



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

**Monday, 6 September 2010 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

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

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Peter Browne	Conservative
Councillor David Findon	Conservative
Councillor Mike Fry	Labour
Councillor Robert Gilligan	Labour
Councillor Miriam Hodge	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Joan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat

Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 471 7394 or e-mail michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 1 November 2010

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 3
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4 - 6
4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	7 - 12
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT	13 - 15
(B) CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN REVIEW	16 - 68
(C) ANNOUNCED INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES.	69 - 73
(D) OFSTED'S UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CONTACT, REFERRAL & ASSESSMENT SERVICE	74 - 82
(E) DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION	83 - 84
(F) UPDATE ON BSF	85 - 91
(G) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 - 2026	92 - 104
6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING	
(A) SSP MINUTES	105 - 120
(B) 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT -	121 - 185

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, Young People and Families Policy
and Performance Board

DATE: 6th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Training for Members in relation to Climbie
Visits to front line Child Care Teams and Levels
of Need for Children’s Social Intervention.

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise Policy and Performance Board of dates for Training.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION that:**

- i) Training dates are noted and attendance is confirmed to Kirsty Moreman, Kirsty.Moreman@halton.gov.uk
- ii) Training is made available to all Members.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At The Policy and Performance board held on 24th may 2010 a report was presented on Climbie Visits undertaken by Members to the front line Children’s Social Care Teams. It was Resolved that

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) training be offered to Board Members and a rota for Climbie Visits agreed;
- 3) the Members’ reports and Managers’ responses following Climbie Visits be reported to the Board and scrutinised twice a year; and
- 4) the focus of Climbie Visits to give increased scrutiny to the core business of Contact, Referral and Assessment processes and performance data, should routinely be discussed and understood.

3.2 It also became apparent during discussions that members would welcome the opportunity of training in relation to Halton’s Levels of Needs especially around Children’s Social Care Intervention.

3.3 As a result of this two events have been organised. The sessions will last approximately 1½ hours the first 45minutes will provide a general over view of Levels of Need and the role of Children’s Social Care and the second 45minutes a focus on Members role in

conducting Climbie Visits. The sessions will be presented by the Divisional Manager for Children in Need and Child Protection and Principal Managers of the child Care Teams.

3.4 **Training Sessions:**

11th October 2010 12pm to 1:30pm Conference Room 2 Municipal Building.

13th October 2010 6pm to 7:30pm Civic Suite Runcorn Town Hall

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbe recommended that; *Chief Executives of local authorities with social services responsibilities must make arrangements for senior managers and councillors to regularly visit intake teams in their children's services department, and to report their findings to the Chief Executive and social services committee.* This recommendation remains 'best practice' and still considered as part of any Ofsted Inspection.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The training provided should enhance Members understanding of Halton's Levels of Need and the role of Children's Social Care. For those Members who carry out or are interested in carrying out Climbie Visits the training should enhance their understanding of the purpose of visits and enable them to scrutinise frontline services.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Enhanced understanding of Levels of Need and the role of Climbie Visits will afford Members an opportunity to assure themselves that front line teams are providing a standard of service that safeguards children

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

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to achieve economic well being.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to thrive and be healthy

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The performance of the Council's children services contact, referral and assessments teams is critical to keeping the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough safe.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None directly

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If Members do not have a good understanding of Levels of Need and Climbe Visits are not conducted appropriately, the Council will be in breach of recommendation 41 of Lord Laming's Inquiry.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Victoria Climbe Inquiry	Grosvenor House	Vicky Buchanan
Procedure for Undertaking Climbe Visits	Grosvenor House	Vicky Buchanan
Children in Need Procedures	Intranet	Vicky Buchanan

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy Performance Board

DATE: 6 September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Resources

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, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6 September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children Young People and Families 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's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2010

EXB9 HALTON HIGH ACADEMY TRANSFER

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which gave Members an update on the development of the Academy to replace Halton High School.

In February 2010, the Executive Board approved the closure of Halton High School subject to the DCSF Funding Agreement. However, there remained a number of land and asset issues to be resolved. All secondary schools were required to have sufficient dedicated facilities to deliver the physical education curriculum. Members were advised that currently, Halton High School used the facilities of the adjacent Leisure Centre under a service level agreement.

Prior to the transfer to the sponsors in September 2010, a Funding Agreement must be signed to ensure adequate facilities are provided, and without this local authority commitment, the sponsors would be unable to agree to the Funding Agreement.

Members considered a number of options for the provision of sports facilities for the duration of the main Academy lease as outlined in the report, which also highlighted other issues under negotiation with the Academy. These related to shared use and the condition of the land and buildings.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 progress on the development of an Academy to replace Halton High be noted;
- 2 the proposal for the provision of physical education facilities for Halton High be approved; and
- 3 the Strategic Director in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Children Young People and Families resolve any outstanding issues similar to those mentioned in this report.

EXB10 OFSTED'S UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People informing them of the outcome of Ofsted's first unannounced inspection of Children's Social Care Contact, Referral and Assessment Services, which took place on 5 and 6 May 2010.

The purpose of an unannounced inspection was to assess the effectiveness of frontline social work practice in managing potential risk to children and minimising the incidence of abuse and neglect of children. The Board noted that the inspection did not identify any areas for 'Priority Action' (a term which covers areas where children may be left at risk of significant harm).

The final letter from Ofsted which confirmed their judgement was attached to the report at Appendix 1. A number of strengths were identified including the quality of staff supervision, enthusiastic and dedicated staff, good support from managers, provision of quality training, social worker recruitment and support for newly qualified social workers and strong quality assurance processes in place to support the development of practice.

An action plan attached at Appendix 2 provided details of how the areas for improvement would be addressed. One particular area for improvement would be the development of the Carefirst 6 IT recording system, which had been agreed as a priority in the Council.

The Board and the Chief Executive wished to place on record their thanks to the staff within the Directorate, and the current and previous Children and Young People Portfolio holders for all their hard work and commitment to achieve this positive outcome.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the result of Ofsted's inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services be noted;
- 2) the areas of strengths and satisfactory practice be noted;and
- 3) the Action Plan to address the areas for development arising from the inspection be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2010

EXB19 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE – KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided an update on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) procurement process.

The process also identified the opportunity to transfer the centrally based IT support team for schools (known as the SIMS team) and the team that provided the support for the Virtual Learning Platform into the LEP process.

The report detailed the procurement and evaluation process. Members noted that the recommendation of the evaluation team would be presented to the Board on 5 August 2010. The Preferred Bidder would be announced on 24 August 2010, with the programme team having until 7 December 2010 to reach financial close.

Members were informed that school staff who worked on IT must be transferred to the Local Education Partnership Managed Service. This service consisted of a single contract to deliver all IT systems and services for schools. In addition, the authority had staff that provided support and guidance on the learning platform for schools. The Virtual Learning Platform (VLP), managed by UniServity, would be adopted by all schools across the Borough. It was envisaged that the VLP team would transfer to the BSF Managed Service.

Reason(s) for Decision

To provide a single source of data and IT support to all schools.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

VLP and SIMs were retained by the authority. This could cause interface issues for the authority as part of the service would be delivered by the LEP managed service and part by the local authority.

Implementation Date

The decision needed to be made by 1st July 2010 so that consultation could be undertaken with the schools.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the progress in the BSF Procurement process be noted and a further report submitted to Executive Board on 5th August 2010 for approval of the selected bidder; and
- (2) the Board approve, in principle, the transfer of the SIMs team and the team working on the Virtual Learning Platform, subject to the agreement of the Primary and Secondary Schools and on provision that this represents value for money.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2010

ESB18 HALTON HIGH/ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT LEGAL SUPPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a request to waive Standing Orders in order that legal support could be commissioned for the construction related works to Halton High as part of the Academy arrangements. Beachcroft were commissioned in line with financial regulations and Standing Orders to provide the legal advice for the Halton BSF Programme and had been the legal advisers for each stage of the Programme. They were also on the Partnership for Schools Framework list, a list of quality assured external consultants who had a specialism in BSF.

It was noted that in order to change a high school to an Academy an additional amount of legal work was required to be undertaken. Some of this work needed to be undertaken within the next month to ensure that the Academy could be established by 1st September 2010. Any delay in agreeing the legal issues could result in a delay impacting on the approval of the Funding Agreement and effect transfer of Halton High.

As Beachcroft were the current legal advisers and had accrued knowledge about the BSF Programme, Halton High and the leasing arrangements, it was proposed that they be commissioned to undertake this work. The award of this work to Beachcroft would ensure that all outstanding legal issues related to the transfer could be undertaken in a timely way due to their knowledge, their previous experience of advising on Academy transfers and their detailed knowledge of Halton's BSF Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision be authorised to award the contract for Legal Support for construction related work to Halton High as part of the Academy Arrangements to the contractor Beachcroft in the sum of £51,510 and in the light of the exceptional circumstances outlined in paragraph 3.3 and in accordance with Procurement Standing Orders 1.6 Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.7 and 3.9 be waived on this occasion.

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 6th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Christine Taylor – Divisional Manager, Children in Care

SUBJECT: Foster Care Recruitment

Ward: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide information on the progress of the revised recruitment and retention campaign for foster carers

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That content of the report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A Placement Strategy Review in respect of children in care was presented to the Executive Board of the Council on 5th November 2009.

3.2 The review focused initially on the borough's situation in relation to foster care. It identified that barriers to the recruitment of carers needed to be overcome in order to address a severe shortage of carers and the resulting high cost of placing a significant number of children in external provision.

3.3 As a result of that first stage of the review, the Executive Board agreed to support an Invest To Save Bid to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers through an increase in allowances.

3.4 The increased allowances will be introduced on 7th September 2010. However advertising and marketing activity has publicised the improved allowances since January 2010.

3.5 A summary of the activity between January and July 2010 is as follows:

- 148 enquiries from potential carers
- 6 information events held with a further 4 planned
- 26 potential carers have attended skills to foster training with more training planned for September.
- 7 new foster carers have already been approved, providing placements for 11 children.
- 10 further assessments are currently underway with the potential to

produce up to 15 placements.

- 7 existing carers have been de-registered during this period for various reasons, including changes in circumstances, concerns about practice and end of placement.

- 3.6 Advertising and marketing activity will continue throughout the year using a variety of mediums such as posters, leaflets, taxis, information events, articles, newsletters, buses, billboards, banners etc.
- 3.7 In addition to local activity, there is to be a North West fostering campaign which will commence in October 2010 and of which Halton will be part. This campaign aims to recruit a minimum of 150 new carers across the region by June 2011. The North West Improvement Efficiency Board has awarded funding to this campaign.
- 3.8 The recruitment and retention of carers continues to present challenges but since January 2010, activity has increased and new placements are now becoming available to children in care.
- 3.9 In addition to the increase in allowances, the role of Family Support Assistant has been introduced to the fostering team. This role provides additional practical support and advice to carers and is available some evenings and weekends.
- 3.10 Existing carers have received the new developments well and new carers have been attracted by the improved service offer. Some carers who were previously registered by other agencies have now joined Halton.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recruitment of additional carers has already improved the availability of placements for children coming into care and has reduced the need for expensive alternative placements.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Children and Young People in Halton
Improved recruitment and retention of foster carers will ensure that more children in care are able to remain within their own community. A larger number of carers will also result in greater choice and more appropriate 'matches' for young people.
- 5.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton
If young people are able to remain in Halton whilst in care, they will experience less disruption to their education and will benefit from the partnerships that have developed within the borough in relation to future employment and learning opportunities.
- 5.3 A Healthy Halton

Children in care and their carers will be able to access local resources which will help to provide for their physical and emotional health.

5.4 A Safer Halton

Young people often wish to remain within their own community and the ability to do so improves their likelihood of achieving well in all areas of their life.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

If children in care feel settled and comfortable within their community they are likely to engage better in the opportunities the borough has to offer them.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The first 6 months of the revised campaign have seen positive results. These need to be sustained in order to produce the number of carers required.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Improving placement choice for children in care will improve their life chances and contribute to ensuring that the needs of this vulnerable group are met.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact
Children in Care Strategy	Grosvenor House	CT
Placement Strategy review Executive Board Report 05.11.09	Grosvenor House	CT
National Minimum Standards for Foster Care	Ofsted Website	CT
Fostering Effective Recruitment North West Campaign	Grosvenor House	CT

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	6 th September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER:	Principal Children's Trust Officer
SUBJECT:	Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of the review that has been undertaken of Halton's Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board:

- i) Endorses the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010; and**
- ii) Approves the actions detailed in Section 11 of the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010, and summarised in 3.9 of this report to be taken into consideration in terms of meeting the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Halton's second Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) was published in 2009, to provide strategic direction for all services within the Children's Trust in Halton. The Plan runs until 2011.
- 3.2 The CYPP is the agreed joint strategy of the partners in the Children's Trust, detailing how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing over the five Every Child Matters Outcomes. It represents Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough. It determines how the Children's Trust Board will work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.
- 3.3 The CYPP is a core element within the overall vision for the borough, which is contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.4 The CYPP must be reviewed in each year that a new Plan is not published. The annual review should consider progress towards all targets and priorities set out in the Plan along with the implications of future action.

3.5 The guidance sets out that the review should:

- Highlight the progress in delivering the Plan including reasons for non-delivery
- Present relevant data
- Identify barriers to success
- Outline what actions will be taken to achieve the improvements
- Set out future tasks for the Plan and how and when these tasks will be completed

3.6 A multi agency task and finish group was established in April 2010 to produce the Review. This group will be re-established and widened in order to develop the new Children & Young People's Plan to be in place from April 2011, subject to the Coalition Government's emerging policy framework.

3.7 The review sets out developments in a number of key areas over the past 12 months, including:

- The views of children and young people that have been gathered through a broad range of consultation.
- The strengthened Children's Trust partnership arrangements.
- A performance update for all indicators within the Plan's overarching priorities.
- The work done so far to meet the 14 promises in the Plan and how we will work to meet the outstanding promises in the months ahead.
- And perhaps most importantly, the review provides an opportunity to celebrate some of the successes achieved by our young people, as well as the barriers that have been encountered by children, young people and professionals over the last 12 months.

3.8 Section 11 of the review highlights many achievements over the last 12 months, including:

- Agreement of a joint protocol between the Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) that outlines the complementary roles and responsibilities of the two bodies. These links are also reinforced by the HSCB Annual Report that will be published shortly.
- The launch of locality working for children & young people's services across Halton.
- The provision of a broader range of accommodation for young people leaving care
- A review of Common Assessment Framework provision

- The development of a Children's Trust Business Plan that formalises governance arrangements in light of the latest statutory guidance.
- A significant reduction in the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

3.9 Similarly, Section 11 of the review also provides an overview of a number of areas where more work is needed in order to achieve our objectives by March 2011. These include:

- The development of a number of additional Children's Trust documents, including a Compact, Resource Strategy, Integrated Children's Workforce Strategy and Equality & Diversity Strategy.
- Continuing work on establishing a Joint Commissioning Unit for Halton between the local authority and PCT.
- Establishing a Young People's Travel Forum for Halton.
- Fully embedding locality working across all agencies and working practices.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act received Royal Assent in November 2009. The ASCL Act strengthened Children's Trusts by:

- Requiring every local area to have a Children's Trust Board;
- Giving the Children's Trust Board (rather than the local authority) responsibility for jointly producing, implementing and reviewing the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP);
- Extending the number of statutory 'relevant partners' to include maintained schools, Academies, non-maintained special schools, Further Education and sixth-form colleges, Short Stay Schools / Pupil Referral Units and Jobcentre Plus.

4.2 At the same time, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published draft new statutory guidance on Children's Trust and draft new Children and Young People's Plan regulations. This statutory guidance replaced *Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation* (2008), and also the non-statutory guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan released in 2008.

4.3 Many of the requirements of the Act and guidance were already present in Halton but formalised by these developments.

4.4 The Act ensures that all partners within the Children's Trust are individually responsible for implementing the CYPP. Partners must have regard to the CYPP and the commitments they have made to it, showing a good reason for departing from their commitment. Each

partner is required to co-operate with the local authority in its role of 'making' the co-operation arrangements.

4.5 The Coalition Government is currently reviewing the policy framework for Children's Services and has announced its intention to remove the statutory regulations in place for Children's Trusts and CYPPs from autumn 2010. Although the Government has made it clear that it sees strong local partnerships as crucial to meeting the needs of all children, it does not need to be through a one-size-fits-all approach. Each local authority area will be free to address local issues with effective solutions. The basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed.

4.6 The intention in Halton is to continue to drive forward work to improve outcomes for children and young people through the current Children's Trust arrangements, with a new CYPP developed by April 2011 to provide strategic direction.

4.7 The Children's Trust will hold a development day in November to look to agree the overarching priorities for the Trust's work from 2011 onwards. These will shape the new CYPP and be informed by an analysis of need and the evolving framework for working to improve outcomes for children and young people in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The review was completed by the end of June, in line with requirements for it to be in place within 12 months of the publication of the Plan.

5.2 The document has been submitted to Ofsted as part of the evidence base for the 2010 annual Children's Services Rating that will be published in December 2010.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The review provides an update to the Children & Young People's Plan for Halton 2009-11. This is the key strategic document for the Children's Trust, outlining the main priorities for the Trust within the framework of the Every Child Matters agenda in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Plan and the review document has a strong focus on ensuring that young people are successful when they leave school and do well wherever they live and whatever their needs. Both of these overarching priorities of the Plan link closely to the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) agenda that links with the work of

Employment, Learning & Skills.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Children's physical, sexual and emotional health is an overarching priority within the Plan and for the Trust.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Plan looks at work being done around alcohol, anti-social behaviour and youth offending. In each of these areas the Trust works closely with the Safer Halton Partnership.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The review highlights the development of further provision in Halton, including the MyPlace site in Widnes and additional secure accommodation across Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The review meets the statutory guidance that was released from the previous government to undertake an annual review in each year that a full Plan is not produced. The review covers the requirements of the guidance, provides a supplementary update to the Plan itself and will inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

7.2 The Coalition Government is currently reviewing all policy areas and so the future budgetary framework is currently being determined.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on the document showed that there are no negative impacts on any individuals and groups within Halton as a result of the Plan and review. The Children & Young People's Plan facilitates positive action for children and young people overall in Halton and for particular groups of children and young people as appropriate.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 The Review was undertaken in order to comply with the updated Statutory Children's Trust Guidance to review the Children & Young People's Plan in each year that a new Plan is not produced. The Review also provides an update on progress that has been submitted to Ofsted to inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The existing Children & Young People’s Plan remains the overarching strategy that Halton’s Children’s Trust is working towards meeting. The Review provides a supplement that updates progress so far on the two year (2009-11) Plan. The Review was published in July in time to be submitted to Ofsted by its deadline of July 16th for consideration for the Children’s Services Rating for 2010.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children Act 2004	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady
Children’s Trust Statutory Guidance 2010	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady

Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2009 - 2011



Annual Review of Progress 2010



Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Children's Trust Partnership Arrangements	5
3.	Children's Trust Priorities	6
4.	Children's Trust Working Neighbourhood Fund Commissioning	8
5.	Inspection Feedback	9
6.	Listening to Children, Young People and their Families	10
7.	Success Stories	13
8.	Barriers to Success	19
9.	Performance Review of Priorities	22
10.	Children's Trust Performance Report Card 2009-10	26
11.	Review of Promises and Improvement Plan 2010/11	33
	Appendix A – Joint Halton Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board Protocol	42
	Appendix B – Halton Children's Trust Structure	45

This review has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. This can be viewed online at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust.

You can request a paper copy of this document, and all other supporting information referred to within this review by telephoning 01928 704546, or via email at childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual review of Halton's second Children & Young People's Plan. At the Plan's halfway point, this provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by Halton's Children's Trust in the last 12 months, and refocus our multi agency partnership working to ensure that we meet all the challenges set out for us by the Plan within the next year. This review ensures that our Plan will continue to be useful and relevant through to 2011.

The review sets out developments in a number of key areas over the past 12 months, including:

- The views of children and young people that have been gathered through a broad range of consultation.
- The strengthened Children's Trust partnership arrangements.
- A performance update for all indicators within the Plan's overarching priorities.
- The work done so far to meet the 14 promises in the Plan and how we will work to meet the outstanding promises in the months ahead.
- And perhaps most importantly, this review gives us a chance to celebrate some of the successes achieved by our young people, as well as the barriers that have been encountered by children, young people and professionals over the last 12 months.

The Children's Trust is now firmly embedded in Halton and became a statutory body in April. The strong foundations and progress made over recent years in developing partnership working across all Children's Services ensured that many of the requirements of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009 were already in place in Halton. The Act merely reinforces these arrangements.

We have moved towards establishing real and lasting benefits from working as 'one organisation', both virtual and real, to meet the objectives contained within our Plan. This has been shown in the development and rollout of Team Around the Family (Locality Working) across Halton and in laying the foundations of a Joint Commissioning Unit between Halton Borough Council and NHS Halton and St Helens. These are just two examples of how we are working together towards the common goal of improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The vision that we set out in our Plan last year was:

"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, healthy and ready to be Halton's present and become Halton's future."

I remain confident that the progress we have seen in the last 12 months will continue and we will be able to meet all the challenges that the Plan sets out for us in order to realise this vision within a changing political landscape.

Gerald Meehan
Strategic Director, Children & Young People
Co-chair, Children Trust Executive Group

2. Children's Trust Partnership Arrangements

Halton's Children's Trust was established in 2008 in line with national requirements that became statutory on April 1st 2010. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009, together with the updated Children's Trust Statutory Guidance 2010, has increased the Trust's responsibilities in the following ways:

- The Children's Trust Board (rather than the local authority) will now jointly produce, publish, review and sign off the Children & Young People's Plan;
- Implementing the Plan is a responsibility of partners on the Trust as a collective;
- The number of statutory 'relevant partners' has been extended to include maintained schools, Academies, non-maintained special schools, Further Education and Sixth-Form Colleges, Short Stay Schools / Pupil Referral Units and Jobcentre Plus.

The purpose of the Children's Trust is to bring all partners who work with and for children and young people together to agree a common strategy, the Children & Young People's Plan, for co-operating to improve children and young people's wellbeing, and to ensure that partners work together towards the strategy.

Halton's Children's Trust has identified three key 'partnership intractables'. These are issues where a strong partnership approach is needed to improve outcomes for children and young people. These form the basis for the Children and Young People's Plan. These 'intractables', 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

These form the basis of the three sub groups of the Trust, known as Service Delivery Partnerships (SDPs). Safeguarding plays a significant role in each of these areas and will be a consistent factor as each priority is addressed. In order to continue embedding the message that safeguarding is everybody's business we have identified a fourth priority area. This is:

- D. Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities.

The Children's Trust works closely with the Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) to ensure all work within the Trust helps to meet this priority. The HSCB is the key body in Halton which ensures that the various strategic plans for children and young people, and the services that are provided for them, embrace effective safeguarding practice. A joint protocol has been established to formalise the relationship between the Trust and HSCB, informed by the new 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010' guidance. The protocol can be found in Appendix A of this review.

The Children's Trust Board oversees the work of the Trust, with the Executive Group feeding directly into it. The Executive Group's role is to advise, support and be accountable to the Children's Trust Board. It has responsibility for managing the business processes of the Children's Trust, and monitoring and supporting the work of the Service Delivery Partnerships, while modelling an innovative, outcomes-focussed approach to service planning and delivery. The Executive Group also acts as the Specialist Strategic Partnership for Children & Young People, feeding into the Halton Strategic Partnership. As part of this function, the Group has responsibility for the Children & Young People allocation of Working Neighbourhood Funding in Halton.

The overall Trust structures and how the Trust links to other bodies such as the Halton Strategic Partnership and Halton Safeguarding Children Board are outlined in Appendix B.

3. Children's Trust Priorities

During the last 12 months the Service Delivery Partnership (SDP) sub groups of the Children's Trust have been working towards bringing real improvements for children and young people in Halton within their priority. The table below summarises the areas of focus for each SDP, and the achievable goals that each have been agreed to implement within the timeframe of this Plan in order to make the greatest difference to their priority. More detailed information on the business plans of each SDP can be found at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust. The table also outlines the areas of focus and achievable goals for our overarching safeguarding priority in the year ahead. More detailed information on the safeguarding agenda over the next 12 months, as well as a reflection of the achievements in the last year can be found in the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report (www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust).

	Areas of Focus	Achievable Goals by March 2011
SDP 1 – Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling the high rate of under 18 conceptions and supporting teenage parents in developing their skills and realising their ambitions • Developing an action plan that will reduce infant mortality rates in Halton • Improving the emotional health of our children and young people • Improving breastfeeding rates in Halton • Reducing the percentage of young people who consume alcohol • Tackling the rise in overweight and obese children and young people with a healthy lifestyle programme for children and young people and their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing levels of co-sleeping • Improving the teenage pregnancy communication strategy • Reviewing and enhancing the multi-agency anti-bullying strategy • Improving the capacity of parents and carers to discuss and guide/advise young people in terms of sex and relationships • Improving information sharing between professionals about vulnerable families • Improving education for children and young people on the demands having a baby can place on parents/carers and siblings • Improving communication within the healthy lifestyle programme for children, young people and families
SDP 2 – Every young person is successful when they leave school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the percentage of young people achieving beyond their estimated level at GCSE • Reducing the number of young people worried about their future • Increasing the percentage of young people achieving Level 3 by 19 • Increasing the number of young people participating in positive activities • Increasing the number of young people volunteering • Reducing the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving marketing and advertising of 16+ opportunities in Halton • Increasing awareness of vocational qualifications • Improving access routes to higher education • Ensuring carers receive training and support to assist in their education and vocational/positive activities • Working with parents to enable them to support their child in achieving their aspirations

	Areas of Focus	Achievable Goals by March 2011
SDP 3 – Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the attainment gap of 5 GCSE's Grade A*-C including English and Maths between the most and least affluent areas of Halton • Reducing the proportion of children in poverty • Increasing the percentage of young people eligible for free school meals achieving Level 3 by age 19 • Increasing the percentage of vulnerable groups in education, employment and training • Increasing the number of completed person centred plans • Increasing the percentage of young people who think their area is a very good place to live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing intervention strategies with schools and providers including additional one-to-one support and personalised action plans • Introducing more flexible provision within Further Education with multiple start points for courses • Ensuring that learning providers can identify Level 3 learners who do not have appropriate A*-C GCSE's and provide additional support • Develop a small scale project through the Child Poverty group which will have a direct positive impact on reducing child poverty
Children and young people feel safe at home, in school and in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the stability of placements for children in care • Increasing the percentage of assessments completed within timescales • Increasing the number of parents with substance misuse issues receiving support • Increasing the percentage of Children in Need previously subject to a CAF assessment • Reducing the percentage of young people charged or cautioned with offences • Reducing the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training previously subject to a Child Protection Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the full implementation of the Common Assessment Framework so that all agencies are confident in planning and delivering coordinated services to children and families • Engaging with front line staff to support the development of a motivated, supported and skilled workforce • Continuing to develop effective working relations between HSCB the Safeguarding Adults Board • Involving the community in Board processes, including community representation on the HSCB, and developing structures to gather meaningful feedback on it's work • Providing constructive and robust challenges to the Children's Trust on safeguarding issues

4. Children's Trust Working Neighbourhood Fund Commissioning

Halton has in place an established mechanism for managing its Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) allocation. The five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) that sit underneath the Halton Strategic Partnership are responsible for setting out activities for their WNF allocation. The Children's Trust Executive Group acts as the SSP for children and young people, and allocates its share of the funding across projects from within the priority area of each Service Delivery Partnership (SDP).

The table below outlines the services that have been commissioned using Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations for 2010/11, and the SDP priorities that these services cover.

WNF	2010/11	SDP1	SDP2	SDP3	Safeguarding
PACT – Neglect Project	125,000	✓		✓	✓
NEET And Youth Activity	117,658		✓	✓	
Tackle Fitness with the Vikings	37,500	✓		✓	
Independent Travel Training	25,000			✓	
Canal Boat Project (Making Waves)	48,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integrated Working Project	30,000				✓
Young Carers Strategic Development Lead	49,949	✓	✓	✓	
Missing From Home	70,000	✓		✓	✓
HBC Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health Support	45,000	✓			✓
Publicity and Marketing	9,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total	£557,107				

5. Inspection Feedback

The Children & Young People's Directorate of Halton Borough Council underwent an unannounced Ofsted inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services on 5th May 2010. The primary purpose of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness of frontline social work practice in managing potential risk to children, and minimise the incidence of abuse and neglect of children. This focused primarily on the Local Authority as lead agency for child protection.

The inspection report gave Halton a positive assessment of practice. The inspection did not identify grades, but aspects of satisfactory practice, particular strengths and areas for development. Where necessary, areas for 'priority action' are recorded and reported to the Local Authority. Priority actions cover areas where children may be left at risk of significant harm. No areas for priority action were identified during this inspection.

There were a number of 'Strengths' identified by the inspectors. These included:

- The quality of the supervision that staff receive
- The Council's enthusiastic and dedicated staff
- Good support staff receive from managers
- The quality of training provided
- Recruitment of social workers
- Newly qualified social workers are well supported
- There are strong quality assurance processes that support the development of practice.

The inspection also identified the following areas that were deemed to be 'Satisfactory':

- All cases are allocated
- Assessments are carried out by suitably qualified staff
- Duty team managers are visible, supportive and provide effective guidance
- Child protection issues are identified and responded to
- Case loads are manageable
- Completion of Initial and Core Assessments
- Increasing use of the Common Assessment Framework
- Children are routinely seen and spoken to
- The ethnicity and diversity of families is well considered.

Areas that Inspectors felt needed further development included:

- The timely completion of Initial Assessments
- ICT recording systems
- Recording of contact with the police and initial screening.

The development of a new ICT based recording system has been prioritised for development and implementation over the next 12 months, given the critical importance of these systems in the protection of children. The resource to do this has been prioritised and identified. In addition to this, an action plan has been developed as a result of the findings of the inspection with each area for development to be implemented by September 2011.

