



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

**Monday, 31 October 2011 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Walsh'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman) | Labour |
| Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice- Chairman) | Labour |
| Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw | Conservative |
| Councillor Arthur Cole | Labour |
| Councillor Frank Fraser | Labour |
| Councillor Mike Fry | Labour |
| Councillor Miriam Hodge | Liberal Democrat |
| Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones | Labour |
| Councillor Kath Loftus | Labour |
| Councillor Joan Lowe | Labour |
| Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh | Labour |
| Miss Elizabeth Lawler | Co-optee |

*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 Thursday, 5 January 2012

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

Part I

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| 1. MINUTES | |
| 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. | |
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

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

DATE: 31 October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and 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: 31 October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

EXB30 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2011- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011.

The Board was advised that Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. The four main elements of the duty were outlined in the report.

The Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011 drew together the four required elements and supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring that Halton fulfilled its statutory requirements.

Reason for Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

The Academic year 2011 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy be approved for implementation from September 2011.

EXB31 – BSF LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (LEP) STRUCTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Local Education Partnership (LEP) Governance Structure for the membership of the Strategic Partnering Board.

The governance arrangements for the Halton BSF programme were summarised in diagrammatic form within the report. It was noted that strategic decisions regarding the direction of the Halton LEP Company were retained by the LEP Board, with appropriate powers delegated to the Strategic Partnering Board (SPB), to enable the programme to be delivered in a timely manner.

Under the terms of the Strategic Partnering Agreement, the Authority had one voting member on the LEP Board – currently Halton Borough Council's Chief Executive; there was also provision for two Local Authority Observers to attend each meeting.

Members noted that the report detailed the Board Structure and remit for the LEP and the SPB, with further details of the activities of the both Boards attached as an appendices to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The agreed governance arrangements of the Halton Local Education Partnership be noted; and
- 2) The following Local Authority representatives of the Strategic Partnering Board be approved: the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, the Operational Director Children's Organisation and Provision and the Divisional Manager, Transforming Environments.

EXB32 – HALTON AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The Board was advised that there was a statutory duty on the Local Authority (LA) to establish and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (the Conference) to review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years. The role of the Conference was to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for adoption by the LA. It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus needed to meet fully the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and be educationally sound.

The constitution of the Conference was prescribed by the Department for Education and Science. The recommended composition of the required representative committee was detailed in the report, with the number of representatives appointed to Committees A and B reflecting the proportionate strength of denominations in the area.

The Board noted the minutes of the Halton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference, held on 11 July 2011, attached at Appendix 1. It was further noted that the Borough Council had a statutory duty to ensure that the agreed RE syllabus met the needs of the diverse faiths in the Borough and adopted an inclusive approach to religious diversity in line with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the minutes of a meeting of the Halton SACRE and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference on 11th July 2011 attached at Appendix 1 be received; and
- 2) the Board accept the recommendation of the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference for Religious Education to readopt the 2006 to 2011 Syllabus as the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education from 1st September 2011 for a further five years.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

EXB49 - RESPONSE TO THE JAMES REVIEW PRIORITY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the Sebastian James Review of Education Capital. The report also outlined the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP).

The Board was reminded that, following a Government announcement in July 2010 to end all school capital projects, Sebastian James was commissioned to lead a review of the Educational Capital Build Programmes. The review would identify how to streamline the process and thereby allow more money to be spent on the educational establishments and less on consultants and bureaucracy.

The review was published on 8 April 2011, and made a total of sixteen recommendations, detailed at Appendix A. The Department for Education (DfE) had initiated a twelve week consultation exercise, inviting comment on the review paper prior to the Secretary of State issuing his response.

The report highlighted the key issues and implications for Halton. This included Halton being recognised as the Lead Responsible Body in the Borough and the holder of the Local Investment Plan. Within this role, the authority would need to provide Condition Surveys for all school buildings to

the DfE and be able to articulate the future development plans for all educational buildings in the area.

The Board noted that the DfE were commencing a privately financed programme to provide Local Authorities with school facilities for those schools in the worst condition. The PSBP would support between 100 and 300 schools with 20% of the programme delivered each year over the next 5 years; the first schools would open in academic year 2014-15. The report detailed the criteria the Local Authority and the school must accept before being considered for inclusion in the project.

Reason for Decision

If the Authority was successful in securing funding this would provide funding to rebuild Halton schools with the worst conditions.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration had been given to the option of not submitting an applications form. This was rejected as this was the only funding available for the LA to bid for, to rebuild its primary and secondary schools with the worst condition issues.

Implementation Date

Local Authorities must register by 7 October 2011 and complete and submit any application by 12 noon on Friday 14 October 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the findings of the Sebastian James Review of Education Capital be noted; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families be authorised to submit applications for the PSBP for all schools that meet the Department for Education (DfE) condition criteria.

EXB50 – SHORT BREAK STATEMENT

the Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the new statutory requirements regarding short break services to disabled children and their families.

In 2008, Halton became part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, which provided access to a range of short break services for disabled children and their families. This programme formally ended in March 2011, with new statutory practice guidance and financial investment effective from 1 April 2011 to provide short breaks for disabled children.

The Board was advised that the Government had stated a clear commitment to “continued investment” in short breaks with a nationwide financial commitment of £800 million until 2015 as part of the Early Intervention Grant. It was further noted that in addition to this, Halton had been allocated £241,942 to support the Authority towards capital expenditure incurred in relation to short break services.

As part of Statutory Guidance, all authorities must:

- (i) Publish a statement of short break services on their website;
- (ii) Keep their short breaks statement under review;
- (iii) State in their Service Statement the range of short breaks services available, the criteria by which eligibility for services would be assessed, and how the range of services was designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area;
- (iv) Consult with parents as part of the review of the statement.

Halton’s Statement, attached at Appendix 1 for Members’ consideration, complied with statutory guidance and took account of the views of partners and comments made by families and providers.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) the draft Short Break Statement be agreed; and
- 3) the Statement be formally endorsed by the Children’s Trust.

SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local

Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXB51 – CONNEXIONS UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the procurement options for future Information Advice and Guidance service for children and young people and the contractual implications between the six Greater Merseyside Local Authorities and the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership.

The Board was asked to consider the service delivery requirements from 2012-13 and the arrangements needed to secure that delivery. At the meeting, it was confirmed that at the last Learn Together Partnership meeting, the Directors of Childrens' Services had agreed that 2012/13 service specifications be used with negotiations with Connexions and for the procurement exercise.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Executive Board agrees that work can continue on a City Region level;
- 2) a parallel procurement process can be undertaken for 2012/2013; and
- 3) Subject to agreement by the Directors of Childrens' Services on 24th September 2011, service specifications can be used with negotiations with Connexions and for the procurement exercise.

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

DATE: 31 October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Special Strategic Partnership Board minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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



Halton Children's Trust

Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2011 2.00pm, Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Gerald Meehan | Strategic Director of Children's Services, HBC (Chair) |
| Ann McIntyre | Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision |
| Julia Rosser | Public Health Specialist Registrar, Halton & St Helens PCT |
| Mark Grady | Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC |
| Simon Clough | Divisional Manager, 14 – 19 Services |
| Lorraine Crane | Divisional Manager, IYSS, HBC |
| Nigel Moorhouse | Operational Director, Children & Families Services, HBC |
| Steve Nyakatawa | Operational Director, Learning and Achievement, HBC |
| Jane Lunt | Operational Director, Child & Family Health, Halton & St Helens PCT |
| Catherine Johnson | Principal Performance & Improvement Officer, HBC |
| Emma Taylor | Divisional Manager, Team Around the Family Runcorn, HBC |
| Jonathan Potter | Divisional Manager, Team Around the Family Widnes, HBC |
| Karen Hickey | Assistant Policy Officer, HBC (minutes) |

Apologies

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Michelle Bradshaw | Assistant Director, Child & Family Services, Halton & St Helens PCT |
| Paula St Aubyn | Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review, HBC |
| Diane Sproson | Area Manager, Connexions |
| Gareth Jones | Warrington & Halton Youth Offending Team |

