
PPB

ANNUAL REPORT  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD  
APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

"I would like to start as always by looking back over the previous twelve months. In July 2008 the Halton received the results of its first Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children's Services in the Borough. It confirmed significant progress by all partners working together for the children of the Borough. This is great news for both the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership and sets a strong foundation to build upon for further improvements in the future.

One of the most pleasing results of the report is that Halton was found to be outstanding in its provision of safeguarding in the Borough. Notwithstanding this result the shocking case of Baby Peter in Haringey and other similar cases highlighted the need to be ever prepared, that is why a thorough review of safeguarding was conducted separately to the JAR and also why a report on how we can improve the inspection of care homes (Regulation 33 visits) and Climbié inspections with our staff was presented to the board in February.

Once again the attainment of our children at Key Stages 2 and 4 was outstanding. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students who did so well, and also thank the parents and teachers who supported them in achieving these fantastic results. The results show Halton's commitment to drive up standards and improve the opportunities available to all of our young people as they move into adulthood.

Progress continued on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This programme will transform Halton's Secondary Education provision through the investment of over £100 million into our Secondary Schools. BSF and the Primary Capital programme, which will look at our Primary Schools, are massive commitments into the future of education in Halton. Their success, as well as tackling some of the entrenched health issues facing our children and young people are some of the main challenges facing the authority and its partners.

Previously, I have talked about the function of overview and scrutiny and the responsibility of holding the Executive Board to account. To this end we held the third of our annual question and answer sessions with a member of the Executive Board; this time it was the turn of Councillor Tom McInerney, Executive Portfolio Holder for the Children and Young People who talked and answered questions on the future initiatives for the young people of our Borough.

Looking back I think it has been a good third year for the board and I would like to thank all of the members of the board, as well as all of the officers involved for their continued support and contribution.

One of the main challenges for our young people that was highlighted in this year and will form a foundation for the work over the next twelve months is health. Halton is one of the lowest Local Authorities in the North West with regard to Health indicators. Clearly this is unacceptable and that is why I have made a public commitment to look at how we can improve the health of our young people and thereby improve their quality of lives. We started this process by looking at ways in conjunction with Halton and St Helens PCT we can improve oral health of our young people. The recommendations from this examination was approved by the Executive Board in April.

Finally, as last year I would like to conclude this report by thanking all of the officers and members (of all parties) involved in all of the 'additional duties' that take place to make sure that the children and young people receive that best care and support. Duties such as being a school governor with all of the responsibilities that that entails, statutory inspections of our care homes (Regulation 33) or of our social worker teams (Climbié visits), membership of the Local Safeguarding Board, the Adoptions Panel, the Children and Young People's Alliance Board, to name but a few of the 'extra duties' that both members and officers perform to support and improve the lives of the children and young people of our Borough."

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

## MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/9 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Cllr Mark Dennett (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Horabin (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Browne, Cllr P Drakeley, Cllr F Fraser, Cllr R Gilligan, Cllr T Higginson, Cllr J Lowe, Cllr S Parker, Cllr M Ratcliffe, Cllr J Stockton,

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the work of the Council (and its partner agencies within Children's Trust Arrangements) in seeking: to ensure that children and young people in Halton have the best possible start in life and opportunities to fulfil their potential and succeed; and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

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

### **Educational Attainment and Achievement 2008**

School performance was discussed in relation to the successes specifically at Key Stage 2 and 4 and also in terms of progress in narrowing the gap for achievement for vulnerable pupils including those with special educational needs. Members noted the significant improvement in results and explored ways in which services work in partnership with schools to support the raising of standards. Members discussed the Foundation Stage Profile results and what was expected from a child in relation to their parents understanding the whole process better.

### **Child Health in Halton**

Members were advised on the causes of poor health and actions being taken to improve health outcomes. Members had the opportunity to discuss the developing Children's Trust arrangements and the relation to Health staff from the Primary Care Trust, supporting well and vulnerable children, now being supported through the Partnership arrangements with the Local Authority as part of the Children's Trust.

### **Regulation 33 visits and Climbié Audits**

Members discussed thoroughly the need to carry out Regulation 33 visits and it was resolved that training would be provided to all PPB Members on Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits. Following training and CRB checks a new extended list of Members available to carry out visits and audits would be put together and a rota agreed. The Board will receive regular monitoring reports on the progress of visits and audits.

### **Service Plans**

This year the Board took a significant step forward in the way it engaged with the service planning process. Following an informative briefing from the C&YP Directorate's Senior Management Team and Members' discussion at a special autumn meeting, the PPB Members identified issues and activities they hoped could be prioritised in the service plans for 2009/10 - 2011/12. In February, draft plans were drawn up and presented to the PPB for comment and endorsement, and feedback was provided on how far it had been possible to reflect the Members' earlier proposals in the new plans. Engaging the PPB more actively in this way strengthened the link between their role in monitoring performance and implementation of the plan in one year, and the PPB's contribution towards shaping the plan for the next.

### PERFORMANCE ISSUES

2008/9 saw the important, high level outcomes for children and young people in Halton coming more under the scrutiny spotlight. The PPB raised its sights to focus attention on key, strategic indicators of performance e.g. as set out in the Local Area Agreement and in the service's work with partners. This process highlighted continuing success in the improving academic achievement of the Borough's children, but also underlined how many health outcomes remained poor. This evidence underpinned the PPB's decision to focus their 2009/10 Topic review work on the health of children and young people.

### WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2009/10) it will carry out Topic reviews examining the following area:

Improving health outcomes for children and young people in Halton to support the raising of achievement and attainment

This topic area will be completed in 2009 / 2010.

In 2008/2009 the following scrutiny topic was completed:

- Oral health

The scrutiny topic below is on-going from 2008/2009:

- Access to services by young people

SAFEGUARDING

Members regularly considered matters relating to Safeguarding, particularly in the areas of monitoring of racist incidents, anti-bullying, private fostering arrangements and the work of the Halton Safeguarding Children's Board.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work, please contact Judith Kirk, Operational Director, [Judith.kirk@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.kirk@halton.gov.uk), tel: 0151 471 7545