6. Listening to Children, Young People and their Families

Over the past year, views of children and young people have been gathered to inform the development of services for children, young people and their families across all agencies. They have been collected in a number of ways and from a variety of Children's Trust partners. Within our 4 priorities, there are a number of indicators of success. These are measures of whether we are achieving our goals, and we have mapped below the consultation evidence gathered in the past 12 months against these indicators. Where appropriate, some of the consultation work carried out before March 2011 will look to fill some of the gaps against these indicators, as well as to provide further evidence across all the indicators to inform the new Children & Young People's Plan.

Priority	Indicator	Instances of Consultation
Priority 1. Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy	1.1 - Reduce obesity amongst primary school age children in year 6	1
	1.2 - Reduce % of young people who consume alcohol	4
	1.3 - Increase % of young people in Halton who are happy	10
	1.4 - Reduce % of young people in Halton who are worried about being bullied	5
	1.5 - Reduce the under 18 conception rate	4
	1.6 - Reduce the infant mortality rate	1
Priority 2. Every young person is successful when they leave school	2.1 - Increase % of young people reaching their estimated level of achievement at GCSE	3
	2.2 - Reduce the number of young people worried about their future	5
	2.3 - Increase the % of young people achieving Level 3 by age 19	1
	2.4 - Increase the % of young people participating in positive activities	10
	2.5 - Increase the number of young people volunteering	2
	2.6 - Reduce the % of 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training.	2
Priority 3. Children and young people will have the same opportunities wherever they live and whatever their needs	3.1 - Reduce the GCSE achievement gap by 25% between those in the worst 10% of the super-output areas and the rest of Halton	2
	3.2 - Reduce the proportion of children in poverty	1
	3.3 - Increase the % of young people eligible for free school meals achieving Level 3 by age 19	0
	3.4 - Increase the % of vulnerable groups in education, employment and training (EET)	6
	3.5 - Increase the number of person centred plans completed	3
	3.6 - Increase the % of young people who think their area is a good place to live	8
Priority 4. Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities	4.1 - Increase the length and stability of placements for children in care	1
	4.2 - Increase the number of assessments completed within timescales	1
	4.3 - Increase the number of parents with substance misuse issues receiving support	0
	4.4 - Reduce the % of Children in Need previously subject to a CAF assessment	0
	4.5 - Reduce the number of young people charged or cautioned with offences	4
	4.6 - Reduce the % of young people not in education, employment or training who were previously subject to a Child Protection Plan	1

Each of these instances of consultation can be accessed using the following link www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust. A summary of some of this consultation work across each priority has been outlined below.

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

Activities conducted by Halton Youth Service targeting local 'hotspots' on Friday and Saturday evenings have facilitated extensive consultation with young people on issues such as alcohol consumption, teenage pregnancy and fear of being bullied. This research provided recommendations that were fed into the Promotion of Positive Activities Group. In addition to this, as part of the Friday Night in the Parks initiative, young people had the opportunity to train as Peer Education Alcohol Workers. Once trained, they worked face to face with other young people in Halton's parks to discuss how they felt alcohol affected their behaviour, and to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of unhealthy alcohol consumption.

A survey was conducted with children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers at the beginning of the 2009 school summer holidays, focusing particularly on primary school aged children, to find out their views on local playground facilities. Information from this survey feeds into indicators within this priority for reducing obesity, emotional wellbeing and also children who think their area is a good place to live.

Although there has not been specific consultation with young people around reducing the infant mortality rate in the past 12 months, parents have been consulted on promotional materials for a recent child safety campaign, and gave their thoughts as to the effectiveness of the literature.

Priority 2: All young people are successful when they leave school

The MyPlace Design Group have been an integral part of consultation in all matters concerning the design of the new youth facility in Widnes. This has helped to establish what type of provision young people would like to have available, to enable them to take part in positive activities. The young people propose the facility should offer a variety of opportunities including information on education, careers, housing, finance and health. The project hopes to also encourage young people to participate in volunteering opportunities.

Consultation was undertaken as part of the review of Primary and Secondary SEN provision in the borough between March 2009 and January 2010. This was conducted via email, post and meetings to teachers, parents, carers and key workers for SEN children, as well as additional groups such as elected members and neighbouring authorities Diocesan leaders. This led to the establishment of a range of specialist resource provision units across the borough and the development of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Pathway for school-aged young people in Halton following a successful pilot study. The Pathway is a multi agency approach to provide appropriate holistic assessment, diagnosis and intervention in ASD in Halton and it is hoped it will be developed into a joint Halton and St Helens Pathway.

The Connexions 'Involve' youth group of around 15 young people meet every two weeks to look at ways to improve youth provision across the borough. They use different ways to capture feedback and make suggestions for change, which include workshops, surveys, and residential weekends away. The group have made a difference to the way services are delivered in the area, and have even been successful in funding bids to fund their activities. The young people have been involved in consultation around CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) in schools and this has contributed to the development of a common programme of study for Information, Advice Guidance across schools in Halton that is now being implemented.

Priority 3: Children and young people will do well wherever they live and whatever their needs

The Young Inspectors Project supported a group of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD), to inspect local services to assess their accessibility for young people with LDD, and identify any barriers to participation. This project helped to identify need within specific areas in order to make Halton a better place to live for young people.

Young travellers have been consulted on the resources and equipment they need in their new community centre on the traveller site in Widnes, and successfully gained £10,000 from Halton Youth Bank to equip this new youth and community resource.

Halton Youth Cabinet carried out a 'circles of influence' peer research project to identify the five main concerns for disabled young people. This was a direct response to the need for the voices of children and young people with disabilities to inform the work of the Children with Disabilities Partnership Board

Consultation also took place with families of children with disabilities who have followed the assessment process, to gain feedback on the services their children had received. The feedback received was discussed with families and a joint goal plan was agreed.

Priority 4: Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities

HSCB Shadow Board - A young people's Shadow Safeguarding Board to the Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) is currently being established and is in its early stages. The aim is to gather views and ideas from 13 - 19 year olds in order to feed into the HSCB. It is hoped that the group will have membership representation from Youth Cabinet, Anti Bullying Alliance, Children in Care Council and relevant services for children and young people. The focus of meetings so far has been on anti-bullying and volunteering opportunities

Various activities led by Halton Youth Service have taken place over the past year with the aim of offering young people alternatives to risk taking behaviour, which can often lead to crime. The Friday Night in the Parks project consulted with young people on what activities they would like available in their areas, and also offered them short courses in comedy, graffiti art, breakdancing, 'MCing' and DJ workshops, as well as peer education projects and basketball and football sessions at Victoria Park in Widnes and Phoenix Park in Runcorn. The aim of this project was to reduce anti social behaviour in local hotspot areas.

In addition to this, the MyPlace project will focus on providing facilities for young people to engage in positive activities, and offer information, advice and guidance on issues including, education, careers, housing, finance and health. The project hopes to also encourage young people to participate in social enterprise activities and local volunteering opportunities. These initiatives aim to reduce the number of young people charged or cautioned with criminal offences.

7. Success Stories

Much progress has been made over the last 12 months towards achieving our goals set out within the Children and Young People's Plan priorities. This review gives us the opportunity to share and celebrate some of the successes that have been achieved in Halton by individuals, groups and agencies during the last year as we have worked towards improving outcomes for our children and young people. These example success stories and the priority from the Children & Young People's Plan that they fall under, are outlined below.

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

Barnardo's - J's Journey

'J' is 10 years old and has been working with Barnardos for the last 11 months as a result of being reported missing from home by police. The priority was to focus on J's anger management, which had caused him to run away.

"My name is J and this is how I changed my behaviour to manage my anger. At the beginning of my journey, I thought I was horrible. I felt horrible because I talked "bad" to my mum, but was nice to everyone else. I wanted to change. I set myself goals. The first one was to control my anger. The second one was to get on better with my mum.

The journey ahead looked like hard work. It looked like it would be impossible and I wouldn't be able to do it. The problem I faced on the journey was having to make hard decisions. Some things seemed impossible and I felt I needed a miracle. My mum helped me on my journey, by calming me down when I got angry. Barnardo's gave me techniques to help me manage my anger. Me and my mum can now use these techniques.

My feelings changed often throughout the journey. At first I felt angry all the time. This started to change when I had my techniques. Instead of angry all the time I felt hopeful. When you use techniques and get better and better at things it was hard to change on my own and it was nice to see that my mum was on the journey with me. We worked together as a team.

Now I feel happy, I feel nought on the scale. Now I know I don't need a miracle because everything is fine now as I am getting on better with my mum. My journey relates to a mountain, as the journey involved many steps to reach the goal at the top. From the top of the mountain everything looks bright."

Chrysalis

Chrysalis was established in September 2009 and has worked with over sixty children and their families. The service provides one-to-one work, and also mediation for parents dealing with bodies such as schools, CAMHS and housing. The following is one example of the work done by Chrysalis, provided by a member of staff who worked with "Billy", aged 11.

"Billy's Dad died suddenly in September 2009. Two months previously his Mum and Dad had separated. He'd also just started senior school. I started seeing Billy in school after Mum had contacted me and I'd carried out a home visit and assessment.

Billy was very emotional, was not attending lessons and sobbed during our sessions. He felt very confused and really struggled with his emotions. Initially we worked on building rapport, and he began to feel safe in the sessions and gained from sharing and 'struggling' with his feelings surrounding all this change and loss. We spoke about his Dad, looked at photos and laughed at some of the stories Billy told.

Things started to improve for Billy and he felt stronger, but he also felt angry about these events. He could be disruptive at home and wasn't contributing any help to his Mum. I'd liaised with Mum by phone and she raised some concerns and was quite upset herself. Billy and I explored anger, looking at some strategies to help him deal with it and, being a keen footballer, we used an analogy based around his football team, teamwork and the affect on the team if players don't do their 'job'. We also made use of a diary to monitor and understand behaviour and feelings around Billy's responsibilities at home. Billy really 'got' this idea and things have improved greatly.

Billy attends all lessons now, his diary has demonstrated the improvement in his home life, he's remembering his Dad in a positive way and is a lot more comfortable and resilient."

Sexual Health Summer Camp

The Youth Service and peer educators organised a sexual health summer camp in 2009 involving targeted groups including children in care, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The aim was to create a safe environment where the groups felt comfortable sharing knowledge, chatting about sexual health and relationships and get information, advice and support. In the second phase of the camp, the young people created a DVD call 'SexEd TV'. Plans are now underway to organise sexual health summer camp for 2010. Training was also organised for a group of young people in peer-led research, leading to a peer-led report with recommendations for sexual health services in Halton.

Seasons for Growth

Catholic Children's Society delivers the Seasons for Growth programme, which provides children and young people with strategies to build their resilience after significant changes in their lives. An example of the work of the programme is that of a 9 year old at a primary school in Halton, who moved from another area last year when her parents separated. She struggled to settle in her new school, was aggressive towards other children, uncooperative with staff, not participating in school life and hiding under tables – a total change in behaviour from her previous school where she was a model pupil.

Through participation in group activities, she was able to relate to and share experiences with peers and develop friendships. She became able to name feelings, relate them to behaviour and identify changes that would make school a happier place to be. She really enjoyed the group because she could "just be myself".

It appeared that she could not enjoy her new school while mourning the loss of her last one. We worked on a "then & now" scrap book – identifying similarities and differences. This showed the positive opportunities available now, without taking away from the feelings/memories of the previous school. The school were very supportive and agreed to continue this after our intervention was completed. The outcome of this has been extremely positive for all involved. She was keen to share her scrap book with staff and peers and the aggressive behaviour has reduced. She is actively participating in school life, achieving more and enjoying learning again. Mum has reported a difference with their relationship and it has eliminated a lot of the conflict at home.

Child Safety Programme

This Programme was developed as a result of the review of child deaths in Halton. These reviews identified a number of preventable factors that caused the deaths of babies and young children through injury, accidents or suffocation following sleeping with the baby. The programme consists of multi agency training for front line staff to highlight the potential hazards and explore how agencies could work more effectively together. A Child Safety directory has also been developed,

along with a resource pack and pocket guide for front line workers from a range of agencies, which was informed by social marketing research. The directory and pocket guide have been well received and are being used to improve safety for young children.

Priority 2: All young people are successful when they leave school

LOOSE Music Group

'LOOSE' is a not for profit organisation run by volunteers supporting and promoting music & creative arts. It started in January 1997, with the purpose of supporting & promoting local music. LOOSE started to organise under-18s gigs at The Queens Hall Studio and music workshops for young people who previously had nowhere to go to play and rehearse. A great community developed and several grants were obtained to activities. It was a blow when the Studio closed in April 2004.

In April 2010 after a long struggle the Studio opened again, now owned by LOOSE. Funding has been secured for 5 years from The Big Lottery Fund to develop music related activities and opportunities. The 'original' young people have grown up and moved on but they have been able to evaluate and express what it meant to them having the regular workshops at The Studio:

"It was like a second home, only better. You felt like you belonged to something."

"I am supporting this project because I want other young people to have the same chances I had".

"Picking up a guitar when I was 14 and having those opportunities meant I didn't end up like a lot of my mates who are on drugs or in jail. I am now in my final year at University doing a degree in music, and loving it. Who'd have thought a kid off the estate could be doing this?"

Halton Democracy Camps and United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP)

Through ongoing commitment to Young People's Voice, Halton Youth Service organise annual Democracy Camps for young people from Halton's Area Youth Forums and School Councils. The aim is to elect young people onto Youth Cabinet through democratic and young person led processes. Members of the Cabinet then stand for in the UKYP elections. The young people elected on to Cabinet in 2009 asked to take on the task of planning and facilitating the 2009 Camps.

Youth Workers planned an accredited Young Leaders Peer Education training programme to ensure the group developed skills and abilities to be able to share their experiences and knowledge with their peers. On completing the programme the group, supported by workers, were equipped to undertake the planning and facilitating of workshops on the 2009 Camps.

The impact for the Cabinet members and participants was incredibly positive. Some Cabinet members felt this had been one of the most challenging experiences to date showing their increased levels of confidence through their public speaking. Future Democracy Camps will continue to be planned, organised and led by young people.

"Putting the past behind me and looking forward to university"

Alice, 18, has worked with Connexions after having a difficult time since leaving school. Living in Hostel accommodation wasn't easy, but with help and support she hasn't let her difficulties hold her back. Alice enjoyed 20 weeks on Activity Agreement Pilot, participating in positive activities and developing her personal skills such as confidence and team building. She also gained valuable employment skills and benefited from one to one career guidance which helped secure a place at Riverside College on a BTEC National Diploma in Graphic Design Level 3.

Now in her second year, Alice has now applied to go to university next year to continue her design studies in Higher Education. Alice's long-term ambitions are to find her dream job working for a large company as an Interior Designer.

"Connexions have been great, I've always felt I could pop in and see someone when I was in trouble. They never judged me; my PA always helps me get things back on track"

Riverside College is officially good with OUTSTANDING features!

An Ofsted inspection in February 2010, judged Riverside College to be 'a good college with outstanding features'. Ofsted were impressed with the College's management, quality of provision, the student experience and the progress made at the College in the last twelve months. The report also commends the excellent relationships the College has across the community with parents, schools, employers, the local authority and community groups. The College have now made a strategic commitment to use their 'outstanding capacity to improve' to create a grade one college in the shortest time possible to enable them to provide the people of Halton with outstanding education and training opportunities.

Prince's Trust in the local community:

Halton 43 Prince's Trust team worked in partnership with Halton Borough Council to renovate the Park Family Centre in Castlefields, Runcorn. They decided to take on this challenge to support their local community and develop new skills. The team of 10 young people aged between 16 and 25 raised over £300.00 for the project themselves, but were also granted funding for materials by Halton Borough Council's Neighbourhood Management Team.

The Park Family Centre was officially re-opened in February and was attended by members of the Fire Authority, local councillors, the staff from Halton Brook Children's Centre, Castlefield's residents and friends and family of the team members. All team members gave a speech and were presented with a certificate in recognition of their achievements.

The young people's hard work and dedication has now paid off because they have now been awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award for the best community project in Halton.

Priority 3: Children and young people will do well wherever they live and whatever their needs

The Halton Photovoice Project

The aim of this project was to give young people with special educational needs a chance to speak out about their experience of transition from their own perspective, and to encourage a more involved approach to assessment and provision of services. The Northwest Regional Hub commissioned the national charity "Photovoice" to lead on this initiative across the North West.

Work was done with a small group of young people to get an insight into the needs of the group and their hopes and dreams for the future. Four workshops were run locally, followed by participation in a regional a Transition Event, hosted by BBC Radio Merseyside. The transitions faced by the young people involved included from primary to secondary school, and moving from an independent special school into Riverside College, as well as the transition to adulthood. All are important transitions that can often be very difficult to understand and cope with.

As well as practical skills, the group really understood how to portray feelings and situations through photographs. The project ran from February – April 2010 and was a great success. A

Photovoice Finale celebration event was held in May at the Stobart Stadium. This gave an opportunity for parents, families, carers, friends and schools to see the excellent outcomes for our young people.

This project has been part of 'The Source' resource for schools and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators that has proven to be extremely valuable. An interactive resource for parents is being developed and also for pupils through the learning platform in order to increase the impact of the voice of the child.

Positive Futures Halton

During the summer of 2009 a group of young people took part in a camping vacation to Normandy. The trip was organised to celebrate the achievements of some of the young people and also to visit the war cemeteries in the region. The group were responsible for organising the itinerary, which included travel to and from France, and also the camping and preparation and cooking of meals on the trip. The trip to the War Memorial in Caen was a humbling experience for the group who paid their respects to those had fallen during the war. Staff were on hand to educate the young people on related queries.

Once back in England and as part of their community action in attaining the Life Routes Qualification the group decided to hold a sponsored walk to raise funds for Help for Heroes. So on a wet and windy Saturday in January, 17 young people took part in a walk from Windmill Hill to Widnes town centre and back to raise funds and make their own contribution in memory of the fallen. The group raised over £1300 through sponsorship money and collecting funds on their journey with their Help for Heroes buckets.

Partnership Working Between Jobcentre Plus and Children's Centres in Halton.

As a result of the rise in unemployment and estates issues, a service is now available offering access to lone parent advisors from Jobcentre Plus at all Halton's Children's Centres. Each Centre has community development workers working alongside the Jobcentre Plus advisers for at least half of each day and this has made a huge difference to advisers being able to offer a full package of support around the family. Some of the benefits arising from this partnership include:

- Improved joint working between organisations to the benefit of families as a whole
- Parental engagement – Community Development Workers are informing and supporting Jobcentre Plus advice sessions
- Effective fast track referrals to Halton People Into Jobs, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Adult Learning and Jobcentre Plus funded training
- A whole support network 'on site' to work with families in a family friendly environment

Feedback received from parents has been positive so far and has included:

- 'it made it easier to say what you wanted to say'
- "The Children's Centres make a more relaxed atmosphere"
- "I didn't know there was so much going on here"
- "I could relax because the kids were happy"

Nessie Club

The Canal Boat Adventure Project's Nessie Club have attracted a number of prestigious awards for their achievements in breaking through educational, health and cultural barriers since the project was set up by young people in 2001. Over the last few years, members of the Club have worked in Nkawie in Ghana, raising £30,000 and leading on the design and build of the first Children's Computer Centre in the area. During the last 12 months they have introduced Halton's Children &

Young People's Plan to the area and used Halton's Children's Trust model as a means of engaging the local community to maintain and develop the resource.

Eight members of the Club this year won the BBC Young Citizenship Award and were featured on BBC television in March.

For the past four years, successive cohorts of "borderline" GCSE candidates have organised their own 5 day canal boat-based GCSE residential. The combination of healthy meals, regular sleep, relaxing activities and studying in groups has enabled more young people to exceed their predicted GCSE grades.

This year the group included young carers, a looked after child and seven very vulnerable young people who needed additional support with their set text book (*Of Mice and Men*). The project provided new revision guides, some copies of the book and the video as resources. At Easter, these young people arranged chairs, cinema-style on the wide-beam boat and watched the video. Each young person was engrossed in the play and collectively they were very emotional about the story. Lively discussion groups followed and young people from different schools contributed different perspectives. New vocabulary was explored and these young people then worked informally on revision guides throughout the residential.

During the two weeks prior to GCSEs, several from this group took up the option of working with a very inspirational English tutor, studying exam techniques and testing out their understanding of the concepts of the book's plot. These young people confirmed that this residential enabled them to address their own barriers to achieving their potential in GCSEs - a quiet space, revision guides (not all young people can afford to buy these) the full text book in contrast to photocopied chapters, and the video provided each young person with the best possible chance of gaining a good grade: however, group support for revision was, in their opinion, the motivating factor.

"Help to get where I want to be"

Rachel was just 16 when her baby arrived but thanks to the help and support from Connexions and other partners in Halton, she now feels like she's got her life back on track and hopes some day to run her own business. When she was pregnant, Rachel joined a parenting group called TP2B which is a 12-week programme delivered in partnership between Connexions, a local midwife and the Children's Centre:

"I met one of the Connexions PAs and she kept in touch with me throughout my pregnancy, she's been great. She helped me to get a place at Riverside College. She also got me free childcare which has worked out really well whilst I'm doing my course. I really regret getting kicked out of school. I should have done so much better with my GCSEs but I messed around too much and didn't get very good grades. I'm going to stay on at college now to get better qualifications."

Rachel is now attending an Introductory Diploma in Business Administration and Retail. When she finishes the course she hopes to go on to find a job as a receptionist and gain some experience.

8. Barriers to Success

As part of reviewing our progress, as well as celebrating the successes that have been achieved, it is important to identify issues that stand in the way of children and young people achieving their full potential. The issues that have been highlighted to us through our work and in consultation exercises will inform service development and other work in the next 12 months as part of the improvement plan (see section 11), as well as the development of our next Children and Young People's Plan for 2011 onwards.

A number of examples of the barriers to success that have hindered the opportunities for our children and young people in achieving their full potential are outlined below. The examples below show some of the common themes which emerged as issues for young people:

A consultation exercise was recently conducted by the Children's Trust in partnership with Halton Youth Cabinet, to explore the views of young people on how well that they thought the Children's Trust were meeting the priorities set out in the Plan so far. Below are some of the comments received from the group that highlight some of the issues they have encountered.

***"Transport* - this is a huge issue for young people in Halton, and is preventing young people achieving their goals. The prices are often too high, which means many young people can't access some courses/services. There is very little evening travel provision between Widnes and Runcorn, and young people often end up stranded. Also some residential areas are not serviced well, which means that young people living in those areas are isolated. Buses are still largely inaccessible for some wheelchair users. The low floors mean we can get on the bus, but there are no facilities for strapping down wheelchairs while the bus is in motion. It would be helpful for drivers to receive training to raise awareness of disabled people's needs"**

***"Underage Drinking* - not enough is being done about underage drinking, more services need to be going into schools and telling young people about the dangers of under age drinking. Peer educators could do this?"**

***"Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) provision* is not consistent around the borough and there is a gap in provision in faith and special schools. Provision sometimes doesn't cover issues around Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender issues, pupils feel that teachers often avoid the subject because they are unsure how to address it. Better staff training is needed"**

"More help is needed to get 16 – 19 year olds into work or further training and education. In Halton people don't always know where to go for support and there aren't enough opportunities. More information is particularly needed about Level 3 opportunities, e.g. apprenticeships."

***"Narrowing the gap* - Children and young people who are disadvantaged can find it hard to achieve their goals. I know there are certain college courses that are hard to access, because of problems with transport and money issues. Support services for young people need to be advertised more widely"**

***"Positive perceptions of young people* - It's important to celebrate the achievements of young people more often, eg the Mayor's Ball, to promote young people's achievements and show a more positive profile. Youth Parliament is an important issue, but doesn't seem to be driven forward within schools and sometimes feels trivialised"**

***"Educational Attainment* - Young people who achieve lower than A* - C grades are sometimes made to feel as if they've not performed well, even when their own personal grades may have improved a lot."**

From January to March 2009, 1762 young people were contacted through outreach and weekly provision on Friday and Saturday nights in local 'hotspot' areas. Young people told youth workers what their needs and wants were from weekend provision for young people.

- They said they wanted 'something exciting' to do on Friday and Saturday nights, such as sport or music based activities, as there was currently very little provision during weekends
- They would like more places where they go where they can simply chat and chill with their friends, without being moved on
- They felt that their choices were restricted by lack of access to travel or unaffordable fares

In June 2009 the Youth Cabinet carried out a peer research project to identify the main concerns for disabled young people to inform the work of the Children with Disabilities Partnership Board. Some common themes were identified which young people felt were barriers to them achieving their goals:

Transport

- All buses and taxi's should have ramps, some are inaccessible
- Trains – need ramps and more time to get on and off
- Training for bus drivers needed to raise awareness of needs of young people with disabilities

Money

- More support needed for young people managing and handling money when they leave school
- Support needed for filling in forms for bus passes

Places to go and things to do

- Make shops and other areas of interest to young people accessible for everyone
- Better lighting so young people feel safe

School

- More storage for walking frames and wider corridors
- Better gym equipment and more rise and fall tables
- More focus is needed on vocational subjects during year 11

Evidence¹ has also emerged as part of service reporting mechanisms of barriers to success in young people's social environments.

Young people often face prejudice from their peers and even from within their families when trying to engage in positive activities. In some circumstances young people find that adult expectations of them are far too low, and where a young person may have the ability to progress into higher education they are often encouraged to find work due to financial deprivation within families.

There is also evidence that numbers of young people who are unlikely to achieve 5 A-C GCSE's or who are borderline in core subjects appear to disengage from learning at around year 10. Comments from some of this cohort include:

"The teachers lose interest in you after GCSE mocks if you are not predicted many A-Cs you don't count because they focus on the rest" (J. aged 16 male)

"I have made friends with four other pupils who are predicted Ds and Es – we only get attention when we cause trouble" (S aged 16 female)

¹ Evidence provided from Canal Boat Adventure Project funding returns

Lack of access to some support services for young people in Halton continues to restrict their progression. There is limited weekend, evening or holiday time provision to meet identified needs in terms of:

- Support for young people with emotional health needs (at levels 1 and 2)
- Children's Rights Service
- Advocacy work
- Support for young people who self harm

Transport is also an issue for many young people in the borough. Irregular Sunday services, lack of late evening transport between Widnes and Runcorn, and also the high cost of some services contribute to restricting the activities that young people can access.

Other gaps in provision include:

- Lack of access to computers/learning support on Sundays/evenings. Many young people do not have working computers in their homes, or access to a table/quiet area to work from.
- Restricted access to enjoyable activities for young people across Halton on Sundays/Bank Holidays, when young people are often bored and more vulnerable to taking part in risk taking behaviour

There is evidence to demonstrate that economic downturn is impacting on families in the poorest wards in terms of:

- Having enough money for food: *"Mum has got £10 to feed us till Friday"* (young person aged 11 years)
- Parents and carers who would have considered buying SATs/GCSE revision guides in 2008 were unable to do this in 2009
- Young people are less likely to be able to afford school trips, or the suitable clothing often required to participate in them

9. Performance Review against Priorities

The Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11 highlights annual progress against key indicators within our priority areas. The information on the next three pages updates progress made against these indicators over the last 12 months. Where it is available, additional information has been added that shows Halton's performance in comparison to its statistical neighbours. For Tell Us survey indicators, statistical neighbour information is not available as these indicators are not included in the National Indicator Set.