In Attendance

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Eileen O'Meara | Assistant Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT |
| Catherine Evans | Lead engagement officer, CYP Voluntary Sector Partnership |
| Marie Fairbrother, | Lead nurse for Safeguarding, Halton & St Helens PCT |

| Item | | Action |
|------|---|---------------------------|
| 1.0 | MATTERS ARISING from 05.07.11 | |
| 1.1 | IT Issues – letter has gone from David Parr and Jonathan Greenough is currently working with 5 boroughs partnership to progress actions. He will report back to the Executive Group in November. | Jonathan Greenough |
| 1.2 | Child and Family Poverty: the Strategy has now been signed off by chief officers and will soon be published. GM requested for the strategy to be brought to the next Executive Group meeting. | SN |
| 1.3 | Levels of Need Review – a report is currently being drafted and an initial report with recommendations will go to the EH&S Strategic Group, followed by the Children's Trust Executive in November. | NM |
| 1.4 | NEET – to be discussed at next Executive Group meeting | SC |

| | | |
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| <p>2.0</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> | <p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Melanie Foster from the Widnes GP consortium has expressed an interest in joining the Commissioning Partnership, AMc will take this forward. • The group have looked at the 25 key recommendations from the Allen Report and are conducting a review of services operating within Halton that come under these recommendations. Current feedback shows a small number of services are covered, and a task and finish group will look at what services are actually needed within Halton from the recommended list. • The group have been working with the DWP around support for vulnerable families who are looking to get back into work. • A large number of SEN appeals are currently being conducted, which is impacting on provision of service for the SEN pathfinder project. • The teenage pregnancy statistics for quarter 2 show a decrease in figures, and it is hoped that this trend will continue. Support from schools will be sought in order to promote services. • Discussions are currently taking place with Cheshire West around joint working with their commissioning team, and several prospective areas of work including training, mentoring and capacity building have been identified. <p>Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support</p> <p>The updated Action plan and minutes from the last group meeting were circulated to the Executive Group. Key actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A performance management framework is currently being established for the group • Recruitment, retention and development is also currently being examined, AMc proposed that this should be done jointly with the Commissioning Group to ensure a consistent approach • A frontline event for the EHaS group is planned for November focussing on embedding early help and support in all agencies • Anti-bullying and e-safety are now being managed through the EHaS group. • It has been agreed to take forward development of E-CAF, however this system is now in danger of being scrapped by central government • IWST workload is currently high, however this work is being done by a small team. The Children's Trust may need to consider how the IWST model should look and who should be part of the service. <p>Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft business plan and action plan has been produced, and the Executive Group were asked to endorse these. • Data from 2011 School results is being analysed and once validated will be reported on at the November meeting Early indications are that KS4 children in care results are positive • Bursary Scheme: consensus has been agreed between schools for | <p>AMc</p> |
|---|--|-------------------|

| | | |
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| | <p>how funding will be distributed across the borough, which will be based on free school meals eligibility. The amount will be £15 per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information advice and guidance to be discussed at next PPB meeting, KH to contact Gill Bennett to check if it is on the agenda | KH |
| 3.0 | INFORMATION ITEMS | |
| 3.1 | Children's Trust Performance Management Framework | |
| 3.1.1 | <p>Children's Trust Performance Report Q1 2011 – 12: The report illustrates how the subgroups report on progress back to the Trust. All indicators are now measurable with established data sources. Breastfeeding to be included as a future indicator. Additional information which provides evidence of joint working via case studies has also been included. KH to send email on behalf of performance team requesting evidence in this way. This information will then be stored in an improvement log which will be collated for future inspections.</p> | CJ KH |
| 3.1.2 | <p>SCS Indicators Report Card: These are the indicators which have been agreed for children and young people within the Sustainable Community Strategy. These measures will be monitored on a 6 monthly basis and reported on to Halton Strategic Partnership. CJ requested that an attainment measure from this report card to be included in the Children's Trust report card. SC agreed this, though this may need to be reviewed after the first year. A poverty indicator is still needed, SN to raise this at the Child Poverty Action Group. The Executive Group endorsed the measures.</p> | SN |
| 3.2 | <p>WNF Funding Update A number of projects were commissioned from the remaining WNF funding for 2011-12. The Commissioning Partnership has been asked whether any unspent funding is expected to remain at the end of the financial period, but this is unlikely. It is therefore important to convey to organisations currently receiving funding that resource will need to be put aside for redundancy costs. LC will lead on this. GM requested for this issue to be taken to SMT and COMT meetings.</p> | LC |
| 3.3 | <p>ReActions – A 3rd Review of Healthcare in the Community for Young People who Offend JL updated that the health offer within YOT has been improved over recent years, with improvement in assessments for mental and physical health. KH to check with GJ if this item is on the YOT board agenda.</p> | KH |
| 3.4 | <p>NHS Reforms Update JL updated the group on the current situation within NHS commissioning services. The aim of the changes is to put clinicians in charge of commissioning health services. Key changes will be brought about by a review of the Health and Social Care Bill in Autumn. The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will inherit statutory responsibilities (eg Safeguarding) which are currently fulfilled by PCTs. Responsibility for public health will transfer to local authorities.</p> <p>CCGs may need to re-group to cover larger areas, to enable more efficient ways of working. PCTs are also undertaking new cluster</p> | |

| | | |
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| | arrangements, and Halton is now part of the Mersey cluster. The PCT no longer provides services, but commissions Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust to provide them | |
| 3.5 | <p>Consultation on Public Health Structures</p> <p>This report sets out draft proposals for consultation on the future of public health and health improvement in Halton. It is proposed that public health will be transferring to the local authority, and Dwayne Johnson will be leading on this. The children's agenda will continue to be delivered as it is currently, though it will be managed through the Communities directorate. Dwayne Johnson to be invited to the next Executive meeting for further discussion. All comments to be forwarded to Dwayne Johnson by the 8th September (Dwayne.johnson@halton.gov.uk)</p> | KH ALL |
| 3.6 | <p>Short Breaks Statement</p> <p>It is now a legal requirement for all local authorities to publish a statement on short breaks provision for disabled children and young people. The draft statement for Halton was circulated to the group. The statement is intended for parents, carers and families. This is a live document which will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Executive Group endorsed the statement.</p> | |
| 3.7 | <p>Children in Care from other Local Authorities (CiCOLA)</p> <p>This is currently an issue in Halton as we have the largest proportion in the north west, which has a significant financial impact on the borough's resources. In order to ensure that cases are being reported and recorded accurately notifications are now being managed within the Commissioning Team. An assessment of numbers is currently underway and will be completed by October, and this will then be monitored on an on-going monthly basis.</p> | |
| 3.8 | <p>Early Intervention – Summary of 2nd Allen Report</p> <p>A summary of the follow up report was circulated to the group for information. The Allen reports and recommendations will hopefully introduce a more joined up approach to early help and support. AMc to be asked to look at a formal approach to community budgets.</p> | AMc |
| 3.9 | <p>Healthy Weight Strategy 2011 – 2016</p> <p>A new Healthy Weight strategy is currently being drafted consultation is currently being sought from various sources including the Children's Trust. A key aim of the new strategy will be to enable young people to lead healthy active lives, and a variety of training for children, families and for staff working with them is proposed around this.</p> | |
| 3.10 | <p>Smokefree Northwest Progress Report</p> <p>The report highlights some of the activities that Smoke Free Northwest have undertaken which children will benefit from. A key activity was a consultation with families, and the outcome of this was that families don't want their children exposed to smoke. Halton has also been included in an incentive scheme for pregnant smokers, whereby vouchers are issued for each month that they quit smoking for during the pregnancy. A toolkit around the dangers of cheap imported tobacco has also been developed for schools and colleges.</p> | |

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| 3.11 | HSCB/Children's Trust Joint Event Report The report was circulated for information, and provides feedback on the 2011 event which was held in June. The event focussed on outcomes from the Munro review, and discussion workshops took place around this. It was proposed by the group that the 2012 event should take place in February/March. Ideas for key themes for the event to be discussed at the next Executive meeting, suggestions to be forwarded to MG. KH to draft a list of proposed dates for the event to be discussed jointly at the next meeting. | ALL KH/MG |
| 3.12 | Minutes from HSCB Board and Executive Meetings The minutes were circulated for information. | |
| 4.0 | AOB Date and Time of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th October, <u>2:30pm</u>, The Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes (please note later start time) • 29th November, Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall | |

Outstanding Actions to date:

| Item | Action Required | Who by | When by |
|-------|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1.1 | IT Issues –Jonathan Greenough to report back to the Executive Group in November | KH (agenda) | |
| 1.2 | Child and Family Poverty: Strategy to be brought to the October Executive Group meeting | SN | |
| 1.3 | Levels of Need Review – report to come to Executive Group in November. | NM | |
| 1.4 | NEET – to be discussed at October Executive Group meeting | SC | |
| 2.1 | Dr Melanie Foster from the Widnes GP consortium has expressed an interest in joining the Commissioning Partnership, AMc will take this forward. | AMc | |
| 2.3 | Information advice and guidance to be discussed at next PPB meeting, KH to contact Gill Bennett to check if it is on the agenda | KH | completed |
| 3.1.1 | Children's Trust Performance Report Q1 2011 – 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfeeding to be included as a future indicator. Additional information which provides evidence of joint working via case studies has also been included. • KH to send email on behalf of performance team requesting evidence in this way. | CJ KH | completed |
| 3.1.2 | SCS Indicators Report Card: A poverty indicator is still needed, SN to raise this at the Child Poverty Action Group | SN | |
| 3.2 | WNF Funding Update The Commissioning Partnership has been asked whether any unspent funding is expected to remain at the end of the financial period, but this is unlikely. It is therefore important to convey to organisations currently receiving funding that | | |

| | | | |
|------|--|---|-----------|
| | resource will need to be put aside for redundancy costs. LC will lead on this. GM requested for this issue to be taken to SMT and COMT meetings | LC | |
| 3.3 | ReActions – A 3rd Review of Healthcare in the Community for Young People who Offend KH to check with GJ if this item is on the YOT board agenda. | KH | completed |
| 3.5 | Consultation on Public Health Structures Dwayne Johnson to be invited to the next Executive meeting for further discussion. All comments on proposals to be forwarded to Dwayne Johnson by the 8 th September (Dwayne.johnson@halton.gov.uk) | KH ALL | completed |
| 3.8 | Early Intervention – Summary of 2nd Allen Report - AMc to be asked to look at a formal approach to community budgets. | AMc | |
| 3.11 | HSCB/Children’s Trust Joint Event Report Ideas for key themes for the event to be discussed at the next Executive meeting, any suggestions for topics to be forwarded to MG. KH to draft a list of proposed dates for the event to be agreed jointly at the next meeting. | KH (agenda) ALL KH | |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| REPORT: | Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board |
| DATE: | 31 st October 2011 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise |
| SUBJECT: | Summary of Educational Attainment and Progress 2011 |
| WARDS: | Borough-wide |

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on Halton's 2011 school performance data for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stages 1 to 4.

(Data remains unvalidated until publication of performance tables later this term.)

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

The Board note the attainment of children in Halton schools for the 2010 / 11 academic year

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Foundation Stage Profile

The Foundation Stage Profile is a continual assessment of a child's ability and is undertaken throughout reception. It is based on observation of the child's development in 6 key areas of learning which are Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED); Communication Language and Literacy (CLL); Problem Solving Reasoning and Numeracy (PSRN); Knowledge and Understanding of the World (K & U); Creative Development (CD) and Physical Development (PD). Children are assessed against a 9 point scale with a score of 6+ considered to be 'secure' knowledge. The key national indicator is a score of 6+ in both PSED and CLL.

The national data for 2011 is not yet available for comparison. The main headlines for Halton (2011) are:

3.2 Personal Social and Emotional Development :

In 2011, 72.6% of the reception cohort achieved 6+ points in PSED. This is down 3.2% on last year's performance. Looking at data for 2008 and 2009 it would appear that there was a particularly strong cohort in 2010.

3.3 Communication, language and literacy

51.6% achieved 6+ points in CLL. Again this is down 2.6% on 2010 but is higher than both 2008 and 2009. The average attainment of 9 wards was above this level. This is disappointing given the focus upon developing literacy skills through the implementation of a range of programmes.

3.4 PSED and CLL:

In 2011 48.3% achieved 6+ points in PSED and CLL. This is down 2.2% on last year but is higher than 2008 and 2009.

3.5 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Total Score:

In 2011, 71.9% of children achieved at least 78 points across EYFSP. This is down 3% on 2010, but is higher than 2008.

There were some improvements in maths with 88.8% achieving 6+ points in Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy Scores and 29.4% achieving 8+ points. These are both higher than 2010 in all PSRN areas.

3.6 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Targets

There are 2 statutory targets set for EYFSP. These targets are set at LA level not school level.

1. The % of children scoring 6+ in *all* PSED scales and *all* CLL scales and the % with a total of 78 points or more.

In 2011 the threshold target was 54.7%, actual attainment was 48.3%. (2010 national was 56%). This is a 1.6% increase compared to 2009.

2. The % gap between the median point score and the average score of the lowest attaining 20% of the cohort.

In 2011 the equalities target was 26.5%, actual gap was 29.9%. Although adrift of target, the gap has narrowed by 1.5% from 2009.

There are some contextual factors which may account for the drop in attainment this year. This year reception teachers have used child initiated tasks as observation evidence rather than teacher directed, this has had a major impact on scores. CLL and Creative Development were moderated this year which may also have had an impact on scores. In addition there were 12 teachers new to reception this year who are new to the EYFSP assessment process.

There has been a significant investment in funding for vulnerable two year olds. Those children who have been funded at two haven't yet reached reception classes. We are hopeful of future impact upon assessment as a result of this early intervention.

4.0 KEY STAGE 1

At Key Stage 1 a child's attainment in Reading, Writing, and Maths is assessed during Year 2. The main headlines for Halton are summarised as follows:

Reading attainment has decreased by 0.4% at Level 2+, 4.7% at Level 2B+ and 2.2% at Level 3.

Writing attainment has decreased by 1.6% at Level 2+, 3.4% at Level 2B+ and 0.9% at Level 3.

Maths attainment has decreased by 0.4% at Level 2+ and 1.4% at Level 3 but has increased by 0.3% at Level 2B+.

4.1 It was disappointing to see that there has been a decline at level 2b+ in reading and writing despite the focus upon improving literacy across the Borough and the targeting of support through a range of literacy programmes. However, despite the decline, Halton's attainment at the expected Level 2b+ remains broadly in line with national across reading, writing and maths:

- Reading 73%, national 72%
- Writing 58%, national 60%
- Maths 71%, national 73%

4.2 Over the last three years Halton's attainment at Level 2B+ has fluctuated in both Reading and Writing but has remained approximately the same in Maths. There has been success in closing the gap between boys and girls attainment at Level 2B+. In Reading this has narrowed by 1.2% and in Writing by 4.1%. The gap in Maths has widened by 1.3%. Girls outperform boys in reading, writing and maths and this is the same as national picture.

4.3 Children in Care

There was 1 child in care in Year 2 (KS1) this academic year. Attainment was in line with the national expectation with level 2 achieved in reading, writing, speaking and listening and maths

5.0 KEY STAGE 2

At Key Stage 2 a child's attainment is assessed in English, Reading, Writing, and Maths during Year 6. The main KS2 headlines for Halton are as follows:

Halton has once again exceeded national outcomes in the Key Stage 2 tests with 77% of children in the Borough attaining the national expectation in English and maths at age 11, compared to 74% nationally. Halton's attainment has remained at the same high level as 2010, compared to a 1% increase nationally.

Whilst there has been a slight decline in maths at level 4, Halton's attainment remains higher than national.

As a result of the continued raising of standards in school improvement Halton schools have made a 5% gain in expected attainment at level 4+ English and maths combined over the past 5 years compared to a national gain of only 3%.

Halton children are also performing well at the higher level 5 in English and maths with an increase in 2011 placing Halton schools in line with the national average of 23%.

| | Eng and maths level 4+ 2010 | Eng and maths level 4+ 2011 | English level 4+ 2010 | English level 4+ 2011 | Maths level 4+ 2010 | Maths level 4+ 2011 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Halton | 76.9 | 76.7 | 82.4 | 82.5 | 83.6 | 82.2 |
| National | 73 | 74 | 80 | 81 | 79 | 80 |
| Difference | + 3.9 | +2.7 | +2.4 | +1.5 | +4.6 | +2.2 |

Halton's attainment at KS2 has resulted in Halton being ranked 29th out of 151 authorities nationally.

5.2 Key Stage 2 targets

There are 3 statutory targets:

- Halton's attainment in **English and maths level 4+** was **77%**, maintaining the Borough's high levels of attainment. The 2011 target of 77% was met and attainment was 3% higher than national (74%).
- **2 levels of progress English** was **86%** in 2011. Although 3% below target, attainment was 2% higher than national (84%).
- **2 levels of progress maths** was **86%** in 2011. Although 1% below target, attainment was 3% higher than national (83%).

5.3 Children in Care

There were 6 children in the year 6 cohort:

| | English | Maths | English + Maths |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| Achieved L4+ | 66.7% | 83% | 66.7% |
| Achieved L5+ | 17% | 33% | 17% |
| Achieved 2L progression | 83% | 100% | 83% |
| Achieved 3L progression | 33% | 33% | 17% |

These results are very positive overall as they exceed the prediction of 50% achieving L4+ in both English and Maths. There has also been a high number of children achieving or exceeding their predicted levels of progress which means that they are achieving or exceeding their own potential.

For those children who did not achieve their 2 levels of progress or attain L4+, further detailed analysis has not highlighted any previously unidentified significant issues that could have impacted on their performance. The

common factor for those children who did not achieve L4 in either subject was that they had been identified as having additional educational needs.

L4+ attainment for KS2 children in care compared with that of all Halton children is as follows:

| 2011 | English | Maths | English + Maths |
|------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| CIC | 66.7% | 83% | 66.7% |
| All Halton | 82.5% | 82% | 77% |
| Gap | -15.8 | +1 | -10.3 |

This does represents a considerable closing gap from last year's performance across all 3 indicators. However, each year's cohort numbers are very small and therefore the trend is not stable.

6.0 KEY STAGE 4

In 2011 Halton's 5+ A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths was 56%. This is the highest ever, and is six percentage points above 2010. This should place Halton broadly in line with the 2011 national average by this indicator.

5+ A* - C at 85% is also the highest ever, a three percentage points increase on 2010 and should place Halton well above the 2011 national average by this indicator.

Expected progress in English was only 3 points below the 2011 national median. Expected progress in maths was only 2 points below the national median (nationally 71% and 63% respectively). As a result Halton has virtually eliminated the gap between the Borough and national progress average.

The "English Baccalaureate" (EB) at 6% is broadly in line with 2010 performance. We were not expecting significant improvement in 2011 since restructuring the curriculum to accommodate the EB takes two years to feed through. We are, however, expecting significant improvement in 2012.

The performance of pupils eligible for FSM at 5+ A* - C inc. En & Ma at 34.4% is the highest ever and up 5 points from 2010. However, since non FSM pupils improved by some 7 points from 2010 the gap has slightly widened.