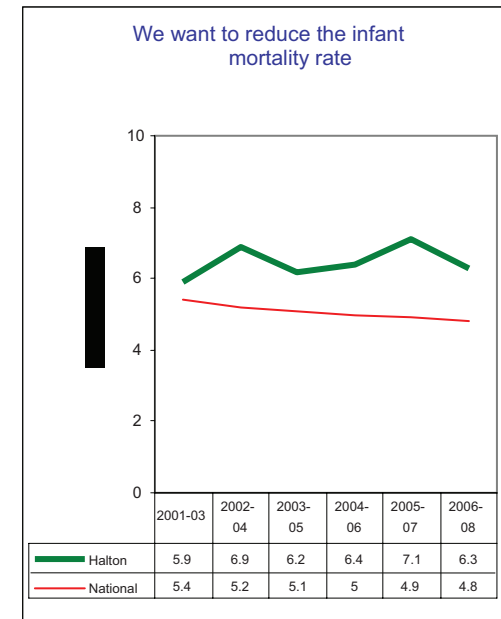
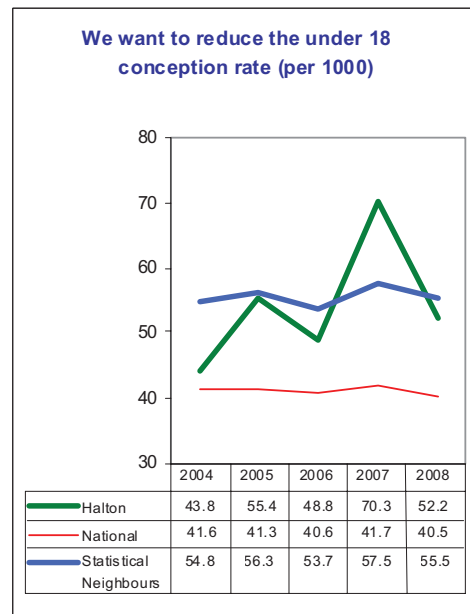
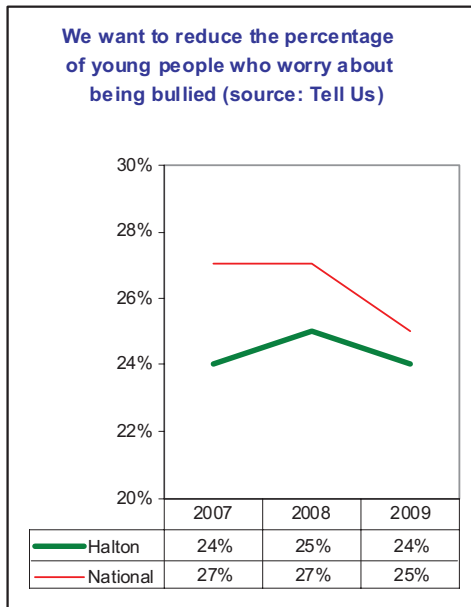
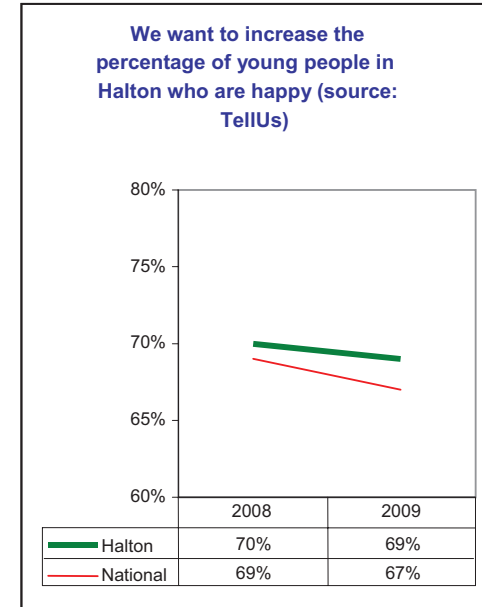
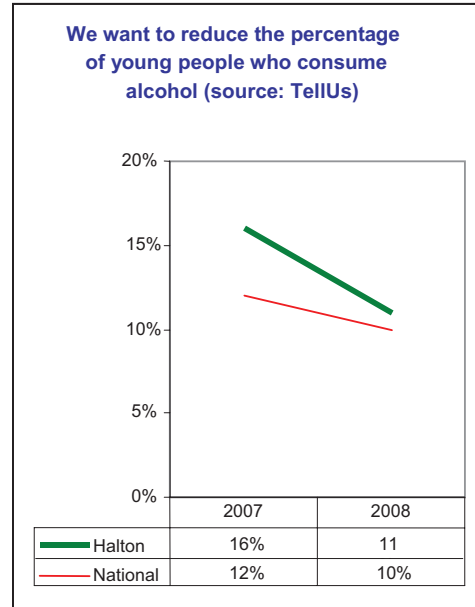
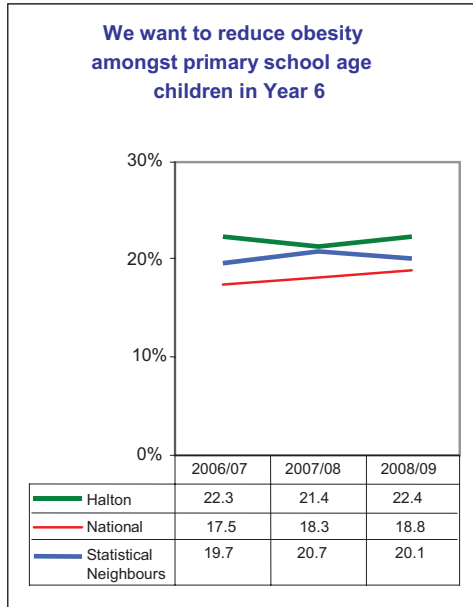
The additional data for the last 12 months shows that we have made progress collectively in some areas to make a real difference for children and young people in Halton. There are a number of examples of areas where we have made improvements, including:

- The proportion of children who worry about being bullied
- The under-18 conception rate – the reduction reported is the highest in the North-West and the fifth highest nationally
- The proportion of 16 – 18 year old young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- The proportion of young people who think that Halton is a good place to live

Despite improvements in these areas of work, the last 12 months has seen performance worsen in other areas, and so extra focus will be brought to these issues in order to turn around performance in the months ahead, and form the basis of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011. These issues include:

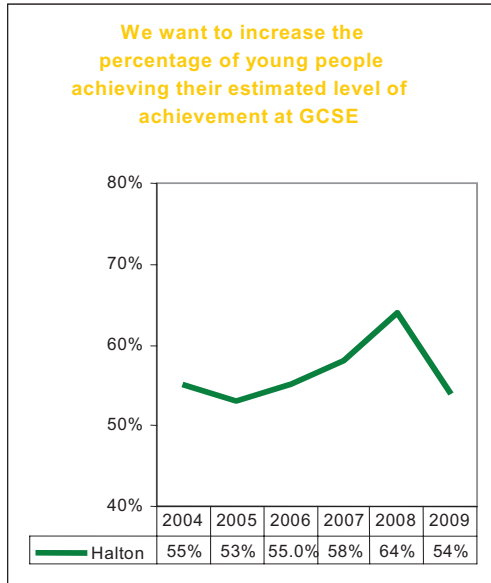
- Levels of obesity for school age children in Year 6
- The number of young people participating in positive activities
- The proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by 19
- The proportion of young people achieving their estimated level of achievement at GCSE

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

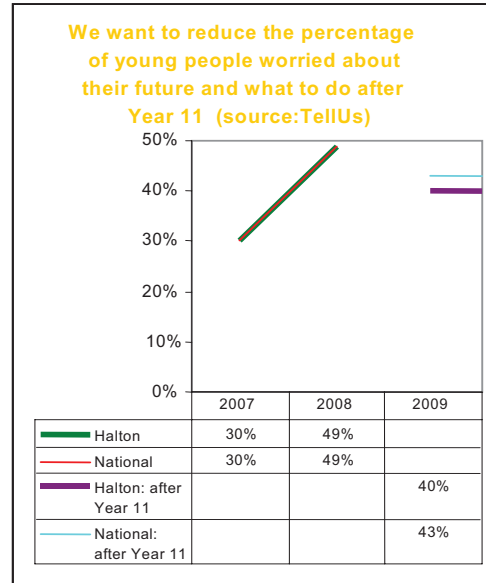


² 2009 data was not collected in the Tell Us Survey with the same wording and therefore is not comparable for reporting purposes.

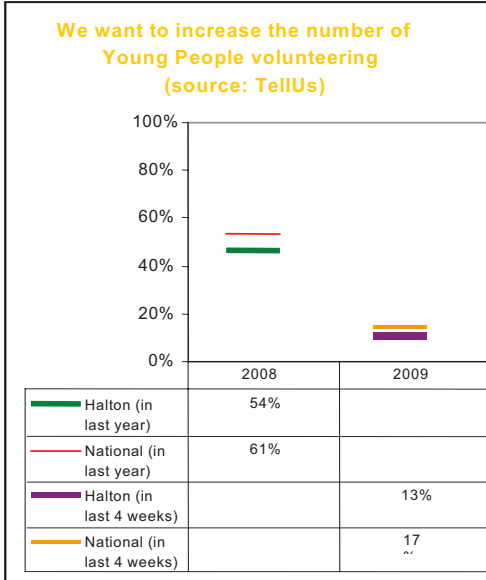
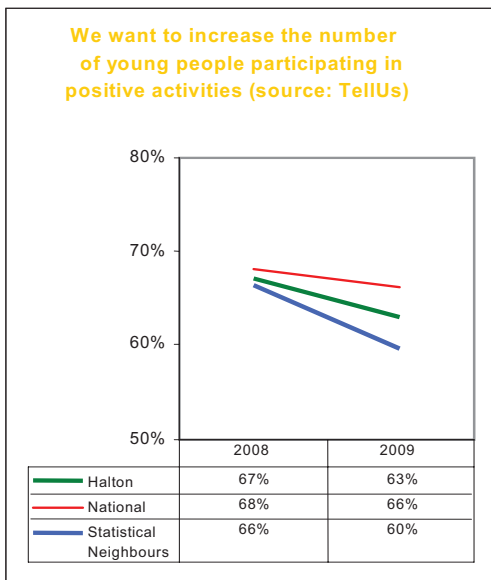
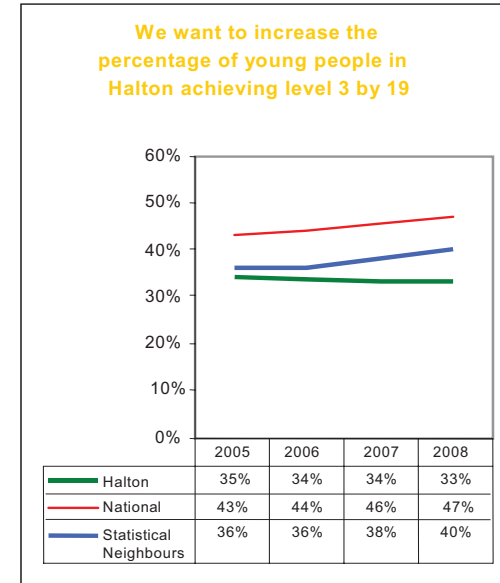
Priority 2: All young people are successful when they leave school



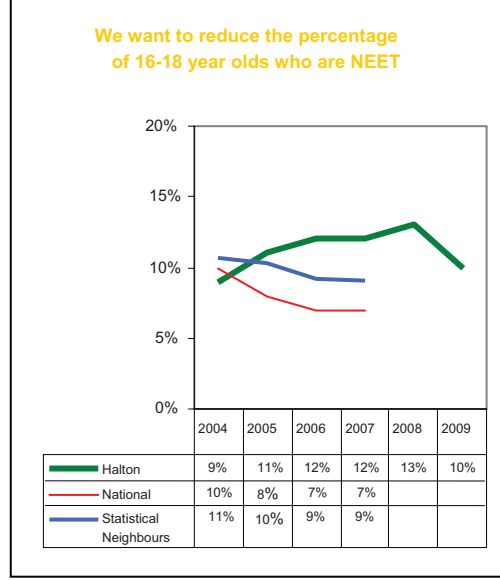
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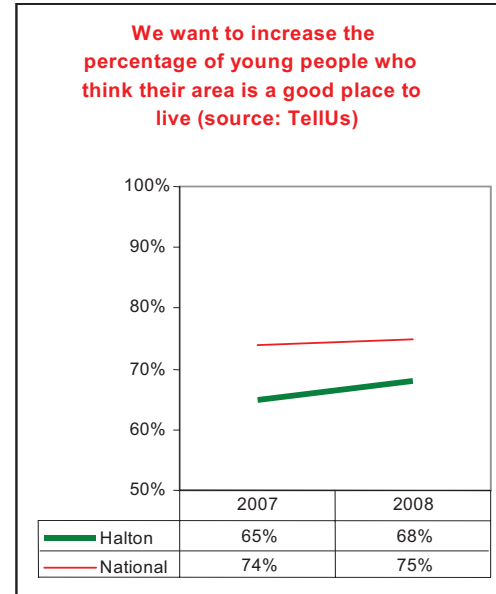
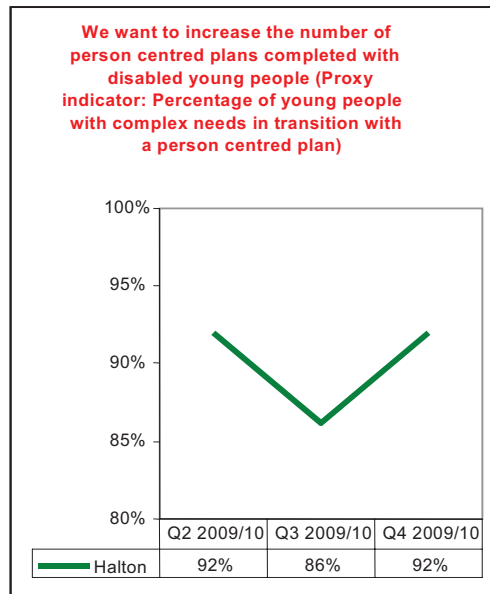
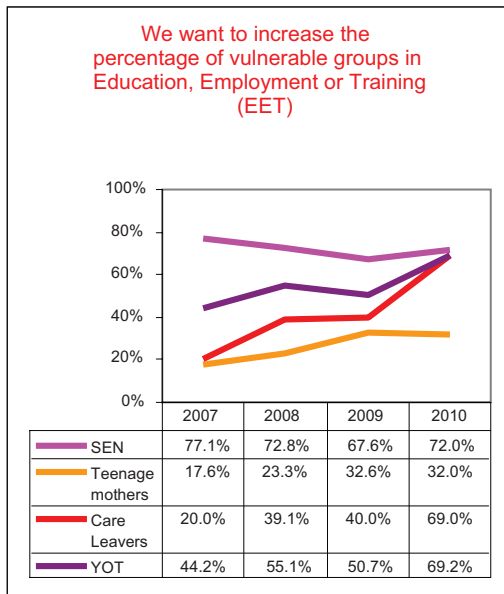
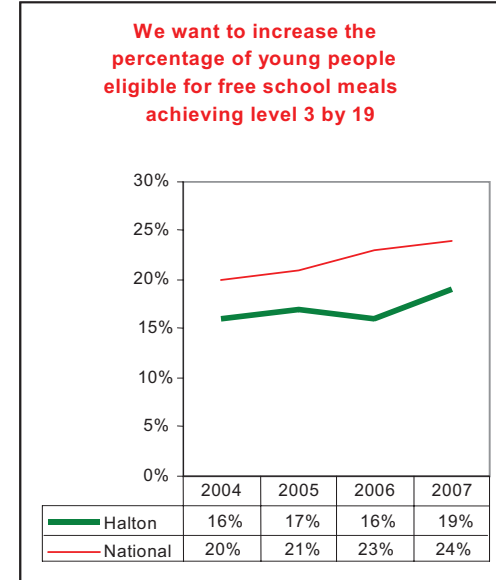
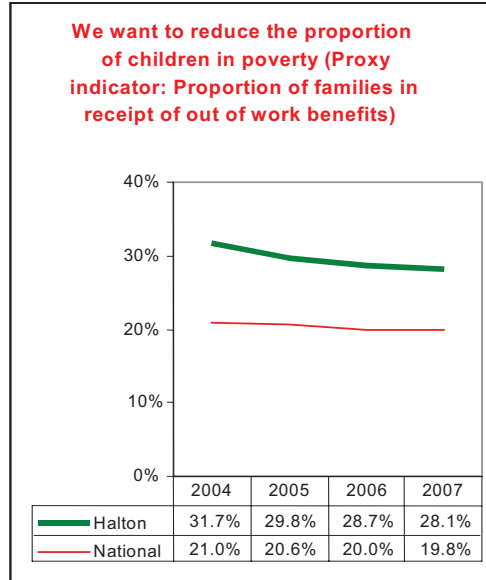
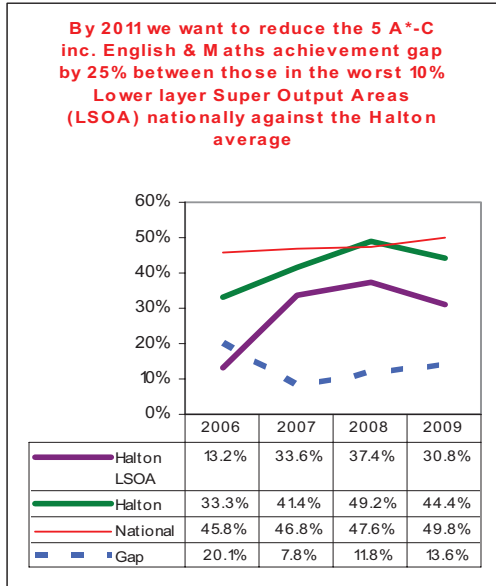
³ Local indicator – no statistical neighbour average available as the data is estimated achievement at GCSE rather than actual

⁴ Tell Us Survey indicator changed and therefore two different responses are shown in graph

⁵ Different question has been asked within survey over time, thus two separate sets of lines on graph.

⁶ Latest published data is 2007 and therefore no comparable data for 2008 and 2009.

Priority 3: Children and young people will do well wherever they live and whatever their needs



⁷ Local indicator – no comparable data available

⁸ Question not asked in the Tell Us 4 Survey

10. Children's Trust Performance Report Card 2009-10

Performance against the key indicators within each priority of the Children & Young People's Plan has been monitored on a quarterly basis over the past 12 months by the Children's Trust using a report card format. The Trust's report card for the end of 2009/10 follows a summary of each priority provided below. The report card succinctly gives a summary of performance against the key performance and process measures across the four priorities within the Children's Trust, reinforcing the messages from the performance indicators contained in the graphs, as well as additional performance and process measures that the Trust has been collectively monitoring.

The information contained is the latest information available against each indicator for the period up to March 31st 2010 as available in June 2010. The report card combines both performance and process measures.

Many of the indicators show an arrow as well as a figure in the 'actual' performance column. This arrow shows the direction of travel of this latest performance information in comparison with the previous data for the indicator. Quarterly monitoring of performance against each indicator in the report card will continue over the next 12 months.

The summary below outlines some of the reasons behind the performance of some of the indicators contained in the report card, focusing on those that are performing particularly well or causing the greatest concern. Work will continue through to 2011 and beyond to look at and understand the reasons for performance, both good and bad, against each indicator.

Summary of Key Report Card Findings

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

Breastfeeding performance has improved throughout the year, although the end of year target was not met. Progress against the breastfeeding action plan has continued, with 49 premises receiving the baby welcome award and peer support groups are operating in children's centres. Support is available to women through maternity support workers and community parents at King's Cross have been trained to provide peer support. The Children's Trust embarked on the UNICEF Baby Friendly process in December 2009.

Indicators for both children accessing counselling services and schools implementing the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme have both made good progress and met the end of year target. This programme is helping to bring a positive impact on improving emotional health and wellbeing.

The take up of Care to Learn by eligible teenage parents easily exceeded the target set for the year, although take-up fell in the final quarter. This target has been met thanks to improving the services offered by the Teenage Pregnancy team through the Connexions service and regularly adapting operational strategies to suit the identified needs of the cohort.

Data in relation to childhood obesity for 2009 indicates an increase in the percentage of children in Year 6 who are obese. It is recognised that to meet this need additional commissioned services are required to be implemented. Fifteen new posts for obesity have been created and teenage weight management services have been procured. In addition, specialist weight management services for morbidly obese children are to be expanded.

Data for under-18 conceptions in 2008 showed a promising decrease in the conception rate, although performance remained significantly adrift from target. Strategic planning arrangements have been joined up in order to facilitate better planning at an operational level and an experienced provider of young people's sexual health services has been commissioned, and this has helped lead to the development of a mobile outreach bus. Health drop-ins within schools for young people have also been expanded.

Priority 2: Every young person is successful when they leave school

There are a number of educational attainment indicators contributing to measuring this priority. The extremely positive rise in attainment over the last five years has meant that Halton has challenging and ambitious targets to look to continue this trend. There are a number of indicators included in this priority area have not met their target, but a number of these have continued to show some progress on the previous year; These include achievement of at least 78 points at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the percentage of schools attained below 30% achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A*-C including English and Maths.

Of great significance in this priority is the improvement in the percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Although not meeting the target, the percentage of 16 to 18 year old NEET has reduced to 10.3% in 2009/10 from 13.2%. The year-on-year reduction in Halton's NEET numbers is 25% (which compares favourably with the national average 7.5% reduction). The number of our young people going into learning is at an all time high and the rate of increase is amongst the highest nationally. In February 2010 percentage of 16 to 18 year olds in continued learning was 82.2% compared with 73.3% in February 2009. In addition more young people in Halton leaving school are continuing in learning. In 2009, 93.1% of year 11 school leavers continued in learning compared with 89.9% in 2008.

The improvement is largely due to a range of actions agreed within the NEET Strategy and annual action plan that have been delivered through effective partnership working between schools, Riverside College, Greater Merseyside Connexions, Jobcentre Plus and Halton Borough Council. These include the implementation of the Council's apprenticeships scheme, more flexible college provision and improved partnerships working with Jobcentre Plus. The NEET Strategy and Action Plan are structured to address the prevention, intervention and sustainability aspects of NEET.

The number of our young people going on to learning is at an all time high and the rate of increase is amongst the highest of any local authority area in England. In real terms this represents a reduction in number of young people were not in education, employment or training from 534 in 2008/9 to 393 in 2009/10. The proportion of 17 year olds participating in education or training has also exceeded the target with 79% recorded at the end of March 2010.

The number of young people achieving accredited outcomes improved markedly and clearly exceeded the target set for the year.

Priority 3: Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs

Educational attendance for Children in Care has significantly improved over the second half of the year and this ensured that the target was met. The improvement in attendance should, in time, positively impact upon attainment for children in care, which is already on a positive trajectory.

The achievement gap in terms of GCSEs attained within the worst 10% Lower Super Output Areas in Halton compared to the rest of the Borough, and also between the highest score and lowest score at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, increased in 2009. For the latter, improvements in the delivery of the Profile has resulted in an increase in the number achieving higher scores. This has impacted negatively on this indicator, increasing the gap between the highest and lowest scores.

Data from Connexions shows that there have been significant improvements in terms of the proportion of young people from a number of vulnerable groups in Employment, Education and Training (EET) over the last 12 months. The proportion has increased for young people aged 16-25 with learning difficulties or disabilities, teenage mothers, Youth Offending Team supervised young offenders and also care leavers. These improvements mean that Halton compares favourably with most of its statistical neighbours in terms of these vulnerable groups. In particular, this is the case in relation to the proportion of care leavers and teenage mothers in EET.

The percentage of eligible 3 and 4 year olds taking up their Early Years Entitlement has increased and exceeded the target set. The support and encouragement provided by the Early Years Team to maximise parental take up and targeted work with groups considered most at risk of not taking up their entitlement is used to emphasis the benefits and ensure all parents access their entitlement.

Information in relation to first time entrants to the Youth Justice System is positive, although final verified data is provided by the Police and in previous years was above that reported by the Youth Offending Team, who provided the figure found within the report card. It is expected however that the target will still be met with the final data. The Youth Offending Team, through funding via Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) and the Department of Health, has initiated a diversionary scheme for young people. The aim is to divert young people, especially those with mental health and learning disabilities away from the Criminal Justice System. Additional YCAP projects such as Operation Stay Safe and the Friday night reparation project also contribute to the reduction in first time entrants. Diversionary and preventative projects such as positive activities for young people and the vRoomz bus are also impacting on this indicator. The main activity though is the adoption of restorative justice outcomes by Cheshire Constabulary when dealing with young people for the first time or for relatively minor offences.

Government Office North West are using data for the proportion of families claiming out of work benefits where there are children as a proxy measure for children in poverty. The target adopted for the indicator is to reduce the gap between the Halton figure and the North West average from 5.7% in 2007 to 4.6% in 2011. Halton are on course to meet this target with the latest data provided indicating the gap is currently 4.8%.

Priority 4: Children and young people are safeguarded

The stability of Children in Care placements has improved over the past few years. Although not meeting the stretch target set as part of the Local Area Agreement, stability has risen in Halton and surpasses that of the national, regional and the statistical neighbour averages for 2008/09. Performance will continue to improve as the placement strategy increases the range of placements. In addition, placement stability is the focus of much work within the childcare and placement provider teams. It is also the focus of work with schools, who can be key to helping a child remain in placement. The adoption of four Children in Care has affected overall performance this year within the cohort. This has been to the benefit of the children involved but to the detriment of the indicator. The indicator on length of placements indicates that there has been a 4.5% increase in the length of a child's placement showing the improvement in placement stability for all children in care.

In line with the improvement in the percentage of young people overall in education, employment and training in Halton, the percentage of care leavers has also improved. Whilst the target has not been met for this indicator, progress has been made compared to last year. It must be noted however that the cohort for this indicator is nine young people. Of these, the four who were not in education, employment or training were so for significant reasons (caring responsibilities, pregnancy or unable to work due to disability). Continued improvement for this indicator will always be a challenge due to the cohort; however advisors working with the care leavers and individual pathway planning will ensure that the care leavers are supported to engage in education, employment or training wherever possible.

The participation of parents in Child Protection conferences continues to report at 100% showing the continued work to engage with the parents of Halton's vulnerable children and young people.

Children's Trust Report Card 2009-10

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

Priority 1: Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy								
Outcome 1: Improve Physical Health			Outcome 2: Improved Emotional Health and Well-being			Outcome 3: Improve Sexual Health		
Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target
NI053: Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	19.26% ↑	21%	NI050: Emotional health of children (TellUs)	61%↑	71.5%	NI112: Under 18 conception rate (2008)	+12%	-41%
NI056: Obesity in Year 6	22.4% →	21.3%	NI069: Percentage of children who have experienced bullying (TellUs)	30%↓	40%	NI113: Prevalence of Chlamydia	7.6%↓	10%
Infant Mortality rate (3 year rolling average)	6.3 →	5.3	Percentage of children young people consuming alcohol (TellUs) ⁹	18%↑	Not relevant target			
Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures		
Percentage of 5 yr olds with up to date immunisations ¹⁰	84.12%↑	95%	Percentage of schools implementing SEAL programme	96% Primary 100% Secondary →	96%	Number of condom outlets for young people (covered by contract)	52 (Q3 09-10 data)	52
Percentage of babies with low birth weight <2.5kg	9.4%→	TBA	Number of children and young people accessing counselling services (one-to-one and group sessions)	448 individuals 5 groups→	1000	Chlamydia screening rate	23.5%↑	25%
Number of children receiving support from healthy weight programme ¹¹	Awaiting data	TBA	Percentage of schools rated good or better in Personal development and well-being ¹²		91%	Proportion of schools with a range of teen health drop in facilities	75%→	100%
Percentage of mothers smoking at delivery	22.7%	15% by 2010				Percentage of teenage parents accessing eligible learning who have taken up Care to Learn	87% ↓	75%

⁹ Question has changed for TellUs4 Survey. Target no longer relevant and will require resetting.

¹⁰ Uptake differs between different programmes of immunisation. This is the average across all immunisation programmes.

¹¹ Health colleagues supplying data have requested a definition of what is included as a healthy weight programme.

¹² Indicator requires changing due to new inspection framework within schools.

PRIORITY 2: EVERY YOUNG PERSON IS SUCCESSFUL WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL

Outcome 4: Improve educational outcomes of all children			Outcome 5: Improve 14-19 Engagement, Attainment and EET			Outcome 6: Improve the engagement of children and young people		
Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target
NI072: Achievement of at least 78 points at Early Years Foundation Stage	46.9% ↑	48.0%	NI117: 16-18 years NEET	10.3↑	8.8%	NI110: Young people participating in positive activities (TellUs)	63%	70%
NI073: Percentage achieving Level 4+ in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	73 % ↓	77.0%	NI080: Achievement of a level 3 qualification by 19 ¹³	33.5% (2007/08 data)	40.5%	Percentage of young people volunteering (TellUs) ¹⁴	13% (2009/10data)	Not relevant target
NI075: Percentage achieving 5 or more GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths	45% ↓	49.0%	NI091: Participation of 17 year olds in Education or Training	79.12% ↑	75%			
Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures		
Percentage of schools in OFSTED categories at the end of the quarter	1.4% ↓	1.4%	Percentage of 17 year olds participating in education and work based learning (based on where they live)	78.6% ↑	73%	Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes	625 ↑	526
Percentage of schools inspected, categorised by OFSTED as Good or Outstanding	68% ↑	80%	NI081: Gap in attainment at Level 3 at age 19	19% (2007/08 data)	18%	Number of Young people participating and having a voice within the Youth Service and wider	2329 ↑	1754
Percentage of schools attaining below 55% Level 4+ in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	11.5% ↑	7.5%	Percentage increase in the number of young people starting an apprenticeship ¹⁵	181 31Aug – 31Jan2010	20%	Number of Children and Young People voting in the Youth Parliament elections	5363	5000
Percentage of schools attained below 30% GCSE 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths	8.3% ↓	0%						

¹³ Data not yet released, expected June 2010

¹⁴ Question has changed for TellUs4 Survey to “volunteering within 4 weeks”. Target no longer relevant and will require resetting.

¹⁵ Baseline year, percentage increase measured from 2010/11.

PRIORITY 3: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DO WELL WHEREVER THEY LIVE AND WHATEVER THEIR NEEDS

Outcome 7: Reduce inequalities for vulnerable groups			Outcome 8: Reduce Geographical Inequalities			Outcome 9: Reduce factors leading to inequalities		
Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target
NI106: Young People from Low Income Backgrounds progressing to HE	21% (2007/08 data)	20%	GCSE % 5+ A*-C including English and Maths achievement gaps in lowest 10% LSOA	13.6%↓	9.75%	NI111: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System	149	239
Gap in attainment of Free School Meals achieving Level 2 by 19	47.9% (2007/08 data)	46%	Percentage of young people who think their area is a good place to live (TellUs) ¹⁶	68% (2008/09 data)	70%	NI115: Substance misuse by young people (TellUs)	12 % ↓	9.8%
NI101: Percentage of Children in Care achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths	15% ↓	20%	NI092: Achievement gap in the Early Years Foundation Stage	31.4% →	30.7%	NI116: Children living in poverty (Proxy indicator: percentage of families in receipt of out of work benefits)	26.6%	N/A
Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures		
Percentage from vulnerable groups in EET (a – LDD, b – Teenage mothers, c – Care Leavers, d – YOT)	a) 72% b) 32% c) 69% d) 69.2%	Targets to be agreed	Percentage of schools within the Neighbourhood Management Areas rated as good or better	67%→	70%	Numbers of young people referred to YISP for Diversionary activity	Awaiting data	
Educational attendance rate of Children in Care	97% Primary 91.56% Secondary	90%	Number of children accessing Children's Centres ¹⁷	1667 ↑	1650	Percentage of young people with substance misuse needs receiving treatment in 15 working days of referral	100%↑	100%
Percentage of person centred plans for children with complex needs	92%↑	Baseline – no target	Percentage of Early Years Provider rated as good or better	65% ↑	65%	Percentage of eligible 3 & 4 year olds taking up Early Years Entitlement	99% ↑	95%

¹⁶ This question was not asked during TellUs4 and therefore no update has been provided.

¹⁷ This data is provisional update available June 2012, this figure will increase.