6.1 Key Stage 4 targets

There are 3 statutory targets at KS4:

- **5+A* to C including English and Maths**

At 56% this is an increase of 6% compared to 2010. It is also 3% higher than the highly challenging statutory target of 53%. At 56% this is in line with FFT D estimates (FFT D reflects expected outcome to fall within the top 25% for attainment).

- **English KS2 to KS 4 3 Levels of progress**
The 2011 target is 64.8% - data not yet available
- **Maths KS2 to KS 4 3 Levels of progress**
The 2011 target is 59.7% - data not yet available

6.3 Children in Care

There were 15 young people in care in the year 11 cohort:

| | CIC | Halton | Gap |
|---|-------|--------|-----|
| 5A* - C | 44% | 83% | 39% |
| 5A* - C EM (Excluding Ormiston and PRU) | 25% | 56% | 26% |
| KS2 – KS4 3 level progression English (Excluding Ormiston and PRU) | 31% | 68% | 37% |
| KS2 – KS4 3 level progression Maths (Excluding Ormiston and PRU) | 37.5% | 60.5% | 23% |

These results are very positive as the cohort also included 2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, 3 young people who were educated in special schools and did not take GCSEs, and 2 young people who were educated other than at school.

In comparison with last year's attainment performance has significantly improved on all indicators with the exception of 1A* - G. In addition, the attainment gap compared with all Halton young people has also narrowed compared to 2010.

The attainment trend for KS4, whilst erratic due to the small numbers, is also showing improvements.

For those children who did not achieve their 3 levels of progress or attain 5A* - C EM further detailed analysis has not highlighted any previously unidentified significant issues that could have impacted on their performance. The common factors for underachievement were that they had been identified as having additional educational needs and in addition for some young people involvement with the Youth Justice system.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

No other implications have been identified.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

Educational attainment is key to the future life chances of children and young people in Halton. It also provides a proxy to the work being done with vulnerable children in the borough and the critical priority area of closing the gap.

Educational attainment of children and young people will have a significant impact on future employment, learning and skills of Halton's population.

10.0 RISK ANALYSIS

N / A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

N / A

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

None under the meaning of the Act

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

DATE: 31ST October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Climbie Visits

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to PPB on the conduct of and outcomes from Climbie Visits to front line Child in Need Teams.
- 1.2 To review the outcomes from the recommendations reported to PPB on 21st February 11

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **Refresher Training is provided towards the end of the year to update Members and review processes**
- ii) **Rota to be developed for next year and circulated by December**
- iii) **Update report to be brought back in six months**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The purpose of the Climbe Visit is to;

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

3.1 Update on Recommendations from 21st February

- 3.2 **Members who have completed the recent training and agreed to become Climbie visitors are encouraged to complete and return CRB forms or provide evidence of Current enhanced CRB held in their role as Councillors, so that a rota of visits can be established.**

Members have provided evidence of enhanced CRB disclosures or applications have been progressed. This has enabled a rota to be drawn up and we currently have nine Members on the rota. This is working very well, the advantages of the rota are that Members have the opportunity to take an objective view of the service and pick up on different issues. In addition some Members have visited both Child in Need Runcorn Runcorn and Child in Need Widnes and this helps to ensure that a consistent service is provided.

3.3 That following all Climbe Visits the report provided by Members and the responses made by relevant Managers should be reported to PPB and scrutinised twice a year.

Following Climbie visits reports are sent to the Divisional Manager Child Protection and Children in Need who responds to any issues that arise. Below is a summary of issues / positive developments that have been identified as a result of visits and the responses.

| Issue Highlighted | Response |
|--|---|
| Work loads / Caseloads are high. | <p>The CiN service has seen an increase in referrals of 15% this year which is being carefully monitored. Work flows are being considered to look at what work can move to the Children in Care Service as case loads are reducing in that service. The Team Around the Family which provides Early Help and Support to families is beginning to be embedded across partners although it may be sometime before this begins to impact.</p> <p>Managers work closely with social workers to ensure that caseloads are manageable and all children are safeguarded.</p> |
| Car Parking | Car parking is often raised by staff as this perceived as an issue. In fact there is access to free parking at both offices with public car parks near by. |
| Staff Support and Retention. Noted that teams are fully staffed in terms of social work and staff talk positively of | Staff do have access to support and training and this does impact positively on retention. Additionally 'grow your own' |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>access to opportunities to develop.</p> <p>Staff morale remains high.</p> | <p>schemes have supported unqualified staff to become qualified workers. A full social work compliment helps to ensure children are safeguarded.</p> |
| <p>IT issues, multiple systems, reliable IT, opportunities for working at home.</p> | <p>Lap tops have been rolled out in the teams and whilst there were problems initially they have been resolved. Staff are encouraged to work at home when possible and IT have helped staff to set up at home when they have experienced difficulties.</p> <p>Carefirst 6 has gone live in one of the teams and has been generally welcomed. IT are working closely with the service to resolve problems as they arise.</p> |
| <p>Accommodation for supervised contact.</p> | <p>Principal Managers reminded to ensure that risk assessments are in place to ensure that venues for contact are safe and appropriate.</p> |

3.4 **That the focus of Climbe Visits should give increased scrutiny to the core business of Contact, Referral and Assessment processes and performance data should routinely be discussed and understood.**

As evidenced in the table above there is increased scrutiny of core business. It is important that Members are aware of case loads and the impact this has on the service and ensure that children are safeguarded.

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 development of the rota and commitment from Members to undertake these important visits has had a very positive impact and needs to be maintained to ensure the visits happen regularly.

This will ensure that Members have a good understanding of the issues that impact on front line services and ensure that services continue to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the borough. .

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

All Children in Need are subject to regulated service provision. From April 2009 annual unannounced inspections of Contact, Referral and Assessment Teams have taken place. Halton had an Inspection in May 2010 and can expect a second inspection at any time. Climbie Visits 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

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If Climbie Visits are not conducted regularly and effectively, the Council will be in breach of recommendation 41 of Lord Laming's Inquiry. This will have a detrimental impact upon the rating of children services and the wider Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The teams provide services to the most vulnerable children in the

borough. The service is available to all children and their families who meet the criteria at level 3b / 4 of Halton's Level of need. This includes all those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010

9.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

9.1 N/A

10.0 **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 |
| | | |
| | | |

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

DATE: 31st October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

SUBJECT: Basic Need Capital Allocation 2011/12

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the agreed basic needs capital projects for 2011/2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the projects.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In December 2010 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2011/12 which included an allocation of £1,689,618 for Basic Need.
- 3.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 14th July 2011 approval was given for the development of capital projects to address basic need at Windmill Hill Primary School, Weston Primary School, Lunts Heath Primary School and St Bede's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools.
- 3.3 The Department for Education has allocated each local authority funding to address basic need. This funding has been allocated in recognition of the significant pressures local authorities are facing to provide additional school places, particularly in the primary sector. The additional pressure on primary places is largely as a result of the rising birth rates and the changed migration patterns.
- 3.4 Each LA has the responsibility for ensuring sufficient school places in its area and is required to consider all sectors of schools in prioritising this funding. All taxpayer-funded schools within each local authority are eligible for consideration; this includes voluntary-aided schools, open academies and new Free Schools where there are basic need pressures.
- 3.5 Following Executive Board on 14th July 2011 meetings have been held with the schools and the position is summarised as follows:

3.5.1 Windmill Hill Primary School

The numbers on roll at Windmill Hill Primary School have been increasing in recent years and the school is now exceeding its current capacity in a number of year groups. The impact on the school will continue to worsen as the small current years 5 and 6 leave. In the short term there is an immediate need to address the current shortage of classrooms by providing an additional classroom for the current capacity of 147 pupils and then to increase capacity to 175 pupils by the provision of a further classroom to address future demand. Estimated cost £352,378.

3.5.2 Weston Primary School

This school accommodation has been rationalised over time to reduce the admission number from 30 to 15, as in previous years the school suffered from surplus capacity. Therefore it is possible to increase the school capacity from 105 to 140 by bringing back into use two classrooms without significant building works being required. Estimated cost £30,000.

3.5.3 Lunts Heath Primary School

Lunts Heath Primary School is undersized for the number of pupils currently on role. The current pupil numbers already place a significant strain on the schools accommodation and organisation and it is expected that this will worsen as the smaller current years 5 and 6 leave and with higher numbers admitted. A proposal to increase the capacity from 315 to 350 pupils would require two additional classrooms with the need also to increase the size of the hall which is considerably undersized for current pupil numbers. Estimated cost £772,650.