PRIORITY 4: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SAFEGUARDED								
Outcome 10: Case Management in Specialist Services			Outcome 11: Improve parenting support for children in need of safeguarding			Outcome 12: Improve outcomes for Children in Need of safeguarding		
Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target	Key Performance Measures	Actual	Target
NI063: Stability of placements of Children in Care – Length of placement	69.6% ↑	77.0%	Number of CAF's initiated by adult substance misuse services	Not Available - New indicator		Percentage of those with a Child Protection Plan that take up their Early Years entitlement	100% ↑	75%
NI059: Percentage of Initial Assessments completed within timescales ¹⁸	80.2%	90%	Percentage of Children in need who have been open cases for 6+ months who had neglect as primary factor of referral	27%↑	20%	NI148: Percentage of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training	55.6% ↑	71%
NI060: Percentage of Core Assessments completed within timescales ¹⁹	93.7%	92%	Percentage of social care referrals that were subject to CAF in previous 12 months	5.8% ↓	15%	Percentage of Children subject to Child Protection review conference where their health needs were being fully or partially met	84.5% (fully met) 15.5% (partially met)	
Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures			Key Process Measures		
Percentage change in the average length of placement from the 2007-08 baseline	+4.5%↑	3%	Staff attending Domestic Abuse/Substance misuse/Mental Health training courses (rolling 12 months)	146 ↑	160	Attendance at school rate for Children subject to a Child Protection Plan	Awaiting school Census data	96%
Percentage change in the number of Initial Assessments completed from 2007-08 baseline (rolling year)	+6%↑	0%	Number of notifications of private fostering arrangements received	7 ↑	6	Percentage of young people previously subject to a children protection plan currently NEET	8.8% ↓	Target to be agreed
Number of children with CP Plans	84 ↓	71-80	Percentage of parents participating in Child Protection conferences	100%→	100%	Attendance at school rate for Children in Need	Awaiting school Census data	96%
Percentage change in the number of referrals from 2007-08 baseline (rolling year)	+9.8%↑	0%	NI 070: CYP admitted to hospital as a result of deliberate or accidental injury ²⁰	124 (Q1-Q3 data)	155			

¹⁸ Data is currently undergoing quality assurance processes and is provisional data only

¹⁹ Data is currently undergoing quality assurance processes and is provisional data only

²⁰ Awaiting data from PCT for Q4

11. Review of Promises and Improvement Plan 2010/11

Halton's Joint Area Review of children's services took place in spring 2008. The Review commended Halton for the range of services and support offered to children and young people across the borough. The review was positive in many ways, but an improvement plan was developed to tackle the areas for development identified by the inspection in order to continue progress and improve our services. The areas identified by the inspection included:

- Increasing permanent accommodation for Care Leavers
- Increasing the number of Care Leavers and our young people overall in education, employment and training (EET)
- Ensuring children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) have a good quality and reviewed transition plan
- Improving the quality and consistency of annual reviews for children and young people with LDD
- Implementing integrated youth support and development arrangements
- Improving breastfeeding and obesity outcomes
- Improving and co-ordinating systems to monitor and evaluate health outcomes

Over the last two years work has focused on bringing real improvements to these areas and this improvement plan helped to form the basis of the 14 promises contained within the Children and Young People's Plan. These are a key part of the Plan, with a commitment to meet each promise by the end of the life of the Plan. These promises are:

- We will make sure that our actions and decisions are guided by a single set of arrangements so we are more accountable to our communities and enable children, young people and their families to receive the support and services they need when they need it.
- We will continue to prioritise safeguarding as an essential part of everything we do in order to continue to embed the values and goals of ensuring that safeguarding is everybody's business
- We will develop a Children's Trust Resource Strategy
- We will support our workforce to be the best they can be by offering opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in supporting our ambition to make a significant difference to children and young people
- We will produce a Children's Trust Equality and Diversity Strategy.
- We will develop a Children's Trust Commissioning Strategy for Halton
- The Children's Trust will continue the strong partnership with Third Sector organisations to develop services for enterprising behaviour and entrepreneurial work and will continue to ensure Third Sector involvement in planning and delivery services.
- We will establish a range of secure, safe, stable and permanent accommodation, which young people leaving our care can move into, and stay for as long as they need it.
- We will actively seek resolution to young people's many concerns about transport across the borough by setting up a Young Persons Travel Forum to enable the voice of young people to be heard by those planning and providing transport for young people
- We will introduce locality working across the borough.
- We will review and expand the use of CAF as a key mechanism in supporting our commitment to early intervention and prevention.
- We will work hard across organisational and professional boundaries to make sure disabled children and young people live in barrier free environments and communities
- We will develop a Children's Trust Business Plan
- Each Service Delivery Partnership will develop and implement a business plan.

Progress that has been made to meet each of these promises is summarised below, together with areas of work still to be done in the next 12 months to ensure each promise is met. This work will contribute to the development of the next Children and Young People's Plan in 2011.

Promise 1 - We will make sure that our actions and decisions are guided by a single set of arrangements so we are more accountable to our communities and enable children, young people and their families to receive the support and services they need when they need it.	Progress/Evidence to date
	A single set of arrangements have been established and are now embedded through the Children's Trust structures. Terms of reference for each group within the Trust are in place and have been updated in light of recent statutory guidance. As part of this, the terms of reference have been extended to become business plans for the Children's Trust Board, Executive Group and Service Delivery Partnerships.
	Next Steps
	Membership agreements are in place with representatives on both the Trust Board and Executive Group, but work will be done this year to extend these into a full Children's Trust Compact between partner agencies.

Promise 2 - We will continue to prioritise safeguarding as an essential part of everything we do in order to continue to embed the values and goals of ensuring that safeguarding is everybody's business	Progress/Evidence to date
	A joint Children's Trust – Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) protocol was initially developed in 2009 and this has been revised and updated in light of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 Guidance. Both the Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board have approved this protocol.
	The protocol outlines the relationship and complementary roles between the Trust and Safeguarding Board, building on the joint Children's Trust – Halton Safeguarding Children Board conference held in February 2010 attended by both managers and practitioners from agencies across Halton.
	The full protocol is attached as Appendix A to this review.
	Next Steps
	Work is ongoing to ensure we continually improve safeguarding arrangements in Halton by embedding the values and objectives across all agencies within the Trust to make safeguarding everybody's business.
	The future challenges for the HSCB over the next 12 months include ensuring that it fully challenges the Trust as appropriate, in fully implementing the Common Assessment Framework, working more closely with the Safeguarding Adults Board and ensuring the fullest possible community and service user involvement within safeguarding. The work plan for the HSCB for 2010-11 that outlines all the key areas of work for the Safeguarding Children's Board this year can be accessed at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust

Promise 3 - We will develop a Children's Trust Resource Strategy	Progress/Evidence to date
	Mapping of the resources available within the Trust was started in 2009 and information on the total resource available from both Halton Borough Council and Halton & St Helens PCT was included in the Plan
	Next Steps
	Work has started on developing a Children's Trust Resource Strategy that will outline all the resource available across all partners within the Trust. This will be completed in time to inform the new Children & Young People's Plan from 2011. The local authority and the PCT have now established a joint commissioning team for children and young people with five key commissioning priorities, as detailed within promise 6.

<p>Promise 4 - We will support our workforce to be the best they can be by offering opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in supporting our ambition to make a significant difference to children and young people</p>	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>Significant improvements have been made around workforce development during the last 12 months. This includes a new Social Work Workforce Recruitment & Retention Strategy 2010-2011, the implementation of Children Workforce Development Council workforce initiatives, and also a number of successful formal consultations. Two examples of these consultations are the “One Children’s Workforce Tool”, the initial report of which in June 2009 summarised where the Children’s Trust was up to in terms of developing a one children’s workforce for Halton, and also the “Integrated Working Drill Down” (December 2009), which assessed where Halton’s children’s workforce was positioned on a spectrum from fragmented to integrated and high quality in relation to integrated practices.</p>
	<p>The response to both questionnaires was impressive – in relation to the Integrated Working Drill Down Halton had the highest response in the North-West. As a consequence, Halton became one of only six Children’s Trust’s nationally to be asked to take part in a national evaluation of the One Children’s Workforce Tool in terms of its relevance and impact by The University of the West of England. Their findings highlighted the dedication and work of Halton’s Children’s Trust, particularly in the use of the tool as an integral part of the development of an Integrated Children’s Workforce Strategy.</p>
	<p>Other successful initiatives have included a number of social work schemes to drive and improve the way social workers are recruited, trained and supported to work with children and families.</p>
	<p>Schemes in which Halton are actively participating include the Newly Qualified Social Work pilot and the Step up to Social Work pilot. Linked to this is work that has been undertaken recently around support to front line social work managers with specific development work around coaching and mentoring.</p>
	<p>NHS Halton and St Helens working in partnership with the Children’s Trust have been successful in being selected as the only area in the North West to test out a web based integrated Children’s Workforce planning tool. Outcomes of the work will involve the development of an integrated Children’s Workforce plan for CAMHS across Halton and St Helens, capacity and capability to workforce plan among commissioner and provider organisations, establishment of, utilisation of an existing workforce planning core group to support implementation and dissemination of the Integrated Workforce Plan through local, regional and national networks to share good practice and lessons learned.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>In recent months the main focus has switched to the formulation and implementation of an updated Integrated Workforce Strategy for Halton’s Children’s Trust. Taking into account national, regional and local drivers the key aim of the strategy will be a workforce which is reformed, integrated and making the best contribution to our Children & Young People’s Plan.</p>
	<p>To achieve this, a work programme has been devised and implemented with a view to launch this strategy in Autumn 2010.</p>

<p>Promise 5 - We will produce a Children’s Trust Equality and Diversity Strategy.</p>	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>An action plan for the Children’s Trust was agreed in February 2010.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>A Children’s Trust Equality & Diversity Strategy will be developed this year to accompany the action plan, building on the Children & Young People’s Directorate Equality & Diversity Strategy that is already in place.</p>

Promise 6 - We will develop a Children's Trust Commissioning Strategy for Halton	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>A commissioning priorities framework was presented to the Children's Trust in April 2010. The local authority and the PCT have now established a joint commissioning team for children and young people, and contracts and commissioning staff from across both the local authority and Health are now co-located as part of the developing Joint Commissioning Unit. Staff from the new Procurement Centre of Excellence within the local authority will further support this team.</p> <p>A development day was held in May 2010 supported by the Commissioning Support Programme and included a self-analysis exercise. From this event an action plan is being put together</p> <p>The five key commissioning priorities have been agreed, along with the agreement to combine the collective resources of both agencies to address each priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil referral provision • Breastfeeding • Alcohol • Localities • Children in Care. <p>Third Sector agencies bring added value to service delivery through contracts and commissioning by providing specialists from across various organisations to help to deliver commissioned services through innovative and highly participative means. They are often more likely to be in a position to respond quickly to identified needs and are flexible in terms of working over weekends and holiday periods. Third Sector organisations are in a position to be able to attract external funding, sponsorship and grants which maximise benefits to young people in Halton: they are also cost effective and are likely to have a highly skilled workforce.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>Work will continue on the commissioning framework, action plan and related business templates in the months ahead. A training programme for the Trust has been planned and will be rolled out from Autumn 2010.</p>

Promise 7 - The Children's Trust will continue the strong partnership with Third Sector organisations to develop services for enterprising behaviour and entrepreneurial work and will continue to ensure Third Sector involvement in planning and delivery services.	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>This is a key area of focus within the Commissioning Strategy. The developing Integrated Youth Support Services agenda in Halton has three prime areas of focus – teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and alcohol. Sub groups are in place that look at each of these issues are jointly chaired across agencies and this includes Third Sector chairs. The Third Sector are also fully involved in each group and leading on developments.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>Work is being undertaken to explore the possibility of the Third Sector becoming commissioners for the Trust. Funding has been allocated for joint commissioning this year.</p>

<p>Promise 8 - We will establish a range of secure, safe, stable and permanent accommodation, which young people leaving our care can move into, and stay for as long as they need it.</p>	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>A Children in Care Placement Strategy has been developed and endorsed. This includes the accommodation needs of care leavers. In the past year, 4 units of accommodation have been developed for care leavers in association with the private sector and a local Registered Social Landlord. This has given young people some choice of location within the borough and allows them to develop their independence skills with the support of a range of professionals, including social workers, support workers, personal advisors and partner agencies. Two young people have already achieved a permanent tenancy as a result of this arrangement.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>A further 3 units of accommodation in supported lodgings have been commissioned and should be available to care leavers by September 2010. By March 2011, it is anticipated that a further 2 units of accommodation will be available through a second Registered Social Landlord. Work is currently underway to develop an accredited Independence Skills Programme for care leavers that will assist them in proving their readiness for their own accommodation. Further opportunities to support young care leavers in gaining sufficient skills to live independently will also be explored.</p>

<p>Promise 9 - We will actively seek resolution to young people's many concerns about transport across the borough by setting up a Young Persons Travel Forum to enable the voice of young people to be heard by those planning and providing transport for young people across Halton</p>	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>Transport is a key concern for young people in Halton and much work has been done. There is a dedicated micro site on the Halton Borough Council website (http://www2.halton.gov.uk/publictransport/content/gettingtoschool/?a=5441) for transport for young people. Here, the latest news can be found on local transport and also policies that have been developed in the last 12 months on, for example, sustainable travel and post-16 transport</p> <p>Consultation towards Halton's Third Local Transport Strategy (LTP3) is underway. The strategy works to a number of national and local priorities which link to this Plan's priorities by supporting increased availability and access to services, promoting fair access to transport and safety and security. As part of the research to inform this consultation, evidence has been collated to assess the current state of the transport network. Key findings show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport is linked to a host of wider concerns including access and exclusion. • The cost of transport can be prohibitive for young people and families on low incomes. • There is a close link to transport and rising levels of obesity, as children are becoming less active and are making fewer trips by foot and by bike.
	Next Steps
	<p>Although work is being done to improve transport in Halton, more needs to be done to remove transport as a barrier for our young people and there are a number of actions already identified in the LTP3 strategy that will work towards addressing issues</p> <p>As part of the consultation for the Children and Young People's Plan, many concerns were identified by young people regarding transport. We made a commitment to develop ways of assisting and enabling children and young people to access activities, school and training via better transport. This issue is still a great concern for young people and has been expressed through the Area Youth Forums. The Trust is committed to establishing a Young Person's Travel Forum this year in conjunction with the Youth Cabinet. This will be linked to the developing LTP3.</p>

<p>Promise 10 - We will introduce locality working across the borough in April 2010.</p>	<p>Progress/Evidence to date</p>
	<p>Locality working is now known as Team Around the Family (Locality Working) and within the Children’s Trust in Halton it comprises of two strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional support around Common Assessment Framework (CAF) implementation • Identifying local need and informing commissioning <p>The basic principles of Team Around the Family (Locality Working) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of need and intervention with children and young people • Holistic support in partnership with a range of service providers including Health, Children’s Social Care, Adult Services, voluntary, independent and private sectors (Think Family Model) • Development of ‘CAF Plus’ model through support to universal support • Multi agency commitment to provide a targeted continuum of support, especially to those children who are vulnerable to poor outcomes, to ensure that we deploy our collective resources in the most efficient way possible <p>A successful pilot of Team Around the Family (Locality Working) has been completed in Runcorn and from April 2010 the approach has now being rolled out across the borough. This involves a significant commitment of resources to the development of preventative resources including two Divisional Manager posts and eight Think Family Principal Managers. All senior staff posts are filled and recruitment is taking place for the remaining posts from within existing staffing.</p> <p>In Runcorn the support to Lead Professionals is already in place including a locality forum and the approach is soon to be rolled out in Widnes. A staffing base in Widnes (Peel House Children’s Centre) has been established.</p>
	<p>Next Steps</p>
	<p>Work is underway to develop staffing structures and multi agency teams within each locality. It has been agreed to develop a strategic group within Children’s Trust structures that looks at CAF within the wider Team Around the Family (Locality Working) agenda and this will be established shortly.</p> <p>The next step will be to examine potential linkages between Total Place, the Borough’s existing locality structures and the Children & Young People’s Directorate development of Team Around the Family (Locality Working), to bring all the elements within Halton together. It is expected that the service will be fully operational in September 2010.</p> <p>Discussions are continuing with our partners about the co-location of staff within a CAF support team. Three CAF support roles are currently in the process of being recruited. Staffing bases for these staff are being finalised with the Runcorn team being temporarily based at Glendale pending refurbishment of 84 Grangeway.</p>

<p>Promise 11 - We will review and expand the use of CAF as a key mechanism in supporting our commitment to early intervention and prevention.</p>	<p>Progress/Evidence to date</p>
	<p>CAF was fully reviewed on schedule by 31st October 2009. CAF is being taken forward in Locality programme to inform the design and rollout of localities</p>
	<p>Next Steps</p>
	<p>The review found that joined up multi agency working associated with the roll out of CAF was only evident in some areas. Within all key agencies there were different levels of acceptance of CAF as a way of working and overall there were less CAF's than referrals to Children's Social Care. The review highlighted need to strengthen interventions at levels 2 and 3 in particular. Page 51 of the Children & Young People's Plan provides a full explanation of the Levels of Need Framework in Halton and can be accessed at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust</p> <p>Consultation undertaken as part of the review showed a general willingness to address needs via the CAF within agencies but that there is a general lack of confidence within the potential pool of lead professionals around their own skills and knowledge. The development of locality teams addresses the limited support that has been available to lead professionals and as much as anything will be addressing whole children's workforce development issues as well as ensuring that the Think Family element is embedded in work around children and young people.</p> <p>Work will be done to make the CAF process a more multi agency one in practice in each case, rather than a single agency leading and taking all responsibility. The improvements agreed following the review will be in place by September 2010. It has been agreed to develop a strategic group within the Children's Trust structures that looks at CAF within the wider Team Around the Family (Locality Working) agenda and this will be established shortly.</p>

<p>Promise 12 – We will work hard across organisational and professional boundaries to make sure disabled children and young people live in barrier free environments and communities</p>	<p>Progress/Evidence to date</p>
	<p>There has been an increase in the number of children with severe and complex needs attending mainstream schools. This follows the success of Halton's retained specialist services in building both resilience and capacity within our mainstream schools. This has partly been accomplished through Action Plus Enhanced Provision, in conjunction with the private and voluntary sectors that has allowed more children and young people with complex needs to access mainstream provision without the delay of waiting for a Statement.</p>
	<p>A new communications strategy for disabled children and young people is now in place. This supports the dedicated website and bi-monthly newsletter that is produced. The same logo and branding is found on each, which is crucial to form a sense of identity for our disabled children and young people.</p>
	<p>A Building Bridges Handbook specifically for disabled young people in Halton is about to be published and a copy will be distributed to every family in Halton with a disabled young person. The number of registered disabled carers in Halton has significantly risen since the Carer's Centre has become part of the Prince's Trust</p>
<p>The official Aiming High Charter Mark is used by our disabled children and young people to score and review their experiences with agencies and services in Halton.</p>	
<p>Work has started on developing access statements used across services and agencies to ensure all disabled children and young people feel included in all areas but more work is needed to ensure any sense of exclusion is removed.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	
<p>Access to information is a major barrier for disabled children and young people and their families in Halton. More work needs to be done to ensure our disabled children and young people know all services are available to them even if they are not specifically mentioned on advertising materials.</p>	
<p>The Building Bridges Strategy for Halton will be updated this year, incorporating Halton's Aiming High Strategy. This will involve substantial consultation with carers and young people.</p>	
<p>Although there is a dedicated short breaks site on the Halton Borough Council website, this will be further developed this year, and more work is needed to ensure all agencies are Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.</p>	
<p>Greater flexibility is needed in transport provision to and from school for our disabled young people, and to enable more to attend activities outside of school.</p>	
<p>By September 2011 we aim to have a full continuum of provision to meet the continuum of need within Halton. In addition, we will have the capacity to supply provision to neighbouring authorities if required.</p>	

<p>Promise 13 - We will develop a Children's Trust Business Plan within which a range of protocols will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify and define the relationship between the Children's Trust Board and Halton Safeguarding Children Board • Clarify and define how conflicts between Children's Trust partners will be addressed 	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>A new Children's Trust Business Plan has been developed that builds upon the terms of reference for the Trust Board and Executive Group put into place in 2008 when the Trust was established. This Business Plan includes a section on the conduct of members within the Trust and takes into account the latest statutory guidance. The Plan has been endorsed by the Trust.</p>
	<p>The Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board protocol was developed in 2009 but has recently been updated in light of the latest Working Together 2010 Guidance. This updated document has been approved across both the Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board. This protocol looks at the relationship and areas of responsibility across the two boards and is attached as Appendix A to this review.</p>
	<p>Children's Trust membership agreements are in place signed by members of both the Children's Trust Board and Executive Group.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>Although these membership agreements are in place, work will be done this year to extend these into a full Children's Trust Compact that looks at the conduct and responsibilities of partner agencies.</p>

<p>Promise 14 - Each Service Delivery Partnership will develop and implement a business plan.</p>	Progress/Evidence to date
	<p>Each Service Delivery Partnership has a business plan in place.</p>
	Next Steps
	<p>These plans will be updated to reflect progress in the past 12 months and additional objectives that have been agreed.</p>

Appendix A – Joint Halton Children’s Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board Protocol



Protocol Between Halton’s Children’s Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)

1.0 AIMS

- 1.1 This aim of this Protocol is to ensure complete clarity about local accountabilities underpinned by effective local challenge.
- 1.2 Halton’s Children’s Trust and HSCB have important but distinctive roles in keeping children safe. Halton’s Children’s Trust is accountable for overseeing the delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan. Through this, the Trust is accountable for ensuring services deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.3 HSCB is responsible for challenging all relevant partners of the Children’s Trust on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safer in the Borough. The HSCB is responsible for developing local policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It is also responsible for identifying training needs and evaluating the extent to which training needs are being met by commissioned services. HSCB will feed this back to the Trust, together with any evaluation of current training provision, in a timely manner, to ensure this can be incorporated into forward plans.
- 1.4 In order to ensure the complementary roles of the two bodies - and the necessary challenge of HSCB to Halton’s Children’s Trust - the two bodies will be chaired by different people.
- 1.5 The Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and the Lead Member for Children’s Services have central roles. The DCS has the lead responsibility for improving outcomes for children in Halton. The Lead Member for Children’s Services is politically accountable for ensuring that the Local Authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Lead Member will provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities (such as the police and health trusts). The Lead Member will also take steps to assure themselves through scrutiny and challenge that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and are functioning effectively across service areas and levels of need.
- 1.6 The DCS and the Lead Member will be members of both Halton’s Children’s Trust and HSCB.
- 1.7 The Local Authority Chief Executive and Council Leader also have critical roles to play. The Chief Executive is responsible for satisfying him/herself that the DCS is fulfilling their managerial responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and in particular, by ensuring that the relationship between Halton’s

Children's Trust and HSCB is working effectively.

- 1.8 Halton's Children's Trust will continue to seek the views of the local community and consult children, young people and their families when drawing up the Children and Young People's Plan. Similarly, HSCB will appoint two Lay Members as full Board members, to increase communication links with the local community and support stronger public engagement in, and understanding of, children's safety issues. The HSCB will also continue to support the establishment of a Shadow Young Peoples' Local Children's Safeguarding Board.

2.0 HSCB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 HSCB will inform and, when necessary, challenge Halton's Children's Trust commissioning arrangements where issues are identified through the various quality assurance processes such as learning from Serious Case Reviews, the Child Death Overview Panel and multi-agency auditing of practice.
- 2.2 HSCB will publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding locally. This will include an analysis of the contribution and activities of each partner, for keeping children safe. This report will provide robust challenge to the work of the Trust.
- 2.3 HSCB will share Safeguarding Performance Information with Halton's Children's Trust on a quarterly basis via an agreed Performance Report Card. Other issues of significance will be reported to the next available Board meeting.

3.0 CHILDREN'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Halton's Children's Trust will include an assessment of the effectiveness of local government and partnership arrangements in supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding children within its Annual Report.
- 3.2 In addition, as part of the Annual Report, Halton's Children's Trust will advise on workforce development, in particular the safeguarding activity in the delivery of all frontline services.
- 3.3 Halton's Children's Trust will seek approval from HSCB regarding any proposed commissioning arrangements which are linked to the factors which impact on safeguarding children. These will include issues concerning compromised parenting, domestic abuse, parental mental health, alcohol and substance misuse and adult criminality.
- 3.4 The Trust has a statutory responsibility for the delivery and effectiveness of Common Assessment Framework arrangements in Halton.

4.0 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 Halton's Children's Trust and HSCB will share their main and Executive Board Minutes on a quarterly basis.
- 4.2 Halton's Children's Trust and HSCB will jointly hold an annual event to meet with frontline staff from all relevant agencies which will explore the effectiveness of safeguarding at all levels of need. The findings from this will be incorporated in relevant action plans.
- 4.3 The following people are members of both Halton's Children's Trust and HSCB Main Boards. This will ensure clear lines of communication:

- Strategic Director of Children's Services
- Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton and St Helens PCT
- Chair of HSCB
- Superintendent Cheshire Constabulary
- Lead Member for Children's Services

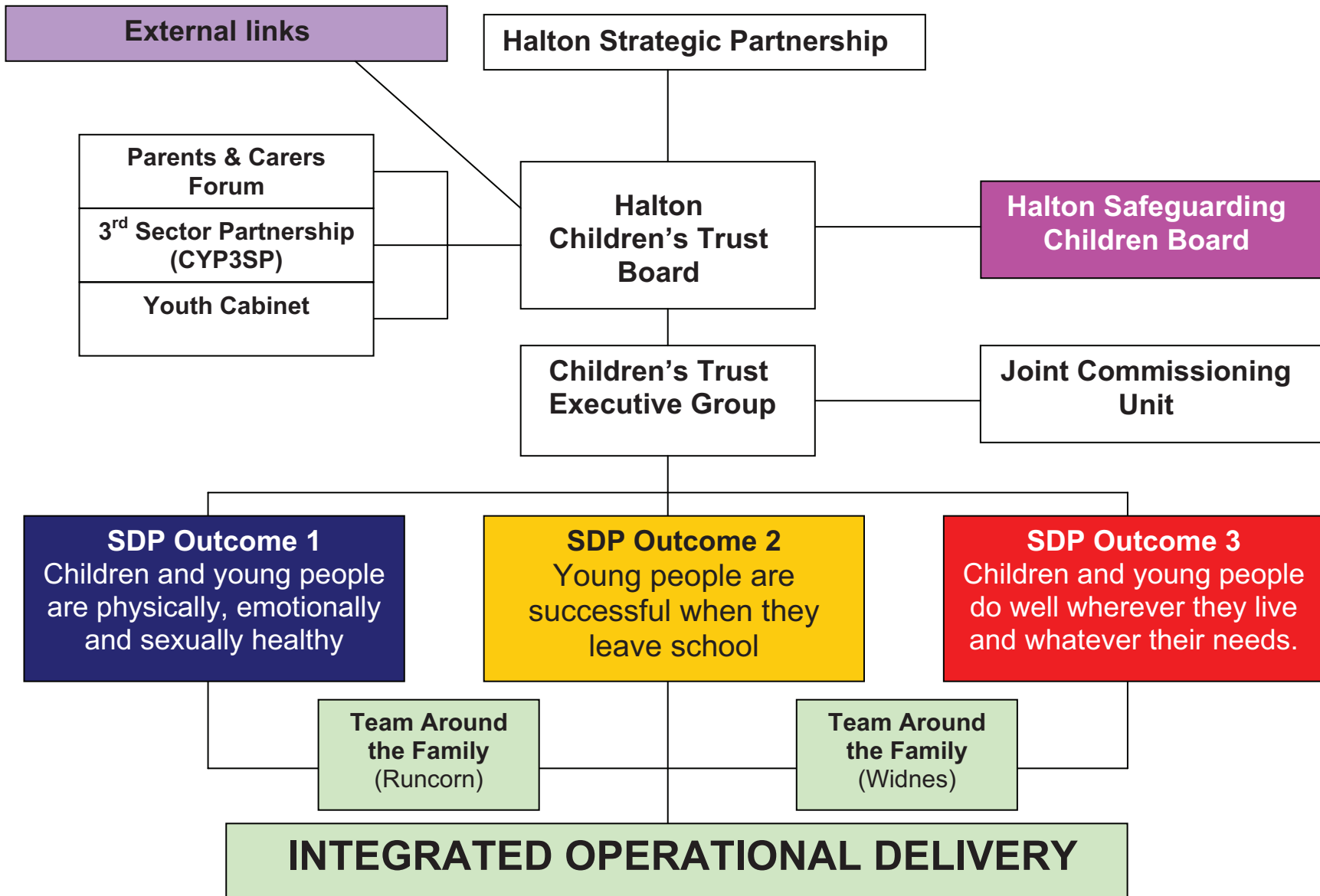
4.4 This protocol will be reviewed annually. The next review will be undertaken in April 2011.

5.0 RESOLUTION PROCESS

5.1 HSCB will request evidence from the Children's Trust as to its rigour in commissioning or developing safeguarding services. HSCB will call members of the Children's Trust to account should it have evidence that children are not being adequately safeguarded by one or more Relevant Partners. The resolution would require a formal response/action from the Children's Trust.

This protocol is agreed by the Chairpersons on behalf of the Halton Safeguarding Children Board and Halton Children's Trust.

Appendix B - Halton Children's Trust Structure





REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Announced Integrated Inspections of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services.

WARDS: All

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To provide information regarding the process and preparation required for the Ofsted announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services.

2.0 Recommendations

- (i) The focus of the inspection and the associated timeline are noted.**
- (ii) Appropriate staffing and resources are released when the inspection is notified.**
- (iii) The Lead Member and Chair of the PPB attends the 'set up' meeting with inspectors.**

3.0 Supporting Information

- 3.1 In June 2009 a three-year inspection programme of all 152 Local Authorities Children's services and their partners began. Ofsted have the lead on the inspections and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspectors will work with them using Ofsted's overarching framework.
- 3.2 The inspections examine the arrangements for safeguarding children, and the outcomes for children and young people who are looked after.
- 3.3 In terms of safeguarding the inspection will assess the effectiveness of the Children's trust, the Safeguarding board, local services and assess how well we work together to identify, safeguard and promote the welfare of potentially vulnerable groups of children and young people that live in Halton.
- 3.4 It is important to stress the inspection covers all agencies and services who work with children and young people.
- 3.5 For Children in Care, the inspection will consider what outcomes have been achieved and what impact services can demonstrate.
- 3.6 Ofsted have published an overarching framework which sets out the general

scope and methods, which can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/090027>

3.7 The reports from inspections undertaken to date are published on the Ofsted website and I draw your attention to the outcomes for three Local Authorities. Lincolnshire, Knowsley and Salford with excellent, good and poor inspection outcomes.

4.0 The Enormity of the Process!

4.1 In order to highlight the level of preparation required here are some facts from the Knowsley experience.

4.2 In the two weeks inspectors were on site-

- 38 focus groups were held involving 300 people.
- Interviewed children, foster carers, Parents (on visits)
- Visited 2 schools (one primary, one secondary)
- Visited 2 children's centres
- Interviewed 7 people 1 to 1 –Lead member, DCS, Lead in CSC, Chief executive PCT
- Spent 3 days looking at case recording across all agencies.
- Visited all Children's Social Care teams (sat in on duty teams)
- Spent half a day with HR and selected personnel files
- Mystery shopped (in Knowsley it was e safety week so went to a stand posed as a local resident for more info)

5.0 Grading Inspection Findings

5.1 The inspectors will make judgements using a four-point scale:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Adequate
- Inadequate

5.2 Limiting judgements in the inspection

Inspectors will apply a number of considerations before arriving at judgements. These include considering the impact of limiting grades – that is, the impact of individual grades awarded in one part of the evaluation schedule on another judgement, including the overall effectiveness judgement.

5.3 For the safeguarding element of the inspection, the limiting grades are:

- overall effectiveness is likely to be inadequate if either of the two safeguarding outcomes (children and young people are safe and children

and young people feel safe) is judged as inadequate

- overall effectiveness is unlikely to be good or better if either of the two safeguarding outcomes (children and young people are safe and children and young people feel safe) is not judged as good
- leadership and management are unlikely to be adequate if the grade awarded for equality and diversity is inadequate.

For the looked after children element of inspection, the limiting grades are:

5.4

- overall effectiveness is likely to be inadequate if any outcome judgement is inadequate
- overall effectiveness is unlikely to be good or better if either staying safe or enjoying and achieving is not judged as good
- enjoying and achieving are unlikely to be good if looked after children and young people are not making at least good educational progress overall in relation to their starting points and capability
- leadership and management are likely to be inadequate if the grade awarded for equality and diversity is inadequate.

6.0 The Process / Inspection Activity

6.1 Inspectors will undertake activities that focus on evaluating the outcomes for children and young people and the quality and impact of services in helping to improve outcomes.

6.2 Inspectors will have access to information already held, such as:

- Ofsted performance profile
- Findings from other relevant Ofsted inspections and regulatory activity e.g. Unannounced Contact, referral and assessment inspection. May 2010.
- Fostering and Adoption datasets
- Summary of judgements made in Serious case reviews
- Views of service users, social care staff and voluntary organisations gathered through new questionnaires.
- Summary of substantiated complaints about the council and its partners made to Ofsted that relate to safeguarding and looked after children.

6.3 Maintaining an up to date 'library' of information is vital. Inspectors ask for key documents and reports on the day of notification of the inspection.

6.4 The case file scrutiny will consist of three key elements:

- At least 8 cases (4 Safeguarding and 4 Children in Care) selected before

the fieldwork begins.

- At least a further 12 cases selected by the inspectors at the start of the fieldwork.
- Scrutiny of analysis and evaluation of case files undertaken by the local authority and partners.

Surveys will be given to relevant children.

In addition to reviewing case files and evaluating the documentation, Inspectors will conduct meetings and hold discussions with users, managers, health professionals police, other staff and stakeholders.

7.0 Preparation In Halton

7.1 The Ofsted Children in Care and Safeguarding Inspection Planning Group (now referred to as CSI Planning Group) has been meeting since August 2009. One of the challenges facing CSI is how to plan for an inspection, which happens once every three years, with only 10 days notice. The timeline for the inspection is attached as appendix 1.

7.2 The CSI Planning Group has commissioned task and finish groups to cover the following areas:

- Logistics – identifying virtual inspection team, practical issues concerned with an inspection, IT, accommodation, venues, performance info, focus groups
- Communication – children’s workforce awareness, delivering our story, engagement with children and young people, elected members, schools, etc
- Self awareness - strengthens and areas for development
- Knowing our population - needs assessment, JSNA etc

7.3 A ‘virtual’ team has been identified; this group will come together as soon as the inspection is announced. For all other agencies/services a single point of contact (SPOC) has been identified.

In August 2010 a briefing document will be published for all staff to ensure there is an awareness of the inspection process

A communication pathway has been circulated.

8.0 Policy Implications

8.1 The inspection will take a broad view as to how well practice is supported and underpinned by effective local policy and decision making

9.0 Other Implications

- 9.1 The fact that 'limiting judgements' are possible means, if such a judgement was made in this inspection, it would impact on the overall rating for the council.

10.0 Implications for the Council's priorities

10.1 *Children and Young People in Halton*

A positive inspection will endorse the fact that services are taking reasonable steps to ensure Children and young people are safeguarded, feel safe and Children in Care have a positive experience and good outcomes

10.2 *Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton*

A positive inspection will endorse evidence of Children in Care and Care Leavers being supported to achieve economic well being.

10.3 *A Healthy Halton*

A positive inspection will endorse the fact services are taking reasonable steps to ensure Children and young People can thrive and be healthy.

10.4 *A Safer Halton*

A positive inspection outcome will support and provide evidence that the services provided are taking reasonable steps to ensure Children and Young People in the Borough are safe.

10.5 *Halton's Urban Renewal*

11.0 Risk Analysis

- 11.1 A poor outcome in the inspection will impact on the overall rating for the council.

12.0 List of background papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Inspections of Safeguarding and looked after children services (framework for inspection and guidance for local authorities and partners) May 2009	Grosvenor House	Paula StAubyn

Appendix 1 –Timeline for the Inspection



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REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy
and Performance Board

DATE: 6th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Ofsted's Unannounced Inspection of Children's
Social Care Contact, Referral and Assessment
Services

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Policy and Procedure Board of the outcome of Ofsted's first unannounced inspection of Children's Social Care Contact, Referral and Assessment Services, which took place on the 5th and 6th May 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy and Performance Board:

- i) **Notes the result of Ofsted's inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services (see Appendix 1); and**
- ii) **Notes the areas of strengths and satisfactory practice;**
- iii) **Notes the Action Plan to address the areas for development arising from the inspection;**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Ofsted inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services gave Halton's Children & Young People's Services a positive assessment of practice. Ofsted Inspectors came without notice on the 5th May 2010.

3.2 The purpose of the annual unannounced inspection by Ofsted of Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements is to assess the effectiveness of frontline social work practice in managing potential risk to children, and minimising the incidence of abuse and neglect of children. The focus is primarily on the Local Authority as lead agency for child protection.

3.3 The inspection will inform the content of future inspections, in particular the 10 day announced Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children.

3.4 The unannounced inspection of Contact, referral and Assessment does not identify grades, but aspects of satisfactory practice, strengths and areas for development. Where necessary areas for 'priority action' are recorded and reported to the Local Authority. No

areas for priority action were identified during Ofsted's inspection. Priority actions cover areas where children may be left at risk of significant harm.

- 3.5 The final letter from Ofsted confirming their judgement is included as Appendix 1.
- 3.6 There were a number of strengths identified by the inspectors, these include: the quality of supervision staff receive; the Council's enthusiastic and dedicated staff; good support from managers; the quality of training provided; recruitment of social workers; newly qualified social workers are well supported; and there are strong quality assurance processes that support the development of practice.
- 3.7 Satisfactory areas (ie we are doing what we statutorily have to do in an effective manner) include: all cases are allocated; assessments are carried out by suitably qualified staff; duty team managers are visible, supportive and provide effective guidance; child protection issues are identified and responded to; case loads are manageable; completion of Initial and Core assessments; increasing use of the Common Assessment Framework; children are routinely seen and spoken to; the ethnicity and diversity of families is well considered.
- 3.8 Areas for development included: timely completion of Initial Assessments; ICT Recording Systems; Emergency Duty Team support to day time services; recording of contact with the police and initial screening. An action plan is attached that addresses these areas (Appendix 2).

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications arising from the inspection.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The development of new ICT based Recording Systems (Carefirst 6; Integrated Children's System and Electronic Social Care Records) have been considered as part of the ICT Workstream of the Business Efficiency Programme. Given the critical importance of these systems in the protection of children, they have been prioritised for development and implementation over the next 12 months. The resourcing to do this has been prioritised and identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

It is critical that children, young people and their families receive the

highest standards of practice in child protection and safeguarding.

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

None directly.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The health of children and young people is an important factor in the initial screening of contacts.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Children's Social Care carries a primary responsibility for the safety and welfare of children and young people in our Borough.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None directly

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The inspection by Ofsted of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services is critical to both the wellbeing of children and the reputation of the Council and its statutory partners.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

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Redcliffe Way
Bristol BS1 6NL

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enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 0117 9456333
Direct F 0117 9456554
Safeguarding.lookedafterchildren@ofsted.gov.uk



4 June 2010

Mr Gerald Meehan
Strategic Director for Children and Young People
Halton Borough Council
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes
WA8 7QF

Dear Mr Meehan

Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Halton Borough Council children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Halton Borough Council which was conducted on 5 and 6 May 2010. The inspection was carried out under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will contribute to the annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year. I would like to thank all of the staff we met for their assistance in undertaking this inspection.

The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including: electronic case records; supervision files and notes; observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties; and other information provided by staff and managers. Inspectors also spoke to a range of staff including managers, social workers and other practitioners.

The inspection identified areas of strength, satisfactory practice and areas for development.

From the evidence gathered, the following features of the service were identified:

Strengths

- All workers and managers spoken to have good morale and were enthusiastic and dedicated to improving outcomes for children in Halton.
- There are good arrangements for workforce development including a staff recruitment scheme which results in low use of agency staff. Newly qualified social workers are well supported through an induction programme, protected



caseloads and focused supervision with their managers.

- Social workers have effective and regular supervision. Inspectors saw examples of excellent management practice which was appropriately focused on progressing cases and on the development needs of the workers.
- Social workers report that they have good access to a range of training in safeguarding and child protection and also excellent opportunities for professional progression.
- There is a good programme of quality assurance audits led by and reported to the Halton Safeguarding Children Board. The learning from these audits has been developed into multi-agency action plans which have resulted in improvements in practice.

Satisfactory practice

- All cases are allocated and dealt with by appropriately qualified and experienced workers.
- Duty and assessment team managers are visible and supportive, and provide effective guidance on case management.
- Child protection investigations in accordance with Section 47 Children Act 1989 are timely and are appropriately triggered where initial assessments reveal the need for more in-depth enquiries.
- Initial and core assessments include the contribution of other agencies and professionals and are appropriately signed off by managers who specify actions to be followed. Copies of assessments are routinely shared with families.
- Children are seen alone when appropriate and their wishes and feelings are suitably recorded and acted upon.
- In most cases written feedback using a locally developed consultation form is provided to agencies in contact with the childcare teams. This ensures a shared understanding and clarity about work to be undertaken across agencies.
- The common assessment framework is increasingly being used by all agencies. Arrangements have been strengthened through the appointment of locality workers to support colleagues undertaking this work.
- In all of the cases seen by inspectors there was clear recognition of the ethnicity and diversity needs of families.

Areas for development

- In many cases seen by inspectors, there were significant delays in carrying out assessments to timescales. The recording of assessments and the analysis undertaken is not of a consistent quality.
- In a small number of cases seen by inspectors, the social care service had investigated safeguarding concerns but there was no clear record of contact being made with the police.
- There are a number of systems for recording work conducted by social workers which result in duplication, delays and frustrations for daytime staff, the emergency duty team and managers. The local authority is aware of the issue and a new purpose-built information system is about to be introduced.
- The service does not manage the assessment and recording of potential risk of harm effectively at the point of first contact. Although satisfactory work was seen by inspectors in one office, in another office five out of nine contacts had been closed with no recording of an assessment of risk. These cases have been brought to the attention of the local authority and a robust action plan is being introduced to ensure there is consistent practice across the borough.

Any areas for development identified above will be specifically considered in any future inspection of services to safeguard children within your area.

Yours sincerely

Neil Penswick
Her Majesty's Inspector

Copy: David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
Audrey Williamson, Chair of Halton Safeguarding Children Board
Cllr John Swain, Lead Member for Children's Services, Halton Borough Council
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education

ACTION PLAN – MAY 2010**Ofsted’s Unannounced Inspection of Contact Referral and Assessment 5th and 6th May 10**

	Area for Development	Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Completed
1.	Timely completion of Initial and Core Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out of Lap tops to frontline workers to be brought forward in order to improve recording timeliness. 	Senior Analyst ICT	Sept 2011	
2.	The multiple recording systems frontline workers use are modernised. (Carefirst; Integrated Children’s System; Electronic Social Care Records; Case Files/hard drives .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Carefirst 6 to be prioritised within the Council . Development of Electronic Social Care Records. 	Divisional Manager Children & Schools Services Divisional Manager Children & Schools Services	April 2011 April 2011	
3	Lack of detailed recording on Carefirst 5 by the Emergency Duty Team (EDT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of recording to be undertaken. To check that data is migrating appropriately between Integrated Children’s System (ICS) and Carefirst 5 Quality of recording to be monitored via EDT Operational Group as a standing item. 	EDT Manager Business Analyst ICT EDT Manager and Children in Need Principal Manager	June 2010 June 2010 June 2010	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Initial screening of Cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review to be undertaken of <u>all</u> 'contacts' between Feb and April 2010 to assure quality in all cases. • Systems to be implemented across Runcorn and Widnes Teams to ensure Social Care Duty consultations are stored in an accessible and consistent way. • Weekly reports on 'contacts' to be provided and cross referenced with social work allocations to ensure contacts are appropriate and do not meet level of need for a full referral • Regular Auditing of 'Contacts' to be included in Quarterly Auditing of Practice by the Safeguarding Unit. • Case allocations to be cross referenced each morning with Social Care Duty Log Book. • Roles and Responsibilities of a Social Care Duty Managers to be developed. • A 'Back to Basics' workshop to be 	<p>Divisional manager Children in Need</p> <p>Divisional Manager Children in Need</p> <p>Principal Co-ordinator Carefirst / Children in Care Duty managers</p> <p>Divisional Manager Safeguarding Unit</p> <p>Duty Managers Children in Need</p> <p>Principal Managers Child in Need.</p> <p>Principal Managers Child in Need</p>	<p>10th May 2010</p> <p>21.05.10</p> <p>21.05.10</p> <p>August 2010 and regularly thereafter</p> <p>14.05.10 and ongoing</p> <p>June 2010 To be completed by 31st August 10</p> <p>July 2010</p>	<p>Completed by 10.05.10.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed workshops</p>
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		developed to cover social work analysis, assessing risk and evidencing and recording case actions			arranged for October 2010
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REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Young People

SUBJECT: The relationship between the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board and the Diocese of Shrewsbury and Archdiocese of Liverpool

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To enable a representative from the Diocese of Shrewsbury and Archdiocese of Liverpool to be appointed to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board and Full Council be requested to agree the appointment of a Diocesan representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool, as a 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

- Under a Direction issued by the Secretary of State authorities must appoint diocesan representatives to Scrutiny Committees under s499 Education Act 1996 and DfEE Circular 19/99 all as amended. These representatives will have voting rights in relation to any decision relating to: - schools maintained by the LA, pupils who attend schools maintained by the LA or are educated by the LA in some way but not the other business of the Committee. This is to enable denominations to have a direct input to policies on education provision for pupils of school age
- The Dioceses of Shrewsbury and Liverpool are therefore entitled to nominate representatives to sit on the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board
- A name for this position has been submitted, Elizabeth Lawler
- Operating as an independent representative the views of the Dioceses will be expressed

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Dioceses of Shrewsbury 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 Continuing 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

- 6.1 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

- 7.1 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

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

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6 September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Building Schools for the Future Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with an update on the BSF Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) a further report be presented to the Board on the school capital once the outcome of the James review has been completed.**

3.0 COMPETITIVE DIALOGUE

3.1 The second round of the Competitive Dialogue process commenced on 23rd February 2010 and formal meetings were completed on 30th April 2010. A number of additional meetings were then held with each bidder to resolve additional issues.

3.2 Close of Dialogue was achieved on Friday, 11th June 2010. This was achieved by ensuring that enough documentation had been reviewed by the Local Authorities, Advisors and Partnership for Schools to ensure that all Legal, Financial and Commercial issues had been agreed.

3.3 In addition, each of the four designs produced by the bidders for the sample schools were formally assessed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in London on 27th May 2010. The comments made by CABE at this meeting were of such a nature that both the Local Authority and Partnership for Schools felt that at the next review each design would achieve an overall pass.

4.0 FINAL BIDDERS PRESENTATION

4.1 The final bidders presentations were held in the Stobart Stadium on 10th May 2010. These presentations were well attended and allowed the bidders to share their design and ideas with the wider team.

5.0 FINAL BID SUBMISSIONS

- 5.1 Final bid submissions were then received from the bidders on Monday, 14th June 2010 at 9.00am. They have now been evaluated. However, a decision has been made not to recommend the Select Bidder based on Legal Advice received following the Secretary of State's announcement to cease the BSF Programme. Further Legal advice will be required following the announcement of the outcome of the review of the sample/Academy schools.

6.0 BSF ANNOUNCEMENT – 5TH JULY 2010

- 6.1 On 5th July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the end of the BSF Programme with immediate effect. All Local Authorities currently within the Programme were then put into one of the three categories below:

- If the BSF Scheme had reached Financial Close it could continue as planned;
- If the BSF Scheme had reached Close of Dialogue the sample schools would be reviewed would be undertaken to determine whether they could proceed; and
- If the BSF Programme had not reached Close of Dialogue all projects would stop.

- 6.2 The Halton and Warrington BSF Programme is one of the 13 Authorities that fell into category 2. Therefore, the two sample schools projects are under review.

- 6.3 The only exception to the above appears to be the Academies, which are being reviewed on a case by case basis alongside the sample schools.

- 6.3 All other school investment will be considered as part of the current capital review. This is known as "The James Review ". This review is being undertaken with the overall aim of ensuring that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. Appendix 1 provides the details of the terms and reference of this review.

7.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 7.1 Since 5th July 2010 the following work has been completed:

- A letter has been sent to Michael Gove on BSF Programme and sample schools.
- All key stakeholders have been informed that the Programme has now ceased.

- With the exception of Legal Consultancy all other external consultants have been issued with their termination notice.
- The Academy sponsors have completed their proforma. This was submitted to the DFE on 16th July 2010.
- The two sample schools proformas have been completed and submitted on 19th July 2010.
- The BSF team have been in contact with the other 12 Authorities who have sample schools under review.
- Additional condition survey information has been provided for the sample schools only.
- PFS have taken photographs of the condition of the sample schools only.
- The team have submitted a questionnaire and case study to BCSE.

7.2 A decision on the outcome of the review of the two sample schools was made on 6th August 2010, and the capital funding for both sample schools has now been approved. Partnerships for Schools have verbally confirmed we will receive the full original allocation. Capital funding for the proposed Academy has not been approved at this stage.

8.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No school projects have been approved for Warrington Borough Council. Warrington staff have now left the BSF team and the joint working has now ceased.

8.2 All external contractors have been served their notice with the exception of the Legal Consultants who will still be required to provide support on the implications of the programme ceasing. Advice is being taken to identify whether the authority may be liable for any additional consultancy costs.

8.3 The re-organisation secondary school and special schools was undertaken on the basis that there would be capital investment in schools. The loss of the BSF Programme will have a significant impact on the authorities ability to complete the secondary re-organisation and co-locate two of its special schools.

8.4 Many of the secondary schools have urgent condition and suitability issues

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 Without additional capital funding the school organisation process for secondary schools may not be possible to implement. To date it is estimated that the authority have expended £3.1 million on BSF, although notice has been served on the external consultants the authority may be liable to additional costs.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 The BSF Programme would have provided greater choice and diversity for parents. In addition, it would have improved the accessibility of the secondary and secondary special provision within the Borough. Until the future capital allocation is known the authority cannot plan how to effectively improve choice and access for parents.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Secretary of State Letter on BSF 5 th July 2010	1 st Floor Eccleston – Grosvenor House	Ann McIntyre

JAMES REVIEW

Appendix 1

The overall aim of the review is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Scope

The review will consider how all DfE capital expenditure within any spending constraint and PFI policy could be distributed more effectively over the next Spending Review period (2011-12 to 2014-15).

The review will be broken down into four main strands:

Allocation of capital funds:

To evaluate the extent to which value for money has been achieved in capital expenditure to date;

To consider how to generate sufficient places to allow new providers to enter the state school system in response to parental demand

To review current methods of allocating capital (for example, by formula to local authorities);

To consider options for reflecting Government policies on carbon reduction;

To enable the establishment of new schools.

Distribution of capital investment

To assess the scope and make recommendations for how to distribute capital more efficiently and less expensively, including simplification of procurement, and increased use of standard and modular design;

To develop a clear understanding of current approach, waste and issues associated

To consider the relationship between schools, local government and central government;

To increase choice locally determined by parental demand;

To review the current procurement/delivery models, including:

- the use of frameworks to deliver capital (currently used for academies and a third of BSF projects); and
- the BSF Investments (BSFI) investment vehicle.

To review the roles of bodies involved, specifically DfE, Partnerships for Schools (PfS), local authorities, the local education partnerships (LEPs) and National Framework

Provide recommendations for central structure required to manage;

Reducing the burden on schools

To review and reform the requirements on schools including the building/School Premises Regulations, design requirements and playing field regulations

Capital return

Establish processes to monitor value for money and return on future capital investments (to include expenditure, impact etc)

Relevant considerations for the review

The review will draw on previous and current related work to examine the role of the capital programmes including:

- Existing internal management data;
- the National Audit Office report on BSF in February 2009 which examined the progress of the programme and the delivery mechanisms at national and local level;
- annual reports (in December 2008, January 2009 and March 2010) by PricewaterhouseCoopers giving the results of their evaluation of the programme;
- other publicly available reports, including those carried out by the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee (now the Education Select Committee) and the CBI; and
- internal reports, including those carried out by the Major Projects Review Group, as well as PfS's procurement reviews, the second of which is due to report in July 2010; and newly commissioned work such as on condition assessment and pupil place data carried out by PfS.

The review should take account of value for money issues and resource considerations in any recommendations. Recommendations should be costed and regard should be had to affordability

Governance of the review

1. The review will be chaired by Sebastian James and supported by a review panel.

Outcome of the review

1. The review will commence in July 2010. It will report to Ministers in mid-September and a forward plan for capital investment over the next spending review period will be produced by the end of the calendar year.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	6 September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director - Resources
SUBJECT:	Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026
WARDS:	All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Members on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and present the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan seeks to deliver upon. The content of this report serves as an introduction to a presentation to be given during the meeting that covers the detail of the content within the emerging draft SCS.
- 1.2 The drafting of a new SCS offers the opportunity to revisit the high level objectives under each of the current five key priorities and reflect the current public priorities and needs. There are a multitude of changes proposed for the public sector and uncertainty over financing mechanisms, but these factors will not change the long term challenges the borough faces. It is important the overarching priorities for the borough are scrutinised so that decisions about the allocation of resources can be made when organisational architectures and funding mechanisms become clearer.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members consider and comment upon the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2026.**
- (2) Members consider the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The purpose of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to look at what life in Halton is like now, set out how we would like it to change and identify the key things (objectives) required to make this change happen. It is a statutory requirement.
- 3.2 The targets in Halton's existing strategy run to 31 March 2011, Halton Strategic Partnership must therefore produce a new Sustainable Community Strategy for adoption by the Council by April 2011.

- 3.3 The Sustainable Community Strategy will not be delivered in isolation but will dovetail with the wide framework of statutory plans the Council and partners produce to steer corporate direction and inform the community. Examples include the Children and Young People’s Plan, Local Development Framework, and Local Transport Plan. The new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) will cover the period from 2011 to 2026. This is the time scale as other major plans, such as the Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan 3, allowing coordinated delivery.
- 3.4 The available evidence, such as the State of the Borough Report, Places Survey, and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for Health and Community Safety has been reviewed. This information was the subject of a presentation to Full Council on 21 July 2010. From this evidence, it is apparent that the high level vision and five strategic priorities of Halton’s current SCS continue to reflect the long term and intransigent nature of Halton’s challenges and therefore it is proposed that they remain largely unchanged.
- 3.5 The current phase of work is to seek endorsement of the proposed emerging issues / themes and long term challenges that Halton needs to tackle. Once these have been agreed, detailed policy options can be worked up to provide a range of potential interventions to deal with the challenges that Halton faces. The most effective and realistic of these alternatives will be chosen by the Council and its partners later this year for the five year delivery plan.
- 3.6 The five year delivery plan will contain the detail of the planned intervention and prevention activities that will be undertaken to bring about positive change upon Halton priority areas. The inclusion of a five year delivery plan will allow for a regular review of the selected intervention and prevention measures on a shorter timescale to enable changing circumstances throughout the lifetime of the full SCS to be reflected.

3.7 Timescales and Approval Process

3.8 The key dates in the drafting process are as follows:

Date	Stage
September PPBs	Consultation report on emerging themes and challenges at Policy and Performance Boards.
September SSPs	Consultation report on emerging themes and challenges at Special Strategic Partnership (SSP) meetings.
29 September	Approval of draft SCS for public consultation by Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB).
14 October	Approval of draft SCS for public consultation by Executive Board.
29 October	My Halton event. Publicise public consultations.

November	Public consultation on Core Strategy Development Plan Document and draft Sustainable Community Strategy.
December	Final draft SCS issued to elected members and Partners for consultation.
27 January 2011	Executive Board to ratify strategy and sign off final document
11 February	Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) to ratify strategy and sign off final document
20 April 2011	Adoption at Full Council meeting.
April 2011	Implementation begins.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The SCS will impact upon many policy areas and have wide ranging impacts on, but not exclusively, social inclusion, poverty, equality and diversity, physical development, environmental quality and health care.

4.2 SCS Vision

4.3 The overall vision contained in the last SCS would still appear to be relevant and it is not recommended that this be changed:

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality 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.

4.4 SCS Priorities

4.5 A summary of the priorities suggested for the SCS are covered in section 6.0 of this report.

4.6 The selection of remedies to tackle the long term challenges under each of the five SCS Priorities will reflect a focus on a united multi-agency response, the holistic understanding of the total public sector investment within an area, and activities that provide early intervention and prevention rather than reactive measures and cures for avoidable situations.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The draft Development Plan at Annexe A takes into account Government guidance on the development of Sustainable Community Strategies and the duty to inform, consult and involve local people. It is imperative that partners continue to play an integral role in the development of the Strategy through the Halton Strategic Partnership structure.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 For each of the Council's priorities the SCS drafting process allows the review of the baseline information and evidence that underpins this current priority and associated Key Objectives. The new SCS will ensure that the most pressing priorities are identified and addressed.

6.2 A Healthy Halton

6.3 There are no proposed changes to the title of this strategic priority. The vision for this priority will be:

6.4 *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.*

6.5 The strategic objectives of this priority are as follows:

- To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people
- To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community
- To reduce the burden of disease and preventable causes of death in Halton
- To respond to the needs of an ageing population improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- To remove barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health

6.6 The long term policy priorities for this priority will include:

- Reducing death rates from some of the major causes of death in Halton by reducing smoking levels, increasing exercise and physical activity, improving diet and improving the early detection and treatment of disease.
- Reducing health inequalities by addressing the wider determinants of health such as poverty, unemployment, education, housing and crime.
- "Building" healthy individuals from the earliest stages of life.
- Addressing the needs of older people, enabling them to lead longer, active and healthier lives.
- Increasing community participation and engagement in health issues at an appropriate level based on the health needs of individual communities.
- Developing planned health services (such as planned operations and routine appointments for existing health problems).
- Early detection and screening for depression.

- Developing urgent care services (health services you need in an emergency or when your GP practice is closed).
- Optimising organisational and partnership working arrangements to ensure effective delivery of public health and health improvement.

6.7 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.8 There are no proposed changes to the title of this strategic priority. The vision for this priority will be:

6.9 *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.*

6.10 The strategic objectives of this priority are as follows:

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

6.11 Research indicates that the long term challenges for this priority include:

- Narrow the gap between deprived and non-deprived areas within the borough
- Development and investment
- Enterprise and business support
- Promotion and marketing
- Targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and creating a strong culture of entrepreneurship.
- Ensure that no area of Halton has unemployment at more than 20% above the borough average
- To reduce the number of adults of working age claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
- Encourage digital inclusion and digital life skills
- Tackle worklessness, focussing on reducing the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants
- Tackle the low wage economy
- Encourage the growth of new businesses and improve business survival
- Improve the skill base within the borough including vocational qualifications.

6.12 Children and Young People in Halton

6.13 There are no proposed changes to the title of this strategic priority. The vision for this priority is:

6.14 *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.*

6.15 There are three options for the strategic objectives contained in the SCS for this priority. The option chosen for the SCS will also be the basis for the new Children & Young People's Plan that will also be written and published by April 2011. The three policy options are to:

- 1) Continue to frame all work within the existing four overarching priorities for children and young people. These are:
 - Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy
 - Every young person is successful when they leave school
 - Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
 - Children and young people feel safe at home , in school and in their communities
- 2) Amend the priorities in line with the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
- 3) Develop new priorities that reflect both the development of additional areas of focus within Halton's Children's Trust since the current priorities were implemented, and also the new policy framework for children's services being developed by the government.

6.16 Research indicates that the long term challenges for this priority include:

- Emotional health of children and young people
- Positive activities for young people
- Supporting the teenage pregnancy strategy
- Supporting the childhood obesity strategy
- Support for young people to achieve through education, employment or training (reducing NEET)
- Remove socio-economic barriers to early development
- Continue to improve educational attainment
- Reduce child poverty
- Encourage a healthy weight for children
- Creating opportunities / facilities / amenities for children and young people

- Ensure that low cost transport options are available to allow children and young people to access the activities that matter to them.