3.5.4 St Bede's Catholic Infant School and St Bede's Catholic Junior School

These are two catholic voluntary aided schools. In Widnes East this type of provision is extremely limited with all VA schools in Widnes East being at or near capacity and with the lower years currently exceeding capacity in all schools. This shortfall of catholic provision is an area of concern and has been subject to discussion with the Liverpool Archdiocese. A proposal to increase the planned admission number from 60 to 75 pupils will require two additional classrooms in the Infants School as a first priority and two additional classrooms in the Junior School at a later stage as a Phase 2 of works. It is expected the local authority will receive further Basic Need capital funding for 2012/13 which will fund the Phase 2 works (estimated cost £450,000). Estimated cost of Phase 1 works £550,000.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The school building projects will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the learning environment in schools and provide sufficient accommodation for increased pupil numbers by the creation of 29 additional places at reception age.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The school building projects to be funded from the capital programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The capital programme will address the demand for pupil places by creating 29 additional pupil places and by addressing suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

N/A.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The capital programme will ensure that there are sufficient pupil places across the authority.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Basic Need capital allocation of £1,689,618 will be used to fund the works detailed above. It will be necessary to use the Basic Need capital allocation for 2012/13 to fund the Phase 2 works at St Bedes Junior School. Although schools prioritised for capital development will be asked to make a contribution towards the project as their devolved capital allocation has been reduced by the DFE the sum each school can contribute is likely to be very limited.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with the recommendations put forward by this paper.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Schools Announcement – DCSF 13/12/2010 | Capital Transforming Environments – Dee 2 – Grosvenor Runcorn | Childrens House Phil Dove |

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 31st October 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People
SUBJECT: Child in Need Contact, Referral and Assessment Analysis
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to afford Members the opportunity to scrutinise Referral and Assessment activity and provide an update on issues impacting on current performance within the Children in Need (CiN) service. This report focuses on the performance in relation to year end for 2010/11 with some comparisons on year end data for the year 2009/10.

1.2 It is important that Members have a good understanding of this performance and are satisfied that adequate strategies are in place to ensure that the children of Halton are safeguarded. Ofsted Inspections of Contact, Referral and Assessment processes in other Local authorities have criticised the failure to scrutinise safeguarding practices and the poor understanding of issues impacting on performance.

1.3 Children's Social Care is made up of a number of services. The CiN service provides contact referral and assessment services to Children in need and those in need of protection, including those Children with a disability who require a social worker. The Permanence team provides services to children in care who have a plan of permanence and the Young People's team provides services to care leavers and Children in Need who are 16+. The fostering team and adoption team undertake family finding and recruitment of carers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The content of the report is noted.**
- ii) **Halton Safeguarding children's Board continues to scrutinise the work of the Children's Trust in relation to the Team Around the Family and Early and Support Services**
- iii) **Halton Safeguarding Children's board supports the work**

of the Pan Cheshire Strategic Group in relation to establishing appropriate CAVA pathways once pilots are complete

- iv) An Update Report is on Q1 and Q2 performance is presented to PPB in six months**
- v) Further analysis is undertaken to understand the increase in referrals.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Referrals

A referral is a request to Children's Social Care for a service or advice that is accepted by Children's Social Care for allocation for assessment.

- There were 1419 referrals received, compared to 1216 in 09/10. This is an increase of 15%
- Police generated 556 or 40% of referrals through the police CAVA system.
- Approximately 598 or 43 % of the referrals to CSC closed within three months. of the cases closed 226 or 44% were originally police referrals via the CAVA notification process.
- The main reasons for referral continue to be Family Dysfunction 49%, Domestic Abuse 21% and 17% Neglect.

3.2 Contacts

A contact is a request to Children's Social Care for a service or advice that is not accepted for allocation for assessment as it does not meet the criteria for access to assessment at Levels 3b and 4 of Halton's Level of Need Criteria.

- There were additionally 1372 contacts during the period. 425 or 30%of these contacts were generated by Police CAVAS, which did not meet the levels of needs at 3b to 4.

3.3 Completion of Assessments

The performance in relation to the completion of Initial and Core Assessments within timescales for the end of year stands at 79% for Initial Assessments within 7 days 88.8% within 10days, and 91% for Core Assessments. This Data has not been completely quality assured and may be subject to slight alteration. This is compared to and end of year total in 2009/10 of 80.3% of IA's within 7days and 93.7% of Core Assessments.

There has been an increase in the numbers of assessments completed this year, 1330 Initial Assessments have been completed compared to 1126 for 09/10, an increase of approximately 18%. 591 Core Assessments have been completed compared to 477 in 09/10, an increase of approximately 24%.

The number of Initial Assessments that subsequently become Core Assessments has shown a small increase from 42% in 09/10 to 44% 10/11. This conversion rate is one indication of appropriateness of referrals, i.e. if referrals are appropriate then it is likely that they will need a sustained intervention, however 66% of referrals did not go on to a more detailed Core Assessment. It is also possible that not all cases that require a Core Assessment are receiving one and this will be monitored via the Independent review of Child in Need cases.

3.4 Caseloads and Social Work Capacity

The total number of open CiN cases as of 31st March 10 was 657.

There are currently no social worker vacancies within the CiN service following a successful round of recruitment.

Below is a table of social worker case Loads within CiN as of 31st March 2011. This gives a snapshot of caseloads as they do change from day to day. A Caseload management tool has been developed to aid discussion in supervision about caseloads and assist in understanding the workload for individual workers.

| Team | Worker | CiC | CiN | CP | Total |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| CC1 Runcorn | SW P/T | | 9 | | 9 |
| | SW2 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 18 |
| | SW3 TAF | | 5 | | 5 |
| | SW4 | 1 | 23 | 6 | 30 |
| | SW5 | 4 | 20 | 2 | 26 |
| | SW6 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 30 |
| | SW7 | | 22 | 6 | 28 |
| | SW8 | 3 | 22 | 1 | 26 |
| | SW students | | 9 | | 9 |
| | CSWs | | 4 | | 4 |
| | Prac Manager | | 2 | | 2 |
| Totals | | 14 | 154 | 19 | 187 |
| CC2 Runcorn | SW1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 16 |
| | SW2 | 1 | 24 | | 25 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | SW3 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 17 |
| | SW4 | 1 | 27 | 3 | 31 |
| | SW5 | 1 | 31 | 1 | 33 |
| | SW6 | | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| | SW7 | | 16 | | 16 |
| | SW students | | 19 | | 19 |
| | CSWs | | 17 | | 17 |
| | Prac Managers | 1 | 3 | | 4 |
| Totals | | 6 | 179 | 12 | 197 |
| CC3 Widnes | SW1 | 5 | 23 | 6 | 34 |
| | SW2 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 23 |
| | SW3 | | 14 | 7 | 21 |
| | SW4 | | 19 | 3 | 22 |
| | SW5 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 15 |
| | SW6 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 21 |
| | SW7 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 22 |
| | SW8 | | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| | SW9 | | 14 | 5 | 19 |
| | SW students | | 14 | | 14 |
| | CSWs | | 16 | | 16 |
| | Prac Manager | | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals | | 11 | 182 | 45 | 238 |

- Despite the increase in Referrals the vast majority of cases are managed on a CiN basis and overall Child Protection (CP) Plan numbers and Children in Care (CiC) numbers have remained stable. At year end CP plans were at 77 and CiC 127. There has been an increase in the number of CP plans in the first two months of this year and they currently stand at 84. It is not unusual for there to be spikes in numbers due to the nature of the work.
- The Safeguarding unit has developed a system for the independent review of CiN cases similar to the challenge and the over view that is provided for Children subject to Child Protection Plans and Children in Care. This has further strengthened the response to Children in Need and ensures that appropriate services are being provided at the appropriate level of need.

3.5 Work Flow.

Court activity continues to impact on the work of the CiN teams. In March11 there were 28 sets of Care proceedings. This is not due to an increase in issuing of proceedings but reflects the continued delays in the courts at the present time. There are currently 12 sets of Care proceedings that have been ongoing in excess of the 40 weeks laid down in the Public Law outline.

Children's Social Care are currently reviewing structures and as part of this process transfer points between CiN and the Permanence team will be reconsidered, given the considerable delays in the court process with a view to cases transferring at an earlier point.

3.6 **Management Capacity**

- Management capacity has improved over the past twelve months in the CiN service. There is currently 1.5 Practice Manager vacancies, and the four Principal Manager positions are filled.
- The Practice Manager vacancies create pressure in terms of supervision points, authorising assessments and other critical reports and documentation, the chairing of key meetings including Core Groups and CiC planning meetings and the duty manager rota. Additionally the practice managers currently in post are new to management and as such require additional support and mentoring which places additional pressure on Principal Managers.
- Working Together 2010 states that an assessment is deemed completed “.. once the assessment has been discussed with the child and the family and the team manager has viewed and authorised the assessment”. This in effect means that managers have to be available to authorise assessments on a daily basis and are spending increasing time in front of computers. It is hoped that the Munro review of Child Protection will have an impact in extending the timescales for assessment with increased emphasis on quality and less on process.
- Halton is committed to developing a ‘grow your own’ traineeship for social workers who are aspiring managers, building on the success of social work traineeship and student intake scheme.
- The Divisional Manager CiN continues to meet regularly with Principal Managers to focus on performance issues.

3.7 **Performance / Data**

- Considerable time is currently spent on ‘data tidy up’. This is exacerbated by the four systems that Social workers and their managers currently have to operate, Carefirst, ICS, team drives and Paper files. Most information has to be inputted at least twice on two separate systems.

- The development of Carefirst 6 is progressing well and the first team will go live within CiN on 6th June 11. This should have a positive impact on the workload of social workers removing the need for double inputting and multiple systems. It is likely that there will be a dip in performance initially whilst workers and managers get used to the new system.
- Electronic social care records are still some time off, however, a decision will be made to cease printing documents that are held on Carefirst 6 given that records will be on one system. All other documentation, letters, correspondence etc will be held on the paper file. This will reduce the burden on workers to maintain paper files as the primary record.