6.17 A Safer Halton

6.18 There are no proposed changes to the title of this strategic priority. The vision for this priority will be:

6.19 *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.*

6.20 The strategic objectives of this priority are as follows:

- To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- To reduce fear of crime and increase public confidence in the police, council and other agencies to respond to reports of crime and anti social behaviour
- To tackle alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, and the resulting harm that is caused to communities, families and individuals
- 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
- To tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms, supporting the victims and their families and taking enforcement action against perpetrators.
- To reduce the levels of crime that disproportionately affects some of the more deprived areas
- Safeguarding adults who are more vulnerable within the community to physical, financial, sexual and emotional abuse.
- Safeguarding vulnerable children, who are often part of families where there are drug and alcohol problems or where relationships are abusive or violent
- To consult and engage with communities to identify problems and put in place effective measures to address them.
- To monitor and work together to tackle any potential tensions within communities, in particular those that may lead to extremist activity.
- To promote community cohesion and adopt a zero tolerance to all forms of hate crime within Halton, so that no-one is unfairly victimised

6.21 Research indicates that the long term challenges for this priority include:

- To address public perceptions of crime and drug abuse, through more effective communication of information and of positive news stories and locality working/ community engagement.
- To tackle alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour through greater enforcement activity, focused on the night time economy and in other problem areas

- To tackle drug abuse and drug related crime, through provision of effective treatment services and interventions for users and taking appropriate enforcement action. Collaborative working through Ashley House is central to success
- To deliver a wider integrated offender management programme to repeat offenders. This will involve a partnership approach to offer support to perpetrators, such as access to drug and alcohol treatment services to help them to change their behaviour. Where this approach fails we will take appropriate enforcement action.
- To reduce the number of fatal and serious road accidents through enforcement activities, bike safety, driver engagement days and community speed watch projects. Particular attention will be given to educating young people on the risks and causation factors e.g alcohol.
- To tackle serious acquisitive crime, including burglary, personal and business robbery and vehicle crime with a focus on bringing offenders to justice, targeting prolific offenders, providing accessible crime prevention advice, responding to victims, promoting 'Crimestoppers', disrupting the stolen goods market and delivering 'Smartwater' property marking neighbourhoods within those high risk communities.
- Tackling public perceptions of drug dealing in the borough through undertaking a Mapping exercise to show where drug perceptions are out of line with actual drug-related activity and making the public aware of police activity to tackle drugs. Use of the New Places Survey data 2010
- Tackle anti social behaviour within neighbourhoods, through a 'whole family' approach.
- Providing activities, advice and support for young people within Halton, particularly for older children and teenagers.
- Tackling domestic abuse within Halton, supporting the victim and their families and taking appropriate action to deal with offenders. In particular we need to identify interventions that work to address repeat offenders where current approaches are not working.
- Safeguarding adults, identifying abuse early and working together to put in place effective measures to address these
- Safeguarding vulnerable children, in particular those that come from families where there is a history of domestic abuse or drug and alcohol problems. Adopt a 'think family' approach, to ensure that we tackle the underlying causes and not just address the problem.
- Improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved to help shape what happens in their local area via the continued provision of Locality Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Homewatch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions.
- Support our diverse community where all residents are able to live without fear of abuse or hate crime

6.22 Halton's Urban Renewal

6.23 It is proposed to change the title of this strategic priority to 'Halton's Environmental Quality and Urban Regeneration'. The vision for this priority will be:

6.24 *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.*

6.25 The strategic objectives of this priority are as follows:

- Ensure that development achieves high standards of design and sustainability including in regard to its contribution to, and effects of, climate change and provides a positive contribution to its locality.
- To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites and premises. Improving digital, road, rail, freight and green infrastructure that will support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness
- To promote the Borough's major employment sites
- Realise the potential of the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge in Halton in order to fully achieve economic growth and environmental benefits, fully deliver sustainable travel options and reduce congestion.
- To revitalise the town centres into dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial, social and cultural areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors;
- Ensure Halton's residents enjoy access to a network of community services and facilities providing opportunities to pursue active and healthy lifestyles and allowing them to participate fully in their local community
- Manage the multifunctional value of the Borough's Green infrastructure resource, whilst protecting and seeking enhancements to important local habitats, geology and landscapes, aquatic environments and species
- 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;
- Minimise waste generation and maximise reuse, recycling, composting and energy recovery within the Halton waste stream to support sustainable and effective waste management.
- Provide good quality, affordable accommodation to meet the needs of all sections of society
- 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 and boost the confidence and aspirations of local people and business.

6.26 Research indicates that the long term challenges for this priority include:

- Long term commitments for new development:
 - Widnes Waterfront including Venture Fields
 - Windmill Hill
 - Castlefields
 - Canal Quarter
 - West Bank
 - 3MG
 - Sandymoor
 - Daresbury
- Work with partners and the local community to support The Mersey Gateway Bridge to fully realise its benefits.
- Fully utilise the borough's rail, road, commercial waterways and digital and other infrastructure in order to maximise the potential for economic development and sustained economic growth
- Adapt to climate change
- Improve municipal and household recycling rates to bring it in line with regional and national rates
- Maintain the Borough's highway network to promote greater accessibility and connectivity, contributing to improved air quality.
- Continue to reduce CO₂ emissions within the Borough (including industry and road transport).
- Increase the provision of decent homes at a price that people can afford including a focus on the need for extra care housing
- Improve public transport information and local bus services
- Continue to maintain a hierarchy of Parks and open spaces
- Conserve and manage the historic and natural environment in order to maximise the social, cultural and environmental benefits through its contribution to improving the Borough's image.
- Work with partners, private sector organisations and the local community to achieve Borough wide digital connectivity.

6.27 Cross Cutting Issues

6.28 The following issues require a comprehensive and integrated approach to tackle them and therefore the issues are too broad to be encompassed by a single theme:

- Providing for the ageing population
- Narrowing the gap between deprived and non-deprived areas within the borough addressing health and socio-economic inequality.
- Improving educational attainment and increasing access to training opportunities for those living in deprived areas
- 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

- Maximising community resources and facilitating effective community engagement and participation in public sector activities in Halton.
- Integrated delivery of services
- Increase community satisfaction with Halton as a place to live.
- Running services effectively and efficiently to meet customer needs and increase public satisfaction with all public services in Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 It is vital that rapid progress is made on the Sustainable Community Strategy to ensure that Halton Strategic Partnership continues to be clear about its priorities for service delivery, setting out the steps needed to bring about improvements to those areas of greatest concern to the people of Halton.

7.2 Delay to the SCS will:

- Reduce the Partnership's ability to take account of the local community's aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Have serious implications for Partnership co-ordination between all the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally.
- Potentially reduce the effectiveness of the Partnership through fragmentation of strategies.

7.3 These risks are mitigated by a monthly review of all significant risk factors highlighted by the project's risk assessment.

7.4 The availability of funding will impact upon the range of options and activities that can be put forward in the delivery plan component of the final SCS. Until a clearer financial picture emerges following the Comprehensive Spending Review in October no decision on the range of measure can be made.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Building stronger communities through community engagement must continue to be a key outcome for the strategy. The Halton Strategic Partnership is already committed to equality regardless of age, sex, caring responsibility, race, religion, sexuality or disability.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
A Community Strategy for a Sustainable Halton 2006-2011	Municipal Building, Widnes	Tim Gibbs
Refresh SCS 2006-2011 (published September 2009)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Tim Gibbs

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6 September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Special Strategic Partnership Board minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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



Halton Children's Trust
Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2010
2.00pm, Municipal Building Widnes

Present:

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services (Co-Chair)
Nigel Moorhouse	Operational Director, Specialist Services
Jane Lunt	Halton & St Helens PCT
Mark Grady	Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area (Co-Chair)
Judith Kirk	Operational Director for Universal Learning, CYPD
Michelle Bradshaw	Halton & St Helens PCT
Diane Sproson	Area Manager, Connexions
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Support and Commissioning
Jackie Burns	Learning & Skills Council, Greater Merseyside
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review
Amanda O'Brien	Third Sector Lead Engagement Officer
Dave Howard	Connexions Greater Merseyside
Gareth Jones	Youth Offending Team

In attendance

Jonathan Potter	Divisional Manager, Children's Locality Services Widnes
Steve Eccles	Section Leader, Transport Policy

Item		Action
1.0	Matters Arising No outstanding Matters noted	
2.	Decision Making	
2.1	<u>Locality pilot evaluation</u> Jonathan Potter briefed the meeting on the recent evaluation of the Locality Pilot, and highlighted the need to agree next steps in rolling out the pilot across the borough using a multi agency approach. A strategic lead from the Children's Trust Executive Group needs to be identified. The group discussed this and identified Jane Lunt as a potential lead, though this would require support from HBC Children's Policy Team to draft strategy. MG to meet with JL & Jonathan Potter to discuss framework	MG/JL/JP
2.2	NEET Residency DS briefed the group on the report, which highlights issues around how NEET is calculated and how this affects accuracy of NEET levels within the borough. Young people who are educated out of borough are not included in Halton's figures; increasing the proportion of NEET in Halton. To meet with Tony McGee with this report.	GM/DS

	Regarding NEET figures given within Ofsted's report, MG to check with Catherine Johnson why the figure given is 13.2 as oppose to 10.6.	MG
2.3	<p><u>Multi Agency ASD Pathways</u></p> <p>It has been identified that a multi agency pathway is needed for all partners for development of pupils with autistic spectrum disorders and social communication difficulties. The group were asked to note issues regarding CAMHS in report and agree a pathway in principle. This proposal has already been agreed by CAMHS commissioning group, however no funding was identified. Report to be circulated to Executive Group, and re-tabled for next meeting for further discussion. Report also to go to Children's Trust Board meeting, with proposal for adoption of recommendations. JK to forward electronic copy to KH.</p>	KH JK
2.4	<p><u>Children's Trust/HSCB Joint Protocol</u></p> <p>The protocol has recently been revised in light of ASCL Act and Working Together Regulations. Circulated for comments and information. The Executive Group agreed the changes. Protocol to go to Children's Trust Board for sign-off</p>	KH
2.5	<p><u>Business Plans for Children's Trust Board and Executive Group</u></p> <p>Draft business plans have now been drafted for both groups incorporating revised Terms of Reference, and were circulated for comment. . It was suggested both business plans could be combined into one document to cover both groups. The action plans could then be tabled at each meeting as a performance monitoring measure.</p>	MG KH
3.0	Priorities	
3.1	<p><u>SDP Update - Young People are Physically, Emotionally and Sexually Healthy</u></p> <p>Report was submitted to Children's Trust Board on 8th April, which will be circulated with the minutes. A Joint Commissioning day is planned for 7th May. The following 4 key priorities have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Referral Provision • Breastfeeding • Alcohol • Localities <p>Commissioning Action Plans will be developed for each priority. Next SDP meeting to take place in 2 weeks. Business plan now complete with spend identified for WNF.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>SDP Update – All Young People are Successful when they Leave School</u></p> <p>MB expressed concerns that the group was in decline, largely due to TC leaving authority. In addition to this no clerical support has been identified and a number of group meetings were cancelled. The Executive group discussed how NEET issues were already being addressed in other groups, eg the ELS SSP Group, 14 – 19 Partnership and NEET Strategy group. It was proposed to bring together groups who are already working in this area and report jointly to Executive, focussing on KPIs. This would serve as an alternative to SDP 2 as a group. The proposal would be for Gerald Meehan to feedback on the 14 – 19 Partnership, Diane Sproson to feedback on the ELS SSP and Simon Clough to feedback on NEET Strategy Group. The Executive Group agreed to this. MB to contact SDP2</p>	MB

	via email to update members on developments, and proposals for change. MG to pull together individual updates into single report for Executive Group	MG
3.3	<p><u>SDP Update – Children and Young People do Well Wherever they Live and Whatever their Needs</u></p> <p>JK expressed reported that similar issues to SDP 2 had developed. Accountability needs to be agreed as to what reporting mechanisms are for key performance indicators, ie which groups are dealing with which priorities, as it has been recognised that there is considerable cross-over between the priorities for both groups. MB will now Co-Chair SDP 3 along with JK and Jennifer John, who will take over the role shortly.</p>	
3.4	<p><u>Child Poverty</u></p> <p>A focus group has been set up by Rob McKenzie as strategy needs to be developed by March 2011. This will interlink with the CYPP and should develop into Child and Family poverty as a focus area. This group will report into the Children’s Trust Executive group, JK will take this forward initially and Jennifer John in future.</p>	JK
3.5	<p><u>Arrangements for Overseeing Safeguarding Activity</u></p> <p>NM outlined the report which has been produced in light of revised Working Together guidance, to inform the group of the Children’s Trust/HSCB relationship and also give a current overview of safeguarding arrangements in Halton. Report to go to next Children’s Trust Board meeting. PStA to amend report to refer to job titles rather than names of individuals.</p>	KH PStA
4.0	Information Items	
4.1	<p><u>LTP 3 Presentation</u></p> <p>Steve Eccles presented overview of the draft local transport strategy, with regard to children and young people issues. National transport goals were highlighted, and these will underpin the local plan. Economy, health and urban environment are key issues which transport will impact on. For example issues such as walking/cycling can affect obesity statistics, therefore if accessibility to cycling was included in strategy this could impact positively on figures. Consultation is currently taking place on goals, challenges and opportunities. Next steps will be consultation on Strategy (Summer 2010), and Implementation (Autumn 2010). LTP3 should be complete by March 2011.</p> <p>The following feedback from members was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads need to be safer in order for take-up of cycling/walking to improve, eg segregated cycle lanes • Need to encourage walking to school, but need to make people feel that their children are safe. Road safety training offered in school but more is needed • Cost of transport is big issue for young people, no integration with neighbouring authorities is also problem. This impacts on employment and training for them. Also safe places for them to park their bikes, not many places available • Safety on transport is issue for young people, they are perceived as perpetrators but actually are most at risk. This needs raising with transport providers so integrated response can be given 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport schedules don't always fit with shift systems for young people in employment, better planning needed as current system puts impediments on those on lowest incomes 20mph in urban areas needs extending, could be done at policy level 	
4.2	<p><u>Children's Trust Critical Issues</u></p> <p>GM updated group on current issues for the Children's Trust as detailed within the report. The following issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mapping exercise on total spend for Children's Services is required, and AMc will take this forward. Website for Children's Trust - it was agreed that a dedicated site would be most suitable, but linked to LSP Children's Trust questionnaire – the availability of funding which may be dependent on new Government was raised. A question around what should be critical issues for the Trust was suggested Autumn Children's Trust Away Day – KH to circulate list of proposed dates for agreement 	<p>AMc</p> <p>KH/ Alan Graham MG/KH</p> <p>KH</p>
4.3	<p><u>LPSA2 Funding Allocations for NEET</u></p> <p>Simon Cough outlined report and final allocations for funding. The NEET Strategy and action plan sets out 3 key areas of need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Intervention Sustainability <p>Various work highlighted within the report will take place to implement the NEET strategy</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Transforming Community Services (TCS) update</u></p> <p>7 pathways have been identified and are currently awaiting a due diligence exercise. Service specifications will be identified by 21st June. Nationally the Department of Health are considering how to take TCS forward, however this will now be election dependent.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>PCT Prioritisation Processes for 2010/11</u></p> <p>These processes are around funding elements for a key strategic plan. A range of priorities has been identified. Regarding Children's Services, Audiology and Aiming High for Disabled Children funding was secured</p>	
4.6	<p><u>LAA Risk Register</u></p> <p>It has been identified that there is a need to update the Children and Young People key objectives within the LAA Risk Register. MG will undertake this. MG, GM and KH to meet to discuss</p>	MG/GM/KH
4.7	<p><u>Halton School Nursing</u></p> <p>MB updated on the current redesign of the school nursing service. An interim report will come to next Executive Group meeting. New processes will allow more proactive working, enabling universal service delivery to be targeted more appropriately.</p>	MB
4.8	<p><u>Communication Trust</u></p> <p>This project is funded for 3 years, and identifies vulnerable groups which would benefit from communication training. This is a preliminary paper and a more detailed report will follow at the next Executive Group meeting. KH</p>	KH

	to email GJ copy of report, and pass on MB's contact details for obtaining copies of books. Report to go on agenda for next Board meeting	KH
4.9	<u>Multi Agency Auditing Feb 2010</u> NM outlined report on outcomes of multi agency auditing and resulting action plan. The group noted the contents of the report	
4.10	<u>Information Sharing Protocol between CAFCAS and Halton Children's Services in Private Law</u> NM outlined report, which was circulated for information. The group noted the contents of report.	
4.11	<u>Working Together to Safeguard Children – summary guidance</u> Members were asked to note the updated guidance, which will affect all agencies.	
4.12	<u>HSCB Board and Executive Group minutes</u> The minutes were noted by the group	
5.	Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 th June 2010, 2.00pm Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes	



Halton Children's Trust

Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2010 2.00pm, Municipal Building Widnes

Present:

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services (Co-Chair)
Nigel Moorhouse	Operational Director, Specialist Services
Jane Lunt	Halton & St Helens PCT
Mark Grady	Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area (Co-Chair)
Michelle Bradshaw	Halton & St Helens PCT
Diane Sproson	Area Manager, Connexions
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review
Gareth Jones	Youth Offending Team
Jonathan Potter	Divisional Manager, Children's Locality Services Widnes
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Support and Commissioning
Dave Howard	Connexions Greater Merseyside
Judith Kirk	Operational Director for Universal Learning, CYPD

In attendance

Catherine Johnson	Principal Performance Improvement Officer
Julie Karmy	Integrated Children's Commissioning
John Gallagher	Principal Policy Officer, Corporate & Organisational Policy
Lorraine Crane	Divisional Manager, Integrated Youth Support

Item		Action
1.0	Matters Arising	
1.1	Item 2.2, NEET residency – GM to arrange meeting with Tony McGee	GM
1.2	Item 3.2, SDP 2 update - IYSS also needs to feed into SDP2. LC to provide updates to future Executive Group meetings, to feed into SDP 2 collective update	LC
1.3	Item 4.2, Children's Trust Critical issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of spend - MG to join Joint Commissioning group. Meeting to be arranged to decide commissioning priorities Children's Trust Questionnaire – All members have been asked to complete the questionnaire by the 26th June Children's Trust Away day - currently 4th October, though this may need to change to coincide with Autumn reporting 	MG AM/JL/LC ALL
2.0	Decision Making	
2.1	<u>Children's Trust Report Card for Quarter 4</u> The report was highlighted by Catherine Johnson. The present report card	

	<p>format will be changed with new financial year, amending the current colour coding system. Also some supporting indicators will be changed as they are no longer relevant to current data measures. All Tellus survey indicators have now been received, though the data has now changed so will be difficult to match up with indicators within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The final NEET figure is 10.3%. Regarding NI 115, this will be taken out.</p> <p>2.2 <u>Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review</u> The final draft of the review was presented to the group. The following amendments were requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Johnson and Hazel Coen to develop footnotes for charts • DS to provide NEET statistical neighbour information to Catherine Johnson for inclusion within graphs • Layout to be change to portrait • Tables to be included as appendices at back of document • Order to be rearranged so that inspection updates and summaries appear earlier within the document • Suggestion to contact marketing for advice re layout <p>All further comments to be sent through to MG/KH by Friday 25th June. Deadline for publication of final document is 30th June. Copy to be received by Ofsted by 16th July</p> <p>2.3 <u>Consultation Planning and Children's Trust Event</u> The purpose of the report was to begin work on the Children's Trust event and inform members of planned formal programme of consultation with children, young people and families. Consultation will be done in partnership with youth workers, Lorraine Crane to be involved in this work. It was proposed for the Children's Trust event to be held as 2 separate half day events, the 1st for Board and Executive members and the 2nd to also involve front line workers.</p>	<p>CJ/HC DS</p> <p>MG/KH MG/KH MG/KH</p> <p>ALL MG/KH</p> <p>LC</p>
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>Priorities</p> <p><u>SDP Update - Young People are Physically, Emotionally and Sexually Healthy</u> It has been decided that a representative from the Halton locality would be better suited to Chair this group, therefore Dave Howard will no longer co-chair the group and will instead be replaced by Diane Sproson. Next will take place in mid July, and will be workshop event. Norma Hornby is now representing 3rd Sector on this group.</p> <p>GM fed back to the group on his recent meeting with the Youth Cabinet representatives. The young people felt that LGBT issues are not being addressed in schools. GM will address this at the next Secondary Heads meeting. Schools need to be targeted re SRE to enable services to gain access. Governor training regarding sexuality and teenage pregnancy is currently in progress. MB confirmed that information leaflets will be reviewed in order to include LGBT information. MB to email issues to GM to take forward.</p> <p><u>SDP Update – All Young People are Successful when they Leave School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Learning Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership – this group has only met once since last Executive group meeting. Additional 	<p>GM</p> <p>MB</p>

3.3	<p>funding has been allocated to the apprenticeship programme and the NEET strategy. An away day is planned in July. DS to send MG an update for inclusion in the CYPP review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEET Strategy - the next meeting will take place in July. Overall figures are still reducing, though there are potential issues regarding reductions in funding which will impact on services. • 14 – 19 Partnership – an update from Simon Clough was circulated covering key activities which are currently underway. Some highlights are development of an online prospectus and an apprenticeship vacancy matching service which has been launched nationally, and a sub-group has been established to identify needs of Halton residents. <p><u>SDP Update – Children and Young People do Well Wherever they Live and Whatever their Needs</u> New Co-chairs have now been established for this group, this will be Michelle Bradshaw and Jennifer John.</p>	DS
4.0	<p>Information Items</p> <p>4.1 <u>Joint Commissioning Update</u> Commissioning Support Programme self-assessment has now been completed. An away day was held in May involving multi agencies, and an action plan produced from this. Accommodation space has been secured for PCT colleagues within HBC and Staff will now be co-located. Staff are now joining up to do specific pieces of work, and training has been undertaken which will be cascaded down throughout commissioning staff. Framework to be reviewed within next few weeks to identify priorities. The 3rd sector are now becoming involved in the commissioning process, and will work with specific funds to enable them to commission services</p> <p>4.2 <u>Multi Agency ASD Pathways</u> The purpose of the report was to recommend acceptance of the multi agency pathway approach in providing assessment, diagnosis and intervention in ASD for school aged children, and support further development of the PCT Joint Halton and St Helens Pathway business plan. Regarding paragraph 1.3 in report, status was queried as this should be within the remit of the CAMHS commissioning group. It was noted the suggestion within report is about changing the way we work rather than identifying specific funds. Val Stoddart Cross to amend point, JK to notify.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Speech, Language and Communication</u> The report was to inform the Children’s Trust Executive Group of developments and recommendations from the DCSF with regards to strategy for Speech, Language and Communication needs (SCLN). The Executive Group agreed to support proposals within the report. Actions from these proposals will feed into SDP3, but with crossover into SDP1.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Halton School Nursing</u> Redesign work regarding workforce is currently being done within school nursing. In addition to this sample health needs of children are being established in order to target need effectively. This activity fits within priorities for SDP1. Research has been conducted with parents of reception age children, and reviewed with the children themselves during year 6. New school health service priorities for TCS will be agreed shortly.</p>	JK

4.5	<p><u>Parenting Support Strategy</u> The Halton Parenting Support Strategy was previously presented to the Children's Trust Board on the 4th April 2010. The Executive Group agreed the Strategy.</p>	
4.6	<p><u>Auditing of Practice in Children's Social Care May 2010</u> This report was to advise the Executive Group of the findings and subsequent actions arising from the auditing of Practice in Children's Services during May 2010. File structures were in good order and consistent, however miss-filing has been evidenced and this is being addressed with the Administration centre of excellence. Workshops around case recording are currently underway, so staff are clear on what information needs to be recorded. The action plan included with the report details how issues will be taken forward to improve processes and practice.</p>	
4.7	<p><u>Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026</u> The Executive Group were advised of proposals for developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy from April onwards. A baseline report will be undertaken to inform development of the strategy over next few months, and information from the Children and Young People's Plan will be utilised.</p>	
4.8	<p><u>Children's Trust Risk Register</u> This has recently been updated and completed in line with Audit Commission requirements. The Executive Group were asked to endorse the Register for use by the Children's Trust and for informing the LSP Risk Management Register. The Executive Group endorsed the Register, with the following comments noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding residual risks, a system for managing these needs to be established • Finance will need to be referenced within the Register as this will impact on plans • Teenage Pregnancy risk score to be increased to reflect recent data 	<p>MG MG</p>
4.9	<p><u>Integrated Children's Workforce Strategy</u> The Executive Group were updated on the planned development of a new Integrated Workforce Strategy. Support will be required from the Children's Trust in order to overcome a number of obstacles in order to develop the strategy for Autumn.</p> <p>A commissioning representative from Health is needed on the Strategic Workforce Group, Julie Weekes was nominated. A representative for Education is also required, GM will raise this at the next Secondary Head Teachers meeting. Basic workforce data from 3rd Sector is required to inform the strategy. Also HR information is required from all partners in order to identify key issues. The Executive Group were asked to provide information regarding who their HR leads are to John Gallagher</p> <p>Links to other workforce strategies will be established after Autumn. The One Children's Workforce Tool questionnaire will still run this year, but will be launched in September 2010, to be completed early October.</p>	<p>GM ALL</p>
4.10	<p><u>HSCB Board and Executive Group minutes</u> The HSCB Annual report is currently being drafted which will be presented</p>	

	to the next Executive Group meeting in July.	
5.0	AOB	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Ofsted unannounced inspection. Feedback was favourable in comparison to other local authorities, and was reported in Children & Young People Now 	
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAF review – the Children’s Trust is required to oversee delivery of the CAF action plan. A strategic group needs to be put together before this can be progressed. Draft membership and terms of reference are currently being developed. Structural changes within the local authority will help facilitate embedding of CAF. School involvement is needed, therefore the goal is to have the first meeting in September. 	
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAHMS action plan to be presented to next Executive Group meeting in July (JL) 	JL
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GM has drafted a letter to Steve Cox from PCT, requesting that he become the PCT representative on the Children’s Trust Board, and also asking for thought to be given around how the Children’s Trust can engage GPs. 	
5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children’s Trust needs to be represented on the Clinical Executive Committee – GM has offered to do this. 	
5.	Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27 th June 2010, 2.00pm Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes	



Halton Children's Trust
Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2010
2.00pm, Municipal Building Widnes

Present:

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services (Co-Chair)
Nigel Moorhouse	Operational Director, Specialist Services
Jane Lunt	Halton & St Helens PCT
Mark Grady	Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area (Co-Chair)
Diane Sproson	Area Manager, Connexions
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review
Gareth Jones	Youth Offending Team
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Support and Commissioning
Lee Beddows	(minutes)

Apologies

Jonathan Potter	Divisional Manager, Children's Locality Services Widnes
Michelle Bradshaw	Halton & St Helens PCT
Dave Howard	Connexions Greater Merseyside

In attendance

Alan Graham	LSP Communications Officer
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Item		Action
1.0	Matters Arising	
1.1	Item 1.3, Children's Trust Away Day – to be held Friday 26 th November	
1.2	Item 2.2, CYPP Review – now complete and published on website. Partners requiring hard copies to contact KH	ALL
1.3	Item 3.1, Proposals for PHSE and LGBT issues from the Youth Parliament to be taken to the next Heads meeting on the 23 9 10 for discussion. Also how politics can be better incorporated in the curriculum.	Lorraine Crane/ GM
1.4	Item 4.7, Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026 – multi agency working group is in place for developing the new Strategy. All colleagues invited to become involved in this group.	ALL
1.5	Item 5.3 – CAMHS Action plan – JL to present to next meeting in September. To be carried forward as agenda item	JL KH
2.0	Reform of Children's Trusts	
	The group were informed of recent announcements from central government on its intention to reform Children's Trusts from this Autumn. Proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's 	

	<p>Trusts via the Education Bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards, and to produce a Children and Young People's Plan • Revoking regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan, and withdrawal of statutory guidance on Children's Trusts in Autumn <p>The group was in agreement that the Trust should continue in its current format, to continue to work together to improve outcomes for children and young people in Halton. It was also felt that the Children's Trust name will remain to take advantage of the branding and awareness that has been developed and a new Children & Young People's Plan should be produced next year to provide strategic direction.</p>	
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Priorities</p> <p><u>SDP Update - Young People are Physically, Emotionally and Sexually Healthy</u> A workshop was held on the 13th July to map out activity undertaken within the remit of SDP 1, and incorporate into the business/action plan. This has now been completed, and any remaining gaps will be addressed at the next group meeting in September. A breastfeeding policy is currently under development and a draft copy has been circulated to the Board.</p> <p><u>SDP Update – All Young People are Successful when they Leave School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Learning Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership – The SSP has met in May and the focus was on Future Jobs Fund activities and planning for an ELS development day in July. This will focus on how key objectives can be met with reduced government funding. • Integrated Youth Support Services – Responsibility for Youth Service has now transferred to Action for Children, and service is currently being reviewed. Recommendations from the review will reflect national policy commitments and will see services expand to reach a wider cohort of young people. • 14 – 19 Partnership – A comprehensive update was provided. Some highlights include a collaborative study programme which has developed and will be rolled out from September 2011, a workforce development audit to identify whether teaching staff are up to date with curriculum changes and the launch of an apprenticeship vacancy matching service nationally. <p><u>SDP Update – Children and Young People do Well Wherever they Live and Whatever their Needs</u> JK has now left the Borough and MB has recently taken over this group as Chair. A group meeting is planned for the 11th August, and a progress report will be presented to subsequent Board and Executive meetings.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Information Items</p> <p><u>Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) Reductions</u> A report was presented informing members of proposed Children and Young People response to the need to make in-year cuts to the WNF. A review of remaining WNF projects will be undertaken by September to evaluate which should continue beyond March 2011 if funding is available. The proposed reductions to the current allocation were approved. WNF evaluation report to be presented to next Executive meeting</p>	<p>MG</p>

4.2	<p><u>Multi Agency Audit of Practice June 2010</u> An action plan has been produced following a recent exercise involving auditing of case files/records of partner agencies, using the overarching multi-agency auditing tool. The Board were asked to note the action plan and endorse actions for their respective agencies.</p>	ALL
4.3	<p><u>Preparation for Announced Inspection, Safeguarding and Children in Care</u> The report was to provide information on the process and preparation required for the Ofsted announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services. Recommendations were that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus and timeline of the inspection are noted • Members ensure there is commitment and resources to support the strategic planning group • Appropriate staffing and resources are released when the inspection is notified • The Children's Trust identifies those who will attend the set up meeting with inspectors. <p>The recommendations were noted by the group. Attendees for the meeting were identified as JL, MB and GM.</p> <p>Letter to be drafted for designated leads from Children's Trust Board (Cllr Swain, Supt Andy Southcott and Audrey Williamson)</p>	PStA
4.4	<p><u>Liberating the NHS (White Paper)</u> The group were updated on the Health White Paper, which represents radical restructuring of the NHS. It will transform how health care is commissioned, with around £80 billion being transferred to new GP consortia. Key proposals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending patient choice over providers and treatment • establishing an independent NHS Commissioning Board • ensuring all health trusts are foundation trusts by 2013 and giving them greater freedoms • the transfer of commissioning to GPs and the abolition of PCTs and SHAs • transferring the public health budget to local authorities • giving councils the responsibility to promote integration and partnership working. <p>The report was noted by the group</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Children's Trust/HSCB Joint Event Feedback</u> A report was presented providing an overview of the joint event held in February 2010, and highlighting the main issues arising from feedback received during discussion group sessions. This feedback needs to be incorporated into future planning across both HSCB and the Children's Trust. MG to set up a task and finish group to look at ways to implement and communicate actions from the event, to provide evidence that ideas are listened to and put into place, and incorporated into business plans.</p>	MG
4.6	<p><u>Feedback from Children's Trust Online Survey</u> A report was presented providing a summary of responses received as part of the Children's Trust online consultation exercise with Board and Executive Group members. Findings from the report will be used to inform the Children's Trust Development Day planned for November 2010.</p>	

4.7	<u>'My Halton' Event and Communications Update</u> Alan Graham provided an update to the group on the My Halton event planned for October 2010, which will be a showcase event for services delivered under the umbrella of Halton Strategic Partnership. The event will be held on the 29 th October at the Stobart Stadium. Discussion was held regarding a website for the Children's Trust, and it was agreed that an extranet site to contain documents and news items would be most appropriate. In addition documents can also be placed on the LSP website. Alan Graham to take this forward	Alan Graham
4.8	<u>Summary of Children's Trust Board meeting 15.07.10</u> A summary of the minutes of the above meeting were circulated for information	
4.9	<u>HSCB Board and Executive Group minutes</u> The above minutes were circulated for information.	
5.0	AOB	Catherine Johnson
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Trust Report Card – Quarter 1 performance update was unavailable at the time of the meeting due to staffing shortages. A full update will be provided at the next Executive meeting in September 	
5.	Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7 th September 2010, 2.00pm Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes	

Outstanding Actions to date:

Item	Action Required	Who by	When by
1.3	Proposals for PHSE and LGBT issues from the Youth Parliament to be taken to the next Heads meeting on the 23 9 10 for discussion. Also how politics can be better incorporated in the curriculum	Lorraine Crane/ GM	Sept 10
1.5	CAMHS Action plan – JL to present to next meeting in September	JL	07/09/10
4.1	WNF Evaluation – Report to September meeting	MG	07/09/10
4.3	Safeguarding & CIC Inspection - Letter to be drafted for designated leads from Children's Trust Board	PStA	
4.6	Children's Trust/HSCB Joint event - MG to set up a task and finish group to look at ways to implement and communicate actions from the event	MG	

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6 September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for 2010-11

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 2010-11 1st quarter performance management reports on progress against business plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for:

- Children and Families
- Children's Organisation and Provision; and
- Learning and Achievement

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) receives the 1st quarter performance management reports;**
- 2) considers 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 objectives provide a clear statement on what the services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is 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 Board has been provided with an overview report which identifies the key issues arising from the performance in Quarter 1.
- 3.3 The full quarterly reports are available on the Members 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. This also provides Members with an opportunity to give advance notice of any questions, points or requests for further information that will be raised to ensure the appropriate Officers are available at the PPB meeting.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 Not applicable.