3.8 **Summary**

There continues to be considerable pressure within the children in need teams. It is a credit to the workers and managers that despite a significant increase in referrals and assessments completed, performance has been maintained to a high standard. Further analysis is required to understand these increases, and ensure that the CiN service does not become overwhelmed by the increase in workload.

The Munro Review of Child Protection recommends combining Initial and Core Assessments and increasing emphasis on working with and supporting families, appropriately, reducing the bureaucratic burden on workers and the emphasis on process. This has been broadly welcomed by all within the service and it is hoped that the Government will endorse this recommendation.

The numbers of Children in Care and Children subject to a Child Protection Plan remain stable and there is evidence of robust safeguarding and care planning processes. There are no unallocated cases. It is hoped that the work of the Pan Cheshire CAVA Strategic group and the pilots that are being undertaken will lead to a reduction in inappropriate referrals to children's social care. The CAVA pathways that are being developed which include the Integrated Working Support team will lead to earlier help and support being provided to families.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The work of the Child in Need teams is underpinned by Working Together 2010. The main purpose is to provide services to the most vulnerable children including those in need of protection. This is a statutory function that is measured through a series of national Indicators. The performance of these teams impacts on all aspects

of Children's Social Care and it is essential that we ensure that our safeguarding processes through the duty referral and assessment process remain robust.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The teams are currently awaiting their second Ofsted Unannounced Inspection which will have an impact on the councils over all rating. Whilst this report high lights some of the current difficulties and constraints it is important to emphasise that in Halton we have very high standards in respect of safeguarding children and robust responses to Child Protection issues.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

All Children in need are subject to regulated services which will be inspected by Ofsted. It is important that members have a good understanding of the work of the front line teams and are assured that Contact, Referral and Assessment processes are robust and safeguard 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

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If Contact Referral and Assessment processes are not robust and do not ensure that children are safeguarded and protected from harm, then children will remain vulnerable to poor outcomes and the service will receive poor Inspection outcomes which will impact on the over all rating of the council.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The teams provide services to the most vulnerable children in the borough. The service is available to all children and their families who meet the criteria at level 3b / 4 of Halton's Level of need. This includes all protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010

9.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Not Applicable

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Working Together to Safeguard Children 20010 | Grosvenor House | Vicky Buchanan |
| Halton safeguarding Board Child Protection procedures | Grosvenor House www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk | Vicky Buchanan |

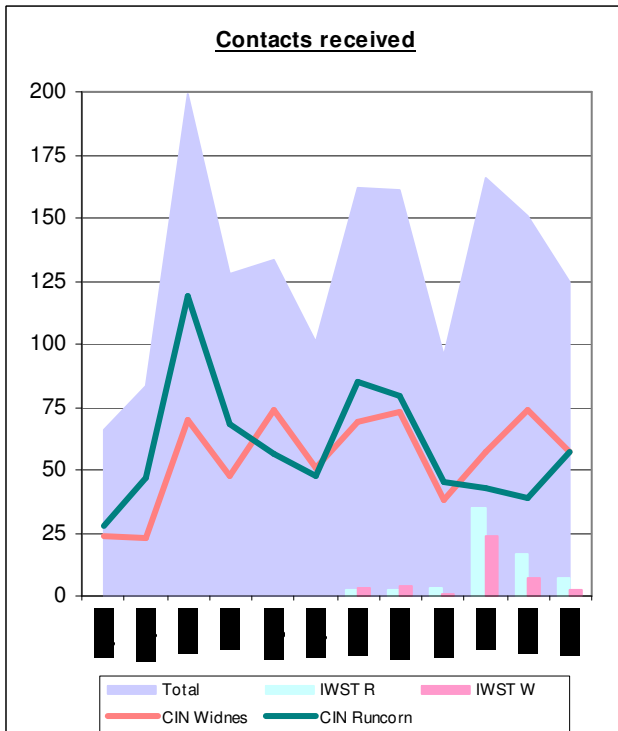
APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING DATA

1.1 Contacts

During the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 there were 1566 contacts to children’s social care in relation to 1140 children. The information that follows below is the breakdown of these contacts;

- by month and quarter received
- team with whom the contact was received
- from whom the contact was received
- the presenting issue recorded
- the town recorded as the home address for the child about whom the contact was made.

There is also a map detailing the contacts by ward, to provide information about where the contacts are made from.



This chart details the breakdown of the contacts by month, and the team receiving the contact. Please note that the few contacts passed to YPT, EDT and AFS are not included individually, but are included in the total count.

Over the past 12 months the number of contacts has varied considerably from month to month, with peaks in June, October and November and January. The total figures include the contacts logged to the IWST teams and the lines on the chart represent the Child in Need teams who have seen some a small change in the numbers of contacts, although the impact has been minimal so far.

| | CIN Runcorn | CIN Widnes | IWST Runcorn | IWST Widnes | Other |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Police | 216 | 209 | | | 13 |
| Health | 85 | 133 | 4 | 7 | 32 |
| Friend/Family/Neighbour | 99 | 82 | 3 | 1 | 18 |
| Education | 100 | 59 | 31 | 10 | 1 |
| Other LA | 78 | 46 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
| Service Provider | 24 | 53 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Social Care | 11 | 22 | 1 | 14 | 5 |
| Other | 23 | 14 | | 1 | 9 |
| Housing | 21 | 4 | 1 | | 1 |
| Anonymous | 14 | 7 | | | 1 |
| Probation | 14 | 8 | | | |
| YOT | 17 | 3 | | | 1 |
| CAF/CASS | 10 | 2 | | | |
| Self | 1 | 7 | | | |
| Advocate | | 4 | | | |

This table details all of the contacts made, by the source of the contact and by the receiving team. Some have been grouped to allow for easier analysis.

Police account for 28% of the contacts made during the year, and 14% for Health. 46% of the contacts were made to CIN Runcorn, and 42% to CIN Widnes.

Of the contacts to the IWST team, the majority come from and

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Residential Home | | 3 | 1 | | |
| Councillor/ Politician | | 2 | | | 1 |
| Not Known | 1 | | | | |

education source and a few from other local authorities.

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Advice given | 82 | 97 | 171 | 102 |
| DV – Threshold not met, advice letter sent | 33 | 35 | 23 | 29 |
| Financial S17 – no sw service require | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| Level of need does not meet threshold | 88 | 86 | 79 | 129 |
| Notification | 109 | 92 | 73 | 54 |
| Referral not appropriate | 19 | 33 | 32 | 14 |
| Referred for CAF | 11 | 6 | 28 | 100 |
| Referred to other service/resource | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Total: | 348 | 362 | 418 | 442 |

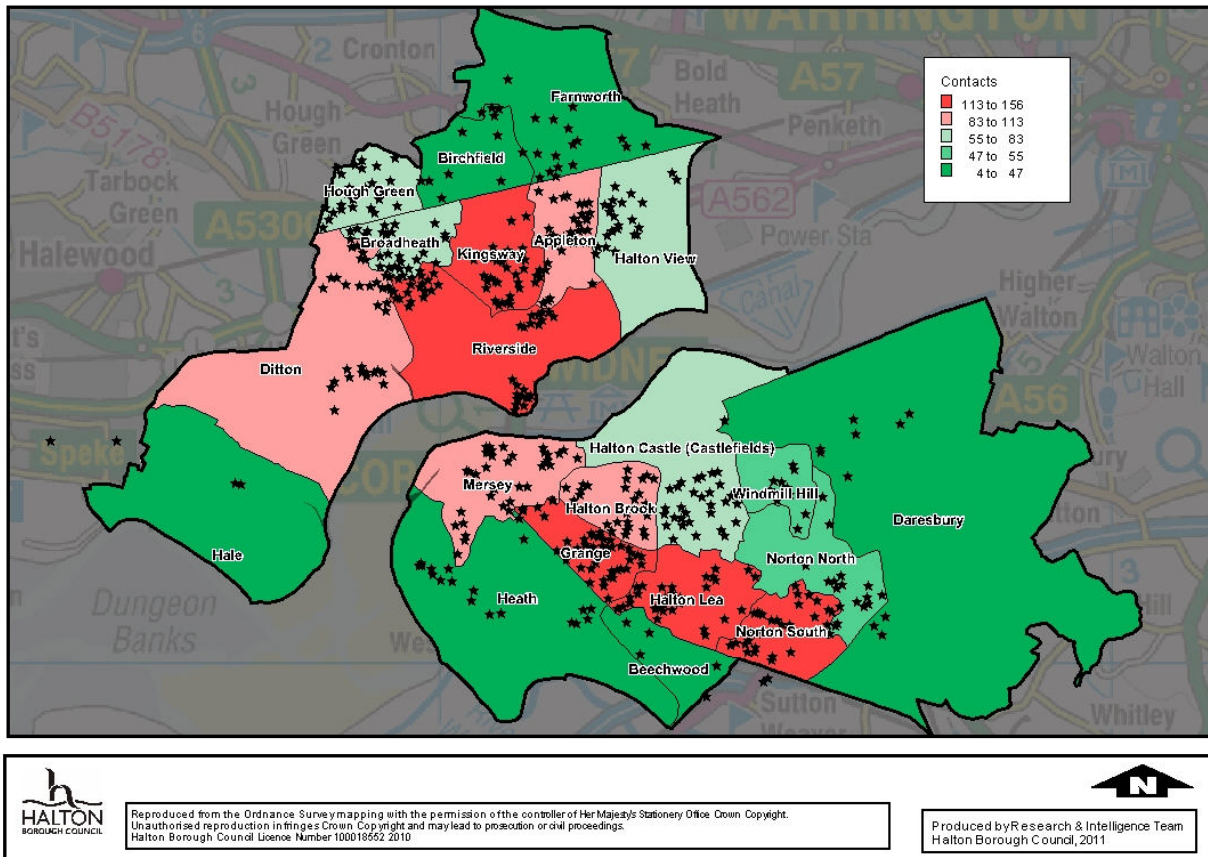
This table details all of the contacts, by presenting issue, according to the quarter contact received. There has been a significant increase in the number referred to CAF in line with IWST recording contacts on CareFirst over the last two quarters of the year. The last quarter also saw a significant increase in the number where the contact was recorded as the level of need does not meet the threshold.

| | CIN Runcorn | CIN Widnes | IWST Runcorn | IWST Widnes | Other |
|--|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Advice given | 279 | 151 | | 1 | 21 |
| DV – Threshold not met, advice letter sent | 56 | 62 | | | 2 |
| Financial S17 – no sw service require | 6 | 13 | | | 5 |
| Level of need does not meet threshold | 110 | 261 | | | 11 |
| Notification | 154 | 124 | | | 50 |
| Referral not appropriate | 77 | 20 | | | 1 |
| Referred for CAF | 24 | 15 | 66 | 40 | |
| Referred to other service/resource | 8 | 12 | | | 1 |
| Total: | 714 | 658 | 66 | 41 | 91 |

This table details all the contacts made by the presenting issue and the team receiving the contact.

This indicates that of the 145 contacts with an outcome of Referred for CAF, 106 of these were recorded for the IWST teams.

The proportions allocated to each presenting issue recorded for each of the CIN teams is different, with Runcorn having the majority recorded as Advice Given, and for Widnes as Level of need does not meet the threshold.



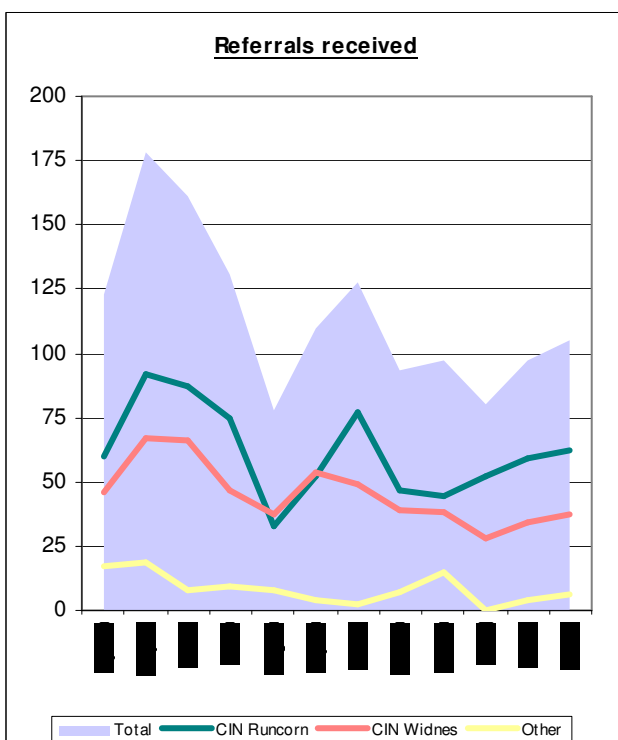
This map details all of the contacts where there was a Halton postcode available and groups the count by ward according to the colour code and the star indicates the actual postcodes.

1.2 Referrals

During the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 there were 1381 referrals to children's social care in relation to 1262 children. The information that follows below is the breakdown of these referrals;

- by month and quarter received
- team with whom the contact was received
- from whom the contact was received
- the presenting issue recorded
- the town recorded as the home address for the child about whom the contact was made.

There is also a map detailing the referrals by ward, to provide information about where the referrals originate from.



This chart details the breakdown of the referrals by month, and the team receiving the contact. Please note that the referrals for YPT and CCD are included in the Other count.

Over the past 12 months the number of referrals has varied considerably from month to month, with peaks in May, June, October and March with a significant dip in August. There has been slightly less fluctuation in the months since November.

The trend throughout the year however has been a decline, although it should be noted that there has been an overall increase in referrals during 2010/11 to 2009/10.

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Police | 213 | 132 | 110 | 101 |
| Health | 54 | 40 | 49 | 27 |
| Education | 49 | 16 | 28 | 39 |
| Other LA | 43 | 32 | 23 | 32 |
| Anonymous | 40 | 14 | 27 | 12 |
| Service Provider | 15 | 27 | 18 | 22 |
| Friend/ Family/ Neighbour | 18 | 25 | 27 | 9 |
| Other | 3 | 11 | 18 | 11 |
| Social Care | 7 | 4 | 6 | 13 |
| CAFCASS | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Housing | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Probation | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| Self | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Councillor/ Politician | 1 | | | 2 |
| YOT | 1 | 1 | | |
| Not known | 1 | | | |
| Residential Home | 1 | | | |
| Total: | 462 | 319 | 318 | 282 |

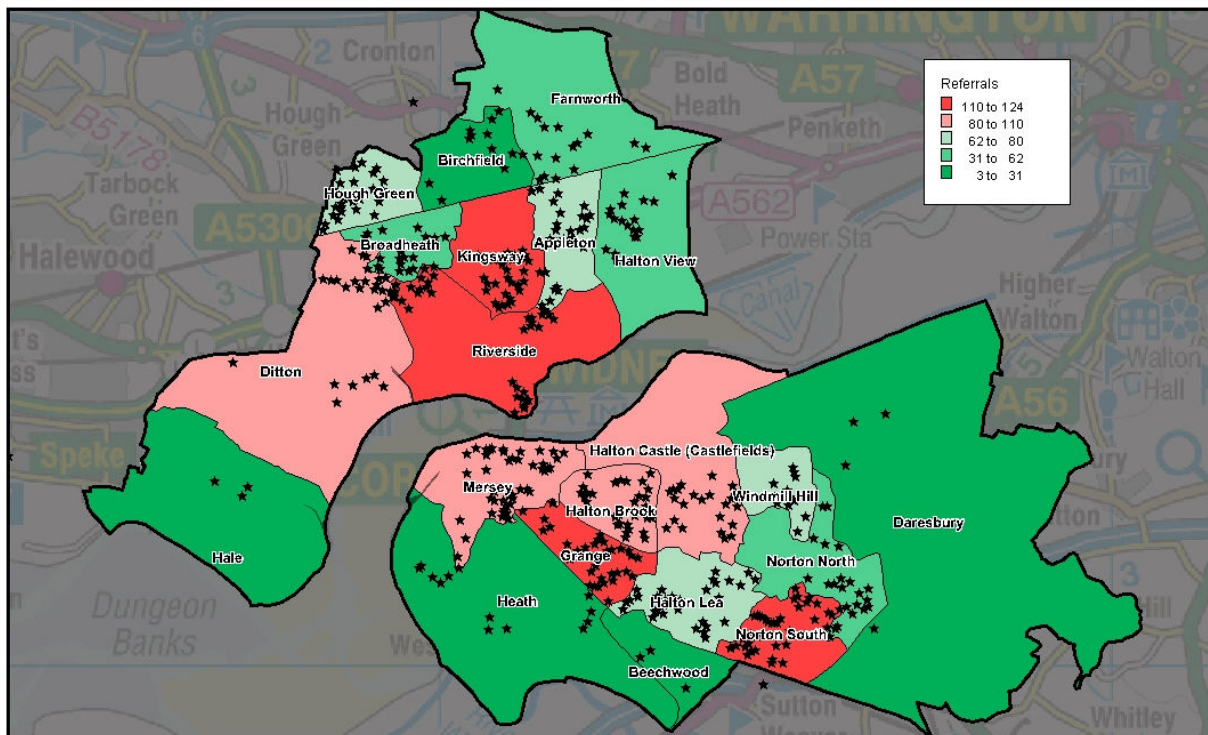
This table details all of the referrals made, by the source of the contact and by quarter received. Some have been grouped to allow for easier analysis.