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

7.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of the Act.

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

Directorate: Children and Young People

Department: Children and Families

Period: Quarter 1 2010 -11

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This quarterly monitoring report covers the Children and Families Services Department first quarter period up to 30 June 2010. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 New Children and Families Department

The Council's new service structure came into being on 1 April, including the new Children and Families Department, which brings together services for children across the levels of need, from Universal to Specialist. A new locality service, focussing on targeted early intervention, is being created as part of the new structure, and that this will ensure over time, that the needs of the most vulnerable children and families are met much earlier, thus improving outcomes and reducing the need for crisis interventions.

2.2 OfSTED's Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment

The service underwent an unannounced Ofsted inspection of contact, referral and assessment services on 5/6 May 2010. The primary purpose of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness of frontline social work practice in managing potential risk to children, and minimise the incidence of abuse and neglect of children. This focused primarily on the Local Authority as lead agency for child protection.

The inspection report gave Halton a very positive assessment of practice. The inspection did not identify an overall grade, but commented on satisfactory practice, strengths and areas for development. Where necessary, areas for 'priority action' are also reported, which identifies areas where children may be left at risk of significant harm. No areas for priority action were identified during this inspection.

There were a number of 'Strengths' identified by the inspectors. These included:

- The quality of the supervision that staff receive
- The Council's enthusiastic and dedicated staff
- Good support staff receive from managers
- The quality of training provided
- Recruitment of social workers
- Newly qualified social workers are well supported
- There are strong quality assurance processes that support the development of practice.

The inspection also identified the following areas that were deemed to be 'Satisfactory':

- All cases are allocated
- Assessments are carried out by suitably qualified staff
- Duty team managers are visible, supportive and provide effective guidance
- Child protection issues are identified and responded to
- Case loads are manageable
- Completion of Initial and Core assessments
- Increasing use of the Common Assessment Framework
- Children are routinely seen and spoken to
- The ethnicity and diversity of families is well considered.

Areas that Inspectors felt needed further development included:

- The timely completion of Initial Assessments
- ICT Recording Systems
- Recording of contact with the police and initial screening.

The development of a new ICT based recording system has been prioritised for development and implementation over the next 12 months, given the critical importance of these systems in the protection of children. The resource to do this has been prioritised and identified. In addition to this, an action plan has been developed as a result of the findings of the inspection with each area for development to be implemented by September 2011.

2.3 Team around the Family (Locality Services)

Within the Team around the Family (Locality Services) structure all the management roles are established and staff are in place in two out of the three service areas. The Children Centre's management and staff teams are in place and are preparing for their forthcoming OfSTED Inspections. The Team around the Family structure is in place with the integration of the Young Carers Team who have been transferred in to the Council following the closure of a voluntary sector provider. The Family Intervention Project has also transferred into Team around the Family (Locality Services) from Community Safety. The Integrated Working Support Teams in both Runcorn and Widnes are planned to be fully operational by September and offering support to lead professionals

2.4 Recruitment of Managers

The strategy for filling a number of frontline manager posts has already started to have a positive impact and we have been successful in recruiting six new managers, three externally.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 New Coalition Government and Financial Outlook

The new government has made a range of policy announcements, the full implications of these changes will be evaluated over the next quarter, once more detail emerges. There has also been a reduction in year of a number of grants, this will have a direct impact on how we deliver our services. There is also considerable uncertainty of the future funding of SureStart, which includes the two new locality divisions. This does present challenges for business planning and service delivery in 2011-12. Alongside the planned reductions in public sector funding, there is uncertainty if the department will be able to meet some of the priorities identified in the business plan.

4.0 Service Objectives / milestones


4.1 Progress against 'key' objectives / milestones

Total	27		25		1		1
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There are 27 indicators, 25 of these have performance that indicates that the objective is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. There is one indicator where performance indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage, whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe and 1 where performance indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. For further details please refer to Appendix 1.




5.0 Performance indicators

5.1 Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Total	4		3		1		0
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There are four key performance indicators, 3 of which are anticipated to achieve their annual target. There is one indicator which are uncertain or it is too early to say at this stage whether the indicator will achieve anticipated there annual target. For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

5.2 Progress Against ‘other’ performance indicators

Total	20		13		7		0
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There are 20 other performance indicators, 13 of which are anticipated to achieve their annual target. There are seven indicators which are uncertain or it is too early to say at this stage whether the indicator will achieve the anticipated annual target for more details please refer to Appendix 3.

6.0 Risk Control Measures

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have an associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures will be reported in quarters 2 and 4. For further details please refer to Appendix 4.

7.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Any high priority equality actions identified by the service will be reported in quarters 2 and 4. For further details please refer to Appendix 5.

8.0 Data quality statement

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, sourced externally, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.

9.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Progress Against ‘key’ objectives / milestones
- Appendix 2 Progress against ‘key’ performance indicators

Appendix 3 Progress against risk control measures





Appendix 4 Progress against 'other' performance indicators

Appendix 5 Financial Statement


Appendix 6 Explanation of use of symbols

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones




Ref	Objective
CFS1	To provide effective and efficient services to Children in Need including Disabled Children and children in need of protection from harm

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review and update the Social Work Workforce Recruitment & Retention Strategy by June 2010, to ensure that the children in need teams are sufficiently staffed.		Strategy was updated in May and reflects the need to recruit and develop managers within Children Social Care as well as ensuring that we continue to recruit and retain social workers. Recruitment and retention of social workers remains strong, and a number of manager appointments have been made in this quarter.
Recruit one candidate to the Social Work Traineeship scheme by September 2010		Recruitment is in progress, interviews taking place in July.
Review the impact of the team around the family (locality services) working on demand for children's social care services by March 2011.		Key activity indicators have been established to monitor impact, e.g. number of referrals with a previous CAF intervention. An exercise will be undertaken in the last quarter to review the impact of locality working. Good working relationships are being developed and work is under way to develop pathways.
In conjunction with Organisation and Provision Service maintain a list of Children in Need, eligible for Early Years Entitlement, and that 100% of the parents are encouraged to take up their child's Early Years Entitlement by March 2011		All parents are encouraged to take up their early years entitlement, provided with information and signed posted. System established for monitoring take up. From Quarter 2, the Child Place Planning Team will receive a report of all Children in Need aged 3 and 4 years, which we will cross reference against the headcount forms from childcare providers, in order to determine how many are accessing their free entitlement to

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

		early education. This will allow us to target any not accessing provision to encourage them to do so.
Work with schools and Learning and Achievement services to ensure all Children in Need are accessing appropriate educational provision by March 2011		System to be established by September to monitor compliance.

Ref	Objective
CFS2	To maintain effective Safeguarding Processes

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Ensure all recruitment panels within the Department have one member trained in Safe Recruitment practices by March 2011		On track with a further 4 training sessions arranged to ensure all appropriate managers have access to safer recruitment training
To ensure the effective operation of the Safeguarding Unit and develop a service to independently scrutinise and review Children in Need planning by September 2010, in accordance with the project plan for the Unit.		Outcome of recent recruitment process did not appoint to Independent Reviewing Officer posts. Further advertising underway. Interviews are due to take place in August 2010.
Ensure all designated persons in Halton schools have up-to-date training in Child Protection by March 2011		146 staff across Halton Schools are currently identified in the role of senior designated person for child protection or deputise in that role. Of these 124 have completed training, which will remain relevant beyond March 2011. An audit will be conducted in the autumn to confirm progress. There are 22 staff who still



Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

		require training and this is on track to be completed by March 2011.
Appoint to new post of Social Work Professional Development Officer who will lead on the development of newly qualified social workers, including career progression and other training and development requirements by September 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Appointment made.




Ref	Objective
CFS3	Increase placement choice and quality of care for Children in Care leading to improving outcomes

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review placements for Children in Care to ensure they provide Value for Money in line with the efficiencies agenda and to improve financial planning by March 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New regional preferred provider contract agreed which has resulted in 12% drop in costs of external foster placements. Service redesign of a Children's Home is underway as part of the strategy to reduce unit costs, this will deliver considerable efficiencies for 2011/12.
Review the increase of level of payments to Foster Carers by September 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plans are in place to ensure that the new rates of payment are introduced in September
Introduce support assistants to Fostering Service by June 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Support assistant now in place within the fostering service.
To carry out a Foster Carer Recruitment Campaign aimed at increasing the recruitment of Foster Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New campaign launched in January 2010. Increased levels of enquiry have resulted. 4 new carers have been approved since April 2010 and a further 10 assessments are underway.

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones






		Recruitment activity continues.
Review the current residential provision by September 2010		Review completed and proposal to be presented to Executive Board in September 2010
Work closely with Learning and Achievement Service to maximise the role and function of the workforce and where Children in Care are at risk of exclusion, ensure that 100% of the children are allocated additional support time by March 2011		System developed with the virtual school head for developing the knowledge of Designated Teachers for children in care and for ensuring that those needing additional support to prevent exclusion are allocated a service.

Ref	Objective
CFS4	Improve outcomes for Care Leavers






Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Increase employment opportunities within Halton Borough Council to 3 by March 2011		Strategy agreed with HR and Economy department, which includes allowing some 'preference' in the recruitment process. Timescale for implementation to be agreed, but expected in 2010.
Recruit to 7 Apprenticeships within Halton Borough Council by March 2011		5 young people are currently in apprenticeships and further opportunities are being sought
Increase the semi-independent accommodation provision by 4, by March 2011		4 units of additional provision are in place with a further 4 being developed

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
CFS5	Ensure families' needs are met at the earliest point through robust interventions, delivered as part of Children's Centres and Extended Schools full core offer

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Develop integrated services with a single point of access across a continuum of needs for children and families in Runcorn by March 2011		The Integrated Working Support Team is on target to be operational by September 2010. The pilot of this work was in an area of Runcorn therefore much of the groundwork is done.
Develop integrated services with a single point of access across a continuum of needs for children and families in Widnes by March 2011		The Integrated Working Support Team is on target to be operational by September 2010, which will include the Children's Centres.
To improve access to short breaks for Disabled Children by training 50 frontline staff using the 'Including Us' training programme by March 2011		Two training events have been commissioned, each to deliver 25 places. The first one will be held on 12th October, with a further session in January 2011.
Pilot the provision of short breaks for Disabled Children in Children's Centres by July 2010		Halton Brook and Warrington Road Children Centres provide sessions on alternate Saturdays. In addition, a series of family fun sessions is planned for the summer holidays to be held at Warrington Road Children Centre.
Implement recommendations from the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) review by March 2011		The 10 strategic recommendations of the CAF review have been accepted by Children's Trust and are being implemented within the locality service. The research in recommendation 8 is currently in the process of being commissioned. The CAF/Team around the Family (Locality Services) Strategic Group is due to meet in September.



Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Develop a baseline of CAF's that have clear plans and are reviewed in a timely manner by September 2010		CAF's are now not entered into the Database unless there is evidence of an active plan. This is now giving a realistic baseline.
Ensure that the designated Children's Centres have an effective performance management framework in place in readiness for the new inspection regime by December 2010		A common Children's centre management information data set is currently under development will be ready by December 2010.
To ensure the delivery of the full core offer in Children's Centres and Extended Schools by October 2010.		This has been achieved for all Children Centres and 98.5% of schools
Ensure that Children's Centres provide a range of activities that promotes physical health within play by December 2010.		A wide range of activities are in place in Children centres to address physical Health within play. For example, Mini Movers & Baby Grovers 4 to 18 months Movers and Shakers – 18months to 5 yrs Musical Mayhem – under 5's Little Superstars under 5's Mini Chefs 3 to 5yrs
Refocus Children's Centres to be more targeted and supporting the work of the Team Around the Family in accordance with the action plan by March 2011		The integrated working support team is on target to be operational by September 2010 which will include the Children Centres.



Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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Fair Access

NI148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	55.6%	72.5%	67%			Additional apprenticeship opportunities are being sought for care leavers. All those wishing to access further education in September have identified it and are ready to commence.
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Service Delivery


NI059	Initial Assessments (IA) completed within 7 working days	80.3%	85%	75%			This figure will be subject to quality assurance process. This quarter has seen a high number of referrals (40% more than the last quarter of last year). Referrals do not come evenly throughout the year and when there are peaks, this impacts on our ability to complete IA's within timescales.
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Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
<u>NI060</u>	Core Assessments completed within timescale	93.7%	92%	90%			This figure will be subject to a quality assurance process and is likely to achieve the target over a 12-month period.
<u>NI063</u>	Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	70%	81.5%	89%			Additional foster care capacity, dedicated support to foster carers and a focus on the careful matching of children and placements will continue to improve performance against this indicator.
<u>CFS LI7</u>	Number of disabled children receiving short breaks (Cumulative)	333	360	N/A	N/A	N/A	Data will become available in Quarter 2.
<u>CFS LI8</u>	Number of CAF's with plans and reviewed in a timely manner	N/A	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	Currently reviewing all nominally open CAF's to establish a baseline. The clean up process of available data will establish a more robust figure to be reported for quarter 2.

Appendix 3 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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Fair Access							
CFS LI2	Number of jobs created for care leavers by HBC	1	3	1	?		Discussions are underway to improve care leavers access to employment opportunities by allowing some 'preference' in the recruitment process.

Service Delivery							
CFS LI4	Percentage of referrals to social care that had been subject to CAF in the previous 12 months	5.8% (prov only)	30%	6.3%	?	N/A	The pupil database may hold a more up to date analysis of this information. This is ongoing through a data cleansing exercise at the moment. It may be possible to run a report, which will detail all CAFs closed with a closure reason of episode superseded by alternative holistic assessment process.


Appendix 3 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 043	Young people within Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	9.2	5	8.7	?	N/A	This report covers the period 1 st April – 30 th June 2010. The data is due to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board on the 30 th June 2010 and ratified on 22 nd August 2010. Therefore until this date this data is provisional. Custodial sentences received average 12 per quarter for Halton and Warrington YOT (HWYOT). HWYOT has performed well in reducing the number of young people entering the youth justice system. However, the number of custodial sentences has not significantly changed, therefore, this gives a disproportionate increase in the reported data as there is a smaller cohort.


Appendix 3 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 045	Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment and training	76.7	90	68.2	?	N/A	<p>This data is provisional until 22 August 2010. The overall number of young people in education, training or employment is taken at the end of a young persons order with the YOT.</p> <p>We work closely with Education Officers and Connexions on this National Indicator.</p> <p>However the economic climate is impacting on this NI as the large majority of young people not receiving EET fall within the post 16 bracket.</p>

Appendix 3 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 055	Obesity among primary age children – reception	11.5%	10%	11.5%	?	N/A	Children's heights and weights are collected annually by the PCT. PCT data is submitted to a national database which then produces verified results for the PCT. Figures currently stand at 11.5%. Interviews have been held for tendered children and adult obesity services and contracts have been awarded for teenage services and adult brief intervention services, however none of the companies interviewed succeeded in achieving the required standard for delivery of early years services.
NI 065	Children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time	9%	10%	33%	?		This equates to 13 children from 6 families. For 4 families the concerns, which led to the second child protection, plan was very different reasons. For 2 families the second Child Protection plan was in relation to similar concerns of neglect. There is to be analysis of the casework undertaken.

Appendix 3 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 070	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people	Awaited	150	40.5	?		Data based on a two-year average has been used as the data warehouse is in the final stage of an essential upgrade. Work continues to reduce the number of children admitted to hospital through a number of partnership approaches, the nature of which depends upon the age of the child. 2 examples are the safety campaign for under 5s in place which aims to reduce accidental injury in this age group. For older children, there is work, led by the Police, in the evenings at weekends which targets young people drinking alcohol and confiscated the alcohol and gives advice regarding alcohol, or removes the young person to a place of safety if required.

Appendix 4: Progress Against Risk Control Measures

Ref	Service Area	High Priority Action	Progress	Supporting Commentary
CFS LI5	Percentage of CIN 12+ months independently reviewed within timescales.	To appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer who will take the lead for establishing the baseline and review process.	?	Three attempts have been made to recruit to this post and currently advertising again, however, we are considering alternative measures for covering this post. The impact of this is unlikely to be realised until September 2010.

Appendix 5 Financial Statement

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th June 2010

	Annual Revised Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000	Actual including Commitments £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Employees	7,348	1,819	1,946	(127)	2,057
Premises	197	50	100	(50)	146
Supplies & Services	4,108	526	280	246	2,240
Transport	207	52	40	12	53
Agency Related Expenditure	646	125	67	58	68
Residential Placements	1,796	0	0	0	0
Out of Borough Adoption	80	20	9	11	9
Out of Borough Fostering	614	102	97	5	97
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,482	370	285	85	286
In House Adoption	177	44	63	(19)	63
Care Leavers	316	41	41	0	58
Child Trust Funds	4	1	0	1	0
Central Support Service Recharges	34	0	3	(3)	3
Asset Rental	67	0	0	0	0
Commissioned Services	491	50	50	0	50
Other	94	54	59	(5)	61
Total Expenditure	17,661	3,254	3,040	214	5,191
<u>Income</u>					
Aiming Higher for Disabled Children	-552	0	0	0	0
Carers Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Care Matters Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Child & Adolescent Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0
Child Trust Fund Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Cohesion Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Surestart Grant	-7,515	-2,099	-2,099	0	-2,099
Children's Centres	-12	-300	-300	0	-300
Inter Authority Income	0	0	-51	51	-51
Other Income	-12	-3	0	(3)	0
UASC	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-8,091	-2,402	-2,450	48	-2,450
Net Expenditure	9,570	852	590	262	2,741

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 1 is below budget profile.

The Employee budget is above budget profile. This is due to some use of external agency staff and some budgets that still need to be allocated on Agresso. Expenditure is planned to remain within budget by year-end.

The premises budget is above budget profile. This is due to expenditure on an adaptation for a carer's home and will require transfer of funding from earmarked reserves. Expenditure is planned to be within budget by year-end.

The Supplies & Services budget is currently below budget profile. This is largely due to the timing of expenditure and is expected to remain within budget by year-end.




The Agency Related Expenditure budget is currently spending below budget profile, most of which relates to specific grant funded areas. If this underspend is still apparent at year-end it is likely to be clawed back by the Department for Education.

The In House Foster Care Placements budget is currently under the budget profile. The department has reviewed its placement strategy for foster and there will be an increase in costs within this budget in the later part of the year.

The Income Budget is currently above budget profile due to additional inter-authority income received by the Department to offset fostering placements.




Appendix 6 Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green	 Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber	 Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red	 Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green	 Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber	 Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red	 Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

<u>Directorate:</u>	Children and Young People
<u>Department:</u>	Children's Organisation and Provision
<u>Period:</u>	Quarter 1 2010-11

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This quarterly monitoring report covers the Children's Organisation and Provision Department's first quarter period up to 30 June 2010. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

2.0 Key Developments**2.1 Building Schools for the Future**

Building Schools for the Future Close of Dialogue: During the first quarter on 2010/11 the BSF team completed the Competitive Dialogue meetings with the two bidders; the final meeting was held on 30 April 2010. Following this, the BSF team reviewed the documentation provided and discussed with Partnership for Schools the readiness of the programme to proceed to the next stage. On 11 June 2010 Partnership for Schools agreed with Halton and Warrington that no outstanding Financial or Commercial risks were outstanding and they were allowed to reach 'Close of Dialogue' status. This status triggers the issue of the Final Bid documents that were submitted by the bidders on 14 June 2010.

2.2 Admissions September 2010

The percentage of first preferences met for secondary schools was 97%. This was an increase of 7% in first preferences met compared to 2009. This shows that the LA, when reviewing its secondary school provision has taken the appropriate secondary school organisation decisions in recent years.

The percentage of first preferences met for primary schools was 86% on initial allocation of places. This is a decrease of 7% of first preferences met compared to 2009. However, this had been anticipated as there was a larger pupil cohort progressing from early years provision into the reception year of primary schools.

2.3 Youth Service

In March 2010, the responsibility for the delivery of Halton Youth Service transferred from Greater Merseyside Connexions to Action For Children.

During March 2010 and until the end of June 2010 Action For Children reviewed Youth Service provision with a broad brief to make recommendations for the future direction of the service in response to feedback about aspects of the service.

The review will provide a baseline where the service is currently at and the achievements to date. There will also be clear recommendations on the future direction of the youth service in Halton. This baseline analysis will be quality assured and available for Quarter 2.

Recommendations will be located within national policy commitments to deliver integrated youth support and will be made under the following headings:

1. Managing and Resourcing Halton Youth Service
2. Improving Partnerships
3. Service Delivery
4. Safeguarding
5. Evidencing Impact

In addition, the recommendations within the review will be necessary to embed Halton's Youth Service to have a flexible partnership lead approach to delivery. This will see the reach of the existing service expand to a wider cohort of young people in a way that complements the range of services for young people in Halton.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Commissioning and External Provision

Due to constraints on budgets there is a serious impact on all externally commissioned services as a review of the services will take place in September 2010. A risk assessment on the impact on the council's priorities will be undertaken.

3.2 Teenage Pregnancy

Provisional local data is showing an increase in the number of teenage conceptions in Halton (2009). However new services were established in Quarter 3 of 2009 and we are hopeful that we may see a reduction in the teenage conceptions due to the new provision. An example of the successful commissioned service is the Vroomz Bus – Mobile Outreach Service.

3.3 BSF Update

On 5 July 2010 the government announced that the BSF Programme would cease. No further development will therefore take place under BSF for secondary schools in Halton and Warrington with the possible exception of three schools. These schools are the Halton High, the proposed Academy and the two sample schools Wade Deacon High School and The Grange. These schools have been

identified as "for discussion". For each of the three schools a proforma has been completed and submitted for assessment. Information has also been provided on the condition of the two sample schools. It is anticipated that the outcome of the assessment will be known before the end of July.

3.4 In Year Admissions

From September 2010, the LA becomes statutorily responsible for managing in-year admissions to all infant, junior, primary and secondary schools. Previously this was managed by schools locally and only in a small number of cases where a school was oversubscribed would the Local Authority become involved. However, as part of safeguarding and pupil tracking, the LA will manage the function centrally. Information provided by a small number of local authorities already managing the process, together with pupil movement/tracking data sourced within the Halton CYPD indicate that the equivalent of one cohort of pupils (around 1350) move into/out of and between schools across both the primary and secondary sector in any given academic year, but this will not be confirmed until a full academic year of in-year admissions has been undertaken. The LA is seeking to appoint an officer to manage this process.

4.0 Service Objectives / milestones

4.1 Progress against 'key' objectives / milestones

Total	26		17		5		4
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There are 26 indicators, 17 of these have performance that indicates that the objective is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. There are five indicators where performance indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage, whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe and four where performance indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 Performance indicators

5.1 Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Total	3		3		0		0
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There were 3 key performance indicators which are anticipated to achieve their

annual targets. For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

5.2 Progress Against ‘other’ performance indicators

Total	7		3		3		1
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There are 7 other performance indicators, 3 of which are anticipated to achieve their annual target. There are 3 indicators which are uncertain or it is too early to say at this stage whether the indicator will achieve anticipated there annual target and 1 indicator where performance indicates that this target will not be achieved, for more details please refer to Appendix 3.

6.0 Risk Control Measures

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have an associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures will be reported in Quarters 2 and 4.

7.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Any high priority equality actions identified by the service will be reported in quarters 2 and 4.

8.0 Data quality statement

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, sourced externally, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.

9.0 Appendices







Appendix 1 Progress Against ‘key’ objectives / milestones
 Appendix 2 Progress against ‘key’ performance indicators
 Appendix 3 Progress against ‘other’ performance indicators

Appendix 4 Financial Statement



Appendix 5 Explanation of use of symbols

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones



Ref	Objective
OPS1	To fully establish commissioning to improve outcomes in Halton

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Develop a joint commissioning unit with the PCT by December 2010		A recent joint development day was undertaken with the Regional Commissioning Support Programme. A follow up workshop was arranged for end June 2010 and the outcome of this will be available in Quarter 2 commentary. Accommodation for PCT colleagues has also been identified within the CYPD Commissioning/Contracts team.
Monitor quality and effectiveness from current commissioned services by March		All monitoring within the 1 st Quarter 2010 has been risk assessed as there is limited staff available to undertake review visits. All providers have submitted their Quarter 1 assessments. All Working Neighbourhood Funding (WNF) commissioned serves have received a monitoring visit.
Promote safeguarding through effective commissioning for all services to March 2011		The majority of commissioned services within CYPD have recently taken part in a section 11safeguarding audit, which includes a self assessment of safeguarding practice. The outcomes will become available in the next 3 months.
Develop in conjunction with the Learning and Achievement service commissioning for post-16 provision by March 2011		Development of an interim post 16 commissioning statement on target for end July 2010.
Re-design service delivery in light of identified need by March 2011		Five priority areas have been identified and agreed by the Children's Trust to develop joint commissioning action plans with our PCT colleagues to look at the effective and appropriate re design
Re-design service delivery in line with new structures by		The review of service provision has already commenced across the






Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

September 2010		Directorate. However in the light of the in-year cuts to the Area Based Grant (ABG) and other sources of grant funding and the uncertainty of future funding this work is being re-visited to prioritise services and identify the funding required and the level of service it will be possible to offer in future years.
To determine the total resources available across the Children's Trust and develop a jointly agreed financial strategy for the Children's Trust in accordance with Total Place by March 2011.	 Was amber	Work has commenced to identify the funding available across the Children's Trust. Joint commissioning priorities have been agreed with the PCT. In addition, the opportunity to pool further resources is being explored.
Undertake financial planning and pool resources in order to improve efficiency by March 2011	 Was amber	As above.

Ref	Objective
OPS2	To manage resources effectively





Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Develop the project plan and begin the implementation of Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) by December 2010		The project plan is being developed. The resourcing element of the project plan is proving problematic due to delays in identifying staff resources for the project.
Continue to develop and re commence roll out of CareFirst6 in line with the project plan by April 2011.		The project plan is being developed. The resourcing element of the project plan is proving problematic due to delays in identifying staff resources for the project. We will not meet this deadline as we currently have limited resources available for the project. This is an Ofsted action plan commitment.

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones


Continue roll out of replacement IT devices to CYPD staff by April 2011 in accordance with the project plan.		The roll out of IT devices is running to agreed timetable and should be completed by March 2011.
Extend and deliver flexibly the free early years entitlement to 2, 3 and 4 year olds as per the Child Care Act 2006 by March 2011		2-Year-Old entitlement piloted against the agreed criteria with 100% of the 238 children receiving the entitlement remaining in provision and moving on to 3 year old entitlement. Impact assessment being undertaken in August 2010. Providers are now in place to flexibly deliver the 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement.
Ensure the supply of sufficient childcare places including provision to deliver the extended free entitlement universally by March 2011 to include the vulnerable groups identified		59 of Halton's 66 providers of the free entitlement have agreed to extend their provision from September 2010. This will provide sufficient extended 15-hour places across the borough. However, due to the uneven distribution of places there is currently a short-fall of approximately 92 places offering the 15 hours in Widnes
Assessment the levels of supply and demand in the childcare market by March 2011		A Borough-wide Childcare Sufficiency Assessment commenced in April 2010. Widespread consultation and evaluation is ongoing. Market analysis to be undertaken and gap analysis identified by October 2010.
Complete the Play Review by March 2011		This review has been commenced. It is planned that this work will be completed by December 2010.

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones




Ref	Objective
OPS3	To implement integrated and targeted youth support

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Improve young peoples sexual health by reducing teenage conception through targeted services by March 2011.		<p>A range of health services for young people, including sexual health, have been developed and these have been made more accessible. We are continuing to develop services available in locations where young people want them, such as community and educational venues, and at times appropriate to them, i.e. evenings and weekends.</p> <p>There has been a national shortage of sexual health nurses and further work is needed to ensure six day provision is available across Runcorn and Widnes.</p> <p>The Vroomz outreach bus is now fully operational and is providing information, advice and guidance to young people on positive sexual health across Halton BC.</p>
Improve young peoples employability by reducing NEET through service delivery by March 2011		A Connexions Personal Advisor working within the Teenage Pregnancy Team has successfully linked young parents back into work, education and employment.
Implement Teen Drop In centres in schools by September 2010		The progress in implementing Teen Drop ins, in some schools has been slow and further robust preparation and groundwork is needed before more schools develop this type of provision. Although 100% of schools do have teen drop in, all do not have the full service.
Re-design services following award of Connexions and Youth Service contracts by March 2011		Youth Service has been awarded to Action For Children who are currently undertaking a full staff and service delivery review. This was completed in early June and the results will be reported in Quarter 2.




Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Deliver world-class youth facilities to meet the criteria of the MyPlace fund by March 2011		C-RMZ is on track to be completed for the end of September 2010. We are currently working with the youth design team to plan for the grand opening in October. (C-RMZ, Central Rooms, will be a state-of-the-art, multipurpose facility designed and developed by the young people of Halton and based in a building situated at the heart of Halton's Youth Quarter).
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Ref	Objective
OPS4	To transform the learning environment

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Appoint Preferred Bidder for BSF by 24 th August 2010		Close of Dialogue on 11 th June. Receipt of Final Tenders 14 th June. Evaluation completed 8 th July. BSF programme stopped on 5 th July. Awaiting announcement from Partnership for Schools (PfS) regarding decision on whether the Sample Schools and Academy project can go forward; expected before end of July. Awaiting Spending review announcement before decision on the remaining school projects will be known.
Approval of Full Business Case (FBC) for BSF by 30 th November 2010		Progress on the FBC cannot begin until the decision outlined above is known. If a decision on the Sample Schools and Academy are known by end of July the FBC deadline can still be met.
Reach Financial Case for BSF by 7 th December 2010		Decision on the sample schools and academy not yet known (02-08-2010). This will impact on financial close up of any projects are approved.

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Agreed milestones in Phase 3 Children's Centre development to be achieved by March 2011		Phase 3 Children's Centre are in line to be completed by March 2011.
Completion of All Saints Upton and Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Primary Capital projects by March 2011		Both schools are in line to be completed by March 2011.
Develop a viable capital strategy in light of the Building Schools for the Future decisions for Halton by December 2010		A review of the capital strategy for schools in Halton will be undertaken once the outcome of the James Review on schools capital has been announced in September 2010.



Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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Cost & Efficiency

OPS LI1	Value of services commissioned using Joint planning and commissioning framework	£6.7m	£7.5m	N/A	Refer to Comment	N/A	This will be reported annually as there have been no services commissioned in quarter 1, and services can be commissioned for various terms. The decommissioning of services will impact on the 3 rd sector and will be monitored.
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Service Delivery

OPS LI2	Number of teams rolled out on CareFirst 6/IntegratedChildren's System (ICS)	N/A	1	2		N/A	Due to work being undertaken on the efficiency programme. The project roll out is currently under review.
OPS LI4	Percentage of milestones met in BSF strategy	100%	100%	100%		N/A	Both schools are in line to be completed by March 2011.




Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI113	A – Chlamydia screening rate B – Chlamydia prevalence	a) 23.5% b) 7.6	a) 35% b) 10%	a) 7.2% b) 9%	 (Was Red)	 	<p>a) By June 1164 young people had been screened for Chlamydia, this equates to 7.2% of the population. This is higher than the 5.9% expected by this date but lower than a quarter of the population as it is known that many more screens are achieved in the final quarter. We believe we are on track to deliver this very challenging target, however we are still working actively with Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and other services particularly GPs to actively deliver this target.</p> <p>b) by the end of May the percentage of young people tested and positive for Chlamydia was 9%, whilst this is higher than the 8% expected. It means that more young people are being opportunistically screened, tested and treated for Chlamydia which will help to bring down the positivity in the long run.</p>

Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI111	First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System	149	234	44	?		<p>Within Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Team, the Early Intervention & Prevention Team is pro-active in diverting young people away from the Criminal Justice System. Below is an outline of current activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reparation (Evenings & Weekends) • Restorative Justice Disposals & Operation Stay Safe • Diversion Scheme • Youth Inclusion and Support Panel <p>NB. Baseline 07/08 - 249</p>
NI112	Under 18 conception rate	52.2 per 1000 (2008) which was a 25.7% decrease on 2007	-55 (Change from 1998 baseline part of 10 year plan)	63.8 per 1000 (2009) which was a 24.9% increase on 2008)			<p>Provisional local data is showing an increase in the number of teenage conceptions in Halton (2009). However new services were established in Quarter 3, 2009 and we are hopeful that we may see a reduction in the teenage conceptions due to this new provision. An example of the successful commissioned service is the Vroomz Bus – Mobile Outreach Service. (The rate per 1000 is calculated per calendar year)</p>

Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI117	Percentage of 16-18 yr olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.4% (Nov 2008 to Jan 09 average figure)	7.7%	10.3% (Nov 2009 to Jan 10 average figure)			NI117: Halton's 2009 NEET figure was 10.3%, a 3% reduction on the 2008 figure. For the Halton 14-19 Strategic Partnership to have seen a reduction to 10.3% by January 2010 shows the extent of the achievement and challenge faced to achieve the target. (The national NEET performance target is the average percentage NEET in November, December and January each year. The data shows a large reduction in NEET for those months in 2009/10 compared with 2008/9 however there is still some way to go to reach the national target. This was a stretch target based on Halton's best year's performance).
OPS LI5	Percentage of vulnerable young people in education, employment or training	N/A	Baseline Year	a) 63.64% b) 25.79% c) 53.85% d) 41.03%		N/A	a) SEN, b) Teenage Mothers, c) Care Leavers, d) YOT Whilst targets have yet to be set, progress has been made. The numbers in some of the cohorts are low so percentages are easily skewed.

Appendix 4 Financial Statement

Children's Organisation & Provision**Revenue Budget as at 30th June 2010**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000	Actual Including Commitments £'000
Employees	3,629	894	863	31	877
Premises	978	8	-28	36	-28
Supplies & Services	911	228	197	31	255
Transport	276	7	7	0	7
Commissioned Services	2,945	505	505	0	500
Asset Rental Support Costs	4,846	0	0	0	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,125	0	0	0	0
Revenue Contribution From Reserves	-596	0	0	0	0
Redundancy	343	22	22	0	22
Schools Contingency Costs	1,930	0	0	0	0
Schools Non Delegated Support	99	0	0	0	0
Schools Transport	1,086	224	224	0	282
Standards Fund	12,092	183	183	0	184
Area Based Grant	2,478	301	301	0	373
Total Expenditure	32,142	2,372	2,274	98	2,472
Dedicated Schools Grant	-10,126	-2,530	-2,530	0	-2,530
Government Grant - Income	-547	-547	-690	143	690
HBC Support Costs					
Income – Deferred Grant Write Down	-206	0	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-197	-49	-58	9	-58
Schools SLA Income	-605	-4	-4	0	-4
Area Based Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Fund	-12,506	-3,720	-3,720	0	-3,720
Total Income	-24,187	-6,850	-7,002	152	-5,622
Net Expenditure	7,955	-4,478	-4,728	250	-3,150




Appendix 4 Financial Statement**Comments on the above figures**

The Premises budget currently shows a CR for expenditure this is due to an accrual for £50k for Grangeway, without this the Premises budget would be showing an overspend compared to profile . This is because it includes expenditure from the Capital Revenue account which relates to contributions to larger individual capital works.

Government Grant Income is currently showing more income than budget profile, this is due to income carry forward from 2009-10 which is yet to be spent on 2010-11.




Appendix 5 Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green	 Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber	 Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red	 Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green	 Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber	 Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red	 Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

Directorate: Children and Young People

Department: Learning and Achievement

Period: Quarter 1 2010 -11

1.0 Introduction

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Universal & Learning Services Department first quarter period up to 30th June 2010. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service. The way in which traffic lights symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 7.

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Early Years Foundation Stage

Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) continues to be an area of focus during Early Years. Also to be taken into consideration is the transition between Reception and Year 1. In this area there will be work undertaken to support the management of Early Years Foundation Stage and how it links to Key Stage 1.

2.1 Primary Schools

A key focus continues to be on development of writing, including more able writers. Halton is about to embark on the Every Child a Writer (ECaW) project aimed at 15 Primary schools and involving Years 3 and 4. Every Child Counts (ECC) will begin in September in 3 schools – aimed at Year 2. The Improving Schools Programme is incorporated into school improvement and will continue to focus upon tracking data/pupil progress meetings.

2.3 Every Child a Writer

The ECaW programme aims to ensure faster progress at the beginning of Key Stage 2. It provides a three-tier model for all children through, improving quality first teaching for the whole class, improving guided writing to meet group needs and providing one-to-one teaching for those children who need it most.

2.4 Every Child counts

The ECC is now in the second year of a two-year development phase before rolling out nationally in academic year 2010-11. The programme is aimed at Year 2

pupils who have fallen behind their peers and aims to enable the lowest attaining children to make sufficient progress to reach expected levels of attainment at Key Stage 1 and beyond. It provides training and support for teachers so they can work with children in one-to-one and/or small group intervention sessions. Pupils receive daily intervention sessions for approximately twelve weeks.

2.5 Secondary

Key areas have been identified this quarter to develop for the coming academic year, these include:

- Narrowing the gap for attainment especially for those who are eligible for free school meals.
- Assessment for Learning, this is a coherent framework for assessment, in which evidence of learning can be gathered and interpreted to best meet the needs of learners, their parents and teachers, as well as school managers.
- Assessing Pupil Progress in English, Maths, Science and Information Communication and Technology will be a priority area.
- English and Maths attainment and achievement especially at KS4
- New GCSE specifications from September 2010 are to include functional skills qualifications to give students the practical skills they need to get the most from life, learning and work.

2.6 Inclusion 0-25

The statutory notices process of consultation and approval by Department of Education has been completed for Halton's Early Years I CAN "Early Talk" Project and this is in development. I CAN's *Early Talk* programme supports the communication development of all young children across the UK and especially those with speech, language and communication needs.

In addition approval has been received for the opening of the re-designated resource provision bases. Additional revenue funding has also been identified for this project through the School Forum.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Funding

The biggest issue facing the service is the current and future budget. We have already seen significant cuts in year to the Area Based Grant budgets (ABG) in addition to the in year cessation of grants.

The Improving School's Programme grant is no longer available, and historically this has been a key resource in supporting schools causing concern. It funds intervention programmes specifically tailored to building capacity in schools around system leadership, pupil tracking, and raising standards in learning and teaching.

The position will be further compounded by the demise of the National strategies in March 2011 and associated grants that come through standards funds. The majority of staff in Learning and Achievement are funded through a range of grants. Where there are Service Level Agreements (SLA's) in place, increasingly schools are having to make choices in the number of services they are able to buy-back. This may have implications for a range of areas that are currently funded through SLA's.

We are currently working with the Learn Together Partnership to explore the feasibility of establishing a shared service for schools to purchase school improvement support. However, we retain statutory functions around schools causing concern and associated intervention so there is a need to guarantee some level of central support.

Increasingly there will be an expectation around school to school support and the development of system leadership through school's access to leading teachers and good / outstanding head teachers including National Leaders in Education (NLE's) and Local Leaders in Education (LLE's). There will be resource implications associated with this support.

3.2 Inclusion 0-25

3.2.1 Green Paper

The government has announced it will publish a green paper on children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities in the autumn. Children and Families minister Sarah Teather is working with the voluntary sector and parents to form the questions that the green paper would cover. It is understood that the paper will cover parental choice regarding where children go to school. The green paper will also look at the issues around transitions into adulthood.

3.2.2 Academies

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Academies Bill it received Royal Assent on 27 July. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law). The Act will enable more schools in England to become academies. The Government expects a significant number of academies to open in September 2010, and for the number to grow each year. Academies would be funded at a comparable level to maintained schools but would also get their share of central funding that local authorities used to spend on their behalf. Schools that apply to become academies would be allowed to keep any surplus balances that they hold. There would be no expansion of selection but grammar schools and other schools which select or partially select pupils would be able to continue to do so.

The current situation is that Academies must have regard to the SEN Code of practice. In effect, in the same position as a maintained school in terms of being named in a statement. With Regard to SEN Admissions and Academies, Ministers have always made it clear that Academies are fully inclusive schools and therefore

must admit pupils with SEN on an equal basis with others and that this should be reflected in their admissions policy.

4.0 Service Objectives / milestones

4.1 Progress against 'key' objectives / milestones

Total	30		20		10		0
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There are 30 indicators, 20 of these have performance that indicates that the objective is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. There are ten indicators where performance indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage, whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 Performance indicators

5.1 Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Total	5		5		0		0
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There are five key performance indicators, all of which are anticipated to achieve their annual target. For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

5.2 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Total	17		11		6		0
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There are 17 other performance indicators, 11 of which are anticipated to achieve their annual target. There are six indicators which are uncertain or it is too early to say at this stage whether the indicator will achieve the anticipated annual target for more details please refer to Appendix 3.

6.0 Risk Control Measures

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have an associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures will be reported in quarters 2 and 4. For further details please refer to Appendix 4.

7.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Any high priority equality actions identified by the service will be reported in quarters 2 and 4. For further details please refer to Appendix 5.

8.0 Data quality statement




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, sourced externally, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.

9.0 Appendices





- Appendix 1 Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones
- Appendix 2 Progress against 'key' performance indicators
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- Appendix 4 Financial Statement
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Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones



Ref	Objective
LAS1	To improve the educational outcomes of all children (milestones to cover early years, primary, secondary)

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Demonstrate improved performance at Early Years Foundation Stage and Primary attainment by quality assurance, ECER audits and the implementation of an Early Years Outcome Duty action plan March 2011.		Progress on actions identified in the Early Years Outcomes Duty has been good. Early indications are that the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) audit will provide useful information with regard to identifying need and also support Self assessment and improvement for the settings of children in foundation stage.
Implement the Communication, language and literacy development (CLLD) project in the majority of settings by March 2011 to improve standards of literacy at the end of EYFS		Progress in this project is good. 15 schools have been targeted for intensive support during this academic year. Plans are in place to make this a universal offer from Sept. 2010.
Review and evaluate systems for managing and supporting settings and schools at risk of categorisation and reduce the number of schools in Ofsted categories by March 2011		Halton's Strategy for Support and Intervention with Schools Causing Concern was due to be revised inline with the white paper, however, as the Coalition has proposed to abolish this, it is now subject to review. The LA uses its powers of intervention including the issuing of warning notices and also undertakes school reviews as necessary. The Cross Service Monitoring Group (CSMG) provides a 'team around the school' approach and Single School Updates are held to support the planning of collaborative support for schools most in need. The outcome of SIP visits is fundamental to this process. There is currently 1 primary school in special measures. The

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones




		most recent Ofsted monitoring report was very positive and it is anticipated that the school will come out of measures by the end of December 2010.
Review and implement target setting and monitoring arrangements for all schools by March 2011.		School Improvement Partners (SIP's) have arranged meetings with Governors and Head teachers to agree individual school targets that should be set at a minimum of Fischer Family Trust academic level D.
Assessment for Learning strategies, including 'Assessing Pupil Progress', developing in all schools as part of quality first teaching by March 2011		Assessment for learning strategies are progressing well in all secondary schools, including Assessing Pupil Progress in English implemented in all schools. Also Assessing Pupil Progress in Maths, Science and ICT is developing well in all of Halton's schools.
Work with schools to improve attainment at 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths with specific focus on the achievement gap by November 2010		Latest assessment information from schools indicates approximately 50% of pupils across the Authority will attain this benchmark. Children & young people eligible for Free School meal attainment gap has narrowed by 4.2 percentage points in 2009 compared to 2008 (30.7 in 2008, 26.5 in 2009). We are hoping for a further narrowing of the gap in 2010.
Review the LA's school improvement processes in light of the demise of National Strategies by March 2011, and work with School Improvement Partners in their enhanced role		The Local Authority was to be a Priority Learning Local Authority (PLLA) for SIP work in light of our recognised good practice nationally, however, the new Government has discontinued this programme. We are reviewing our school improvement approach, taking account of the government cuts, and looking to enhance the role of the SIP and how they broker support to schools in conjunction with the LA.

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones


<p>Plan to realign services in line with the 2009 White Paper by March 2011 considering aspects such as commissioning, financial planning, staffing and transition to the new structures</p>	<p>Refer to Comment</p>	<p>The White Paper is no longer current – it was a pre-election paper. As a result of the pace of change and recent budget announcements a comprehensive review of services is taking place. This includes the exploration of the feasibility of working as a 'sub-region' to deliver school improvement services to schools. The cessation of national strategies standards funds and a number of other grants will impact dramatically upon the current capacity of the service, and future workforce.</p>
<p>To develop a proposal for school improvement services across the Learn Together partnership by November 2010 with the objective of creating and implementing a trading company by March 2011.</p>	<p></p>	<p>We are currently working with the Learn Together Partnership to explore the feasibility of establishing a shared service for schools to purchase school improvement support. However, we retain statutory functions around schools causing concern and associated intervention so there is a need to guarantee some level of central support.</p>
<p>Develop, in conjunction with Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Primary Capital Programme (PCP) and Team around the Family (Locality Services), inspirational learning environments considering the integration of learning 0-19, extended schools and post 16 delivery by March 2011</p>	<p>Refer to Comment</p>	<p>Recent government legislative proposals may impact in the achievement of this milestone as regards Building Schools for the Future programme and funding arrangements.</p>
<p>Undertake a review of Primary School Provision in the Borough by March 2011.</p>	<p></p>	<p>Further work will be undertaken on this new milestone in quarter 2 given the recent changed demography. Primary pupil numbers have increased in September 2010 will fall in September 2011 but will increase again in September 2012.</p>

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
LAS2	To narrow the gap in educational outcomes for vulnerable groups






Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review effectiveness of capacity building in the mainstream sector in light of reinvestment by March 2011		Too early to assess impact
Evaluate the provision of learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) service for young people in light of reorganisation by March 2011		The Executive Board has approved the proposals for Primary SEN Unit provision in line with the response to the formal consultation. Implementation of the restructured primary resourced provision is due September 2011.
The learning and achievement service to evaluate their service providing a service proportionate to need, whilst supporting the most vulnerable children to achieve the best outcomes by March 2011.		<p>Secondary - all schools and settings have been supported with a targeted approach to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people eligible for FSM. Impact will be assessed following publication of 2010 results in August.</p> <p>A multi-agency, multi-stranded, holistic approach project designed to focus on narrowing the gaps for vulnerable groups is in it's infancy of development. At the present time the LA is undertaking both a needs and a performance data analysis in order to identify the targeted schools. It is hoped that this project will be implemented within the next academic year.</p>

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

<p>Improve outcomes for Children In Care by March 2011 by working closely with Learning and Achievement Service to maximise the role and function of the workforce.</p>		<p>This work will become part of the project outlined above. In addition to this there will be a conference within the next academic year focusing on different strategies for working with children in care.</p>
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Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones






Ref	Objective
LAS3	To improve outcomes post-16

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review and implement learning from pilot to inform local provision by March 2011		Systems and procedures in post 16 institutions including recruitment and retention strategies have been embedded to improve standards
Fully implement a demand led commissioning process for local provision based on need, quality of provision and funding agreement by March 2011 in conjunction with the Organisation and Provision Service		A draft interim post 16 commissioning statement is currently being prepared. This will be completed for consultation with partners by the end of July 2010.
Expand the range of available diplomas at levels 1, 2 & 3 as identified by national guidance by March 2011		2 Diplomas available at Level 1 5 Diplomas available at Level 2 2 Diplomas available at Level 3 Change to government policy and a removal of the entitlement to diplomas has led to uncertainty about the future of diploma qualifications. The result is a lower than expected enrolment for September 2010
Commission a range of quality post-16 provision in Halton to reduce the numbers of young people accessing provision outside the borough by March 2011		Development of an interim post 16 provision commissioning statement is a target for the end of July 2010.
Work with settings to encourage an increase in the numbers in employment, education or training		Close monitoring of the September Guarantee and piloting of flexible roll on roll off provision has made a significant


Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

		contribution to the reduction in NEET. 90 % of 16 years have an offer of place in learning for September 2010 and the range of flexible provision has been expanded.
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Ref	Objective
LAS4	To improve levels of school attendance and behaviour for all children

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review attendance strategy in conjunction with Head teachers and key staff by March 2011		Review to be undertaken during the Autumn term as part of service level arrangements with all schools
Ensure all children identified in the persistent absence cohort have a multi agency intervention plan by September 2010		Support network has been established. A Multi agency intervention plans in place to support persistent absence pupils.
Provide targeted support to schools to tackle attendance issues by March 2011		All schools have a named Education Welfare Officer. Targeted support discussed and agreed through SLA
Establish a framework to redirect resources from Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision for excluded pupils to early intervention in mainstream settings to prevent exclusion by September 2010		(KS4) Excellent progress being made at The Bridge (KS3 PRU) and recognised by Ofsted as Outstanding.
To ensure that all provision offered through the PRU system is integrated into the 14-19 framework by September 2010		Through the joint working of 14-19 curriculum officer, PRU management and provider network, the pre 16 Foundation Learning directory has been set up and will be operational by September in it's initial form. This will be a live document over the next twelve months as qualifications are migrated to QCDA



Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

		and will continue to grow. Providers will be delivering courses in Foundation learning and Functional Skills as their staple offer from September 2010.
To continue to increase the accredited outcomes for pupils in all alternative provision by September 2010		This areas performance is increasing slowly. Learners are leaving with an average of seven accredited qualifications each this year. Considering the vulnerability of the group and barriers to learning the outcomes they achieve is good. Performance for vulnerable groups including CiC is also good. GCSE results in August and destination available from November 10 will confirm predicted outcomes.

Ref	Objective
LAS5	To embed safeguarding throughout the Learning and Achievement Service

Milestones	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Establish a baseline of staff required to attend training in Safeguarding by March 2011		A baseline in the child protected designated person role has been established and will be refreshed September 2010. Schools will be required to inform of any subsequent changes to the list.
Commission relevant Safeguarding training by March 2011		Priority training will be Halton Children Safeguarding Board Child Protection training agenda as identified. This will be identified through single agency designated person's roles and



Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
							responsibilities within each department or partner service.
	Review Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programmes by March 2011						Primary audit underway and Secondary SEAL Partnership progressing.
	Further promote Safeguarding through early intervention and prevention delivered through the team around the family by March 2011, in accordance with the action plan.						A multi-agency, multi-stranded, holistic approach project designed to focus on narrowing the gaps for vulnerable groups is in it's infancy of development. It is hoped that this project will include partnership working with some of the Team around the Family (Locality Services) in order to meet the children and young people's needs. Halton Safeguarding Children's Board have completed a Section 11 audit on all partner agencies – the Team around the Family (Locality Services) Services were part of this process.

Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators



Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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Corporate Health




<u>LAS LI1</u>	Percentage of relevant staff having attended Safeguarding training	N/A	100%	100%			All Halton education settings have at least 1 designated person who has up to date training. Also as a back up there is a deputy designated person to cover, all have attended relevant safeguarding training.
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Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators





Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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Fair Access							
LAS LI2	Number of requests for support moderated by the Early Intervention Panel to meet children's needs earlier	111	115	73			<p>The 73 in Quarter 1 are broken as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 requests to the STAMP panel • 9 new requests to the Early Years Private and Voluntary Panel • 28 requests to the Early Years Transition Panel <p>At the Enhanced Provision Review Panel held during this quarter it was decided that 13 pupils were no longer in need of additional support, as evidenced by information provided by schools that outcomes had been achieved. Each pupil was sent a certificate and a gift voucher in recognition of their achievement.</p>


Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
Quality							
<u>LAS LI3</u>	Percentage of Early Years settings graded good or better	63%	75%	67%		N/A	This figure is higher than the regional and national average. The Child Place Planning team are working with local providers to continually improve the quality of their provision and the most recent inspections show an increase in good grades.
<u>LAS LI4</u>	Percentage of settings achieving enhanced ICAN "a training programme to enhance speech and language" accreditation	14%	20%	30%			Five settings have achieved enhanced. This is the more in depth accreditation.


Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators



Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
Service Delivery							
<u>LAS LI5</u>	Percentage of schools involved in the Communication, Language & Literacy Development Project.	29%	85%	30%			This is longer term measure and covers a two year period and therefore has a varying impact dependant on which year of the programme the school is in. Overall the improvement is expected where the school is in year 2 of the project.
<u>LAS LI7</u>	Number of Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS) audits completed of settings	N/A	15	15			The first round of ECERS audits have been completed with more scheduled for next term. The audits are providing useful information with regard to identifying need and also support Self assessment and improvement for the settings.
<u>NI081</u>	Inequality gap in the achievement of level 3 qualification by age 19	Awaited	16%	Data available in August	N/A	N/A	Official reporting is in November to provide validated information.

Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
<u>LAS LI9</u>	Number of schools with good or better for Safeguarding	N/A	100%	100%		N/A	Under the new framework a total of 12 schools have been inspected from Sept 2009 have been assessed as follows. outstanding – 4 = 33%, good – 8 = 67% There is no judgement lower than this. Of the 12 schools inspected all found to be good or outstanding.

Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 1	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
LAS LI10	GCSE achievement gap: Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths	13.7%	9.75%	Awaiting data for 2010	?		Attainment gap between FSM pupils and their peers narrowed by 4.2 percentage points in 2009 compared to 2008. We are hoping for a further narrowing of the gap in 2010.
NI092	Achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage	31.4%	27.7%	N/A	?	N/A	The target for 2009 / 10 was not met and as a result the gap has not been narrowed between the bottom 20% and the median score of the cohort – although the threshold did rise. The target for July 2010 is 27.7%. This validated data is not yet available.
NI093	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS2 in English	Awaited	89%	N/A	?	N/A	Data not available for 2010 SATs
NI094	Proportion progressing by 2 levels at KS2 in Maths	Awaited	87%	N/A	?	N/A	Data not available for 2010 SATs
NI102a	Achievement gap FSM and peers at KS2	Awaited	12%	N/A	?	N/A	Data not available for 2010 SATs

NI117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.4% (Nov 2008 to Jan 09 average figure)	7.7%	10.3% (Nov 2009 to Jan 10 average figure)			10.3%, a 3% reduction on the 2008 figure. Halton has seen over a 5% reduction in NEET during 2009; August figures indicated that 15.3% of the Halton 16-18 cohort was NEET. For the Halton 14-19 Strategic Partnership to have seen a reduction to 10.3% by January 2010 shows the extent of the challenge and the achievement. (The national NEET performance target is the average percentage NEET in November, December and January each year. The data shows a large reduction in NEET for those months in 2009/10 compared with 2008/09 however there is still some way to go to reach the national target. This was a stretch target based on Halton's best year's performance).
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Appendix 4 Financial Statement

Learning & Achievement Department**Revenue Budget as at 30th June 2010**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000	Actual Including Committed Items £'000
Employees	7,003	1,750	1,633	117	1,656
Premises	271	3	3	0	3
Supplies & Services	1,910	654	366	288	450
Transport	58	14	11	3	11
Agency Related Expenditure	7,263	4,084	3,912	172	3,912
Central Support Service Recharges	789	1	1	0	1
Independent School Fees	1,493	491	491	0	491
Inter Authority Special Needs	764	0	0	0	0
Speech Therapy	46	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	19,597	6,997	6,417	580	6,524
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-7,047	-5,164	-4,593	(571)	-5,204
Schools SLA Income	-97	-89	-97	8	-97
Inter Authority Income	-578	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-7,722	-5,253	-4,690	(563)	-5,301
Net Expenditure	11,875	1,744	1,727	17	1,223

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 1 is slightly below budget profile.

The Employee budget is currently under profile due to a large number of vacancies across the department.




The Supplies & Services budget is also below budget profile, due in the main to an under spend on 'Professional Fees'. It is likely that this under spend relates to the timing of invoices and payments.

The Agency Related Expenditure budget is currently below budget profile, mainly due to an under spend by Early Years Intervention & Support provision. Again this is likely to relate to the timing of invoices and payments.

The income budget is currently below budget profile due to the timing of income collection. It is expected to be within planned budget by the financial year-end.




Appendix 5 Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green	 Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber	 Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red	 Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green	 Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber	 Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red	 Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.