Police account for 40% of the referrals made during the year, and 12% for Health.

| | CIN Runcorn | CIN Widnes | Other |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Behavioural Issue | 11 | 8 | 4 |
| Communication | | | 1 |
| Mobility | | | 3 |
| Need for Assessment | 2 | | |
| S17 Adolescent Service | 6 | | |
| S17 Disability | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| S17 Domestic Abuse | 145 | 136 | 12 |
| S17 Family Dysfunction | 385 | 270 | 27 |
| S17 Neglect | 150 | 68 | 20 |
| S17 Request for S37 report | 3 | | |
| S17 Socially Unacceptable Behaviour | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| S47 Emotional Abuse | 2 | 5 | |
| S47 Neglect | 11 | 7 | 1 |
| S47 Physical Abuse | 15 | 21 | 26 |
| S47 Sexual Abuse | 3 | 13 | 1 |
| Substance Dependency | 1 | | |
| Suspected Abuse | 2 | | |
| Total: | 740 | 542 | 99 |


This table details all of the referrals, by presenting issue (grouped where possible), according to the team receiving the referral. S17 Family Dysfunction accounts for 49% of the referrals, with 21% for S17 Domestic Abuse and 17% for S17 Neglect.

For both CIN Runcorn and Widnes Family Dysfunction accounts for the largest proportion, however in Runcorn there is significantly more referrals with S17 Neglect recorded than in Widnes.





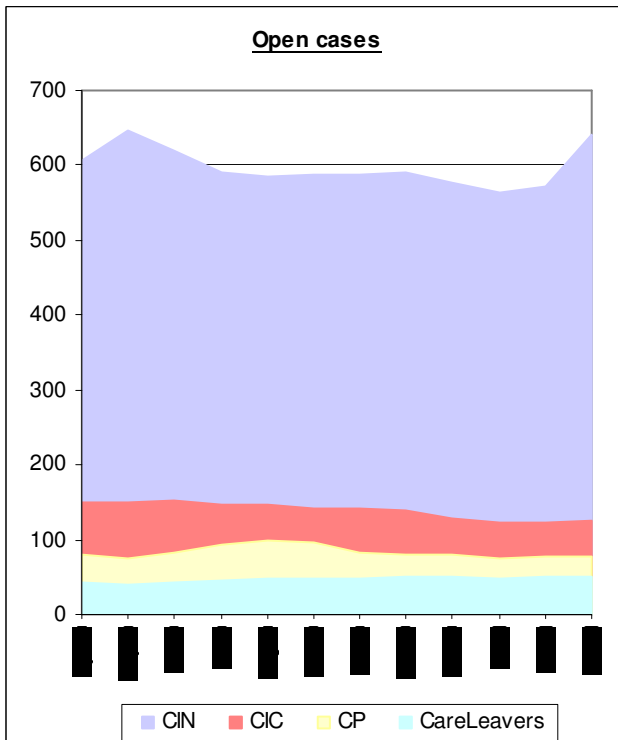
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Produced by Research & Intelligence Team
Halton Borough Council, 2011

This map details all of the referrals where there was a Halton postcode available and groups the count by ward according to the colour code and the star indicates the actual postcodes.

1.3 Children in Need population



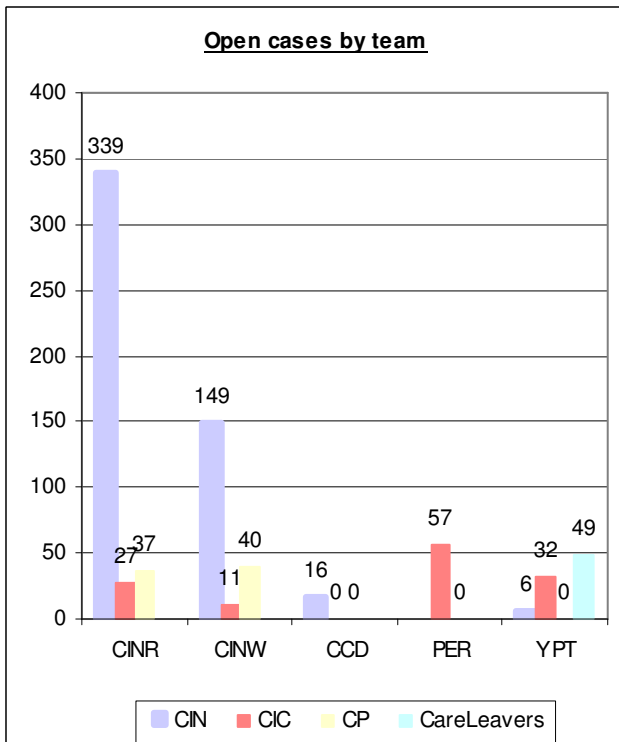
This chart details the open cases by type of case over the past reporting year.

The population of Children in Need varies from month to month but is on average 600. The provisional data for the end of March shows an increase, however it is expected that once data is cleansed at the end of June, this will reduce slightly.

There has been a continued reduction in the number of children in care in Halton with the population reducing from 147 at the start of the year, to 128 at the end of the year.

Children subject to child protection plans also varies, with the numbers peaking in July to September and the average population for the year has been 83.

There has been a slight increase in care leavers from 43 at the end of April to 49 at the end of March. This ties with the reduction of children in care as many young people reached 18 during the year.



This chart details the breakdown of open cases by team by type of case from the provisional data at the 31st March 2011.

The majority of the Children in Need cases are held within the Children in Need teams, the majority of which are held by the Runcorn team.

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families PPB

DATE: 31 October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

SUBJECT: Compliments (Service User Feedback) relating to Children and Enterprise Directorate.

PERIOD: 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide PPB with an update, and feedback on Compliments and Positive Service User Feedback relating to the Children and Enterprise Directorate.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That

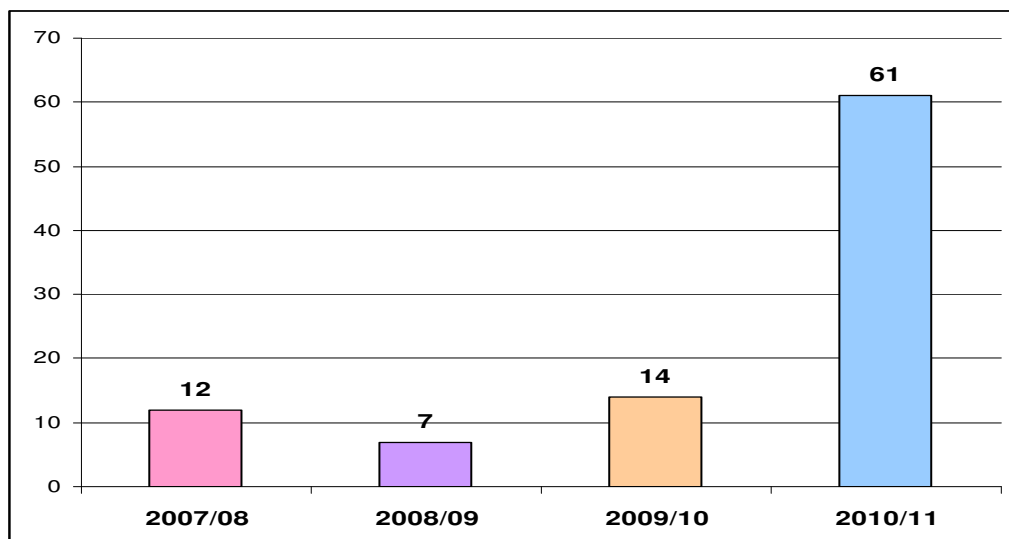
2.1 **The report is accepted as the mechanism by which the Local Authority is kept informed of the positive outcomes for individuals using the services, and continues to use this to inform and develop service delivery.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Compliments were previously recorded via the Quarterly Complaints Reports. Due to the significant increase in compliments from last year it is this report now stands alone in order to provide a focus on the comments provided by individuals, and the positive impact that our services have had on their lives.

3.2 The Customer Care Manager provides training on Complaints, Comments and Compliments, included in this training is the process of recording compliments.

4.0 COMPLIMENTS - HISTORICAL DATA

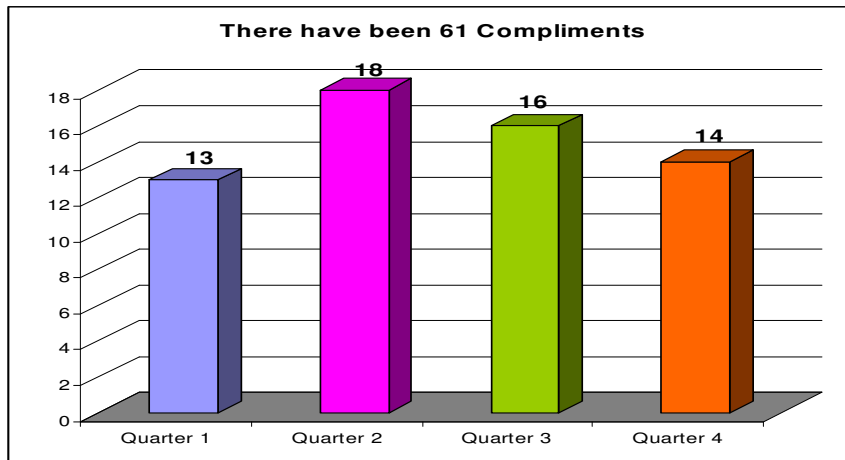


2009-10

9 compliments were in respect of Children in Need Division (CIN).

5 compliments in respect of Children in Care (CIC) Division.

5.0 COMPLIMENTS 1st APRIL 2010 – 31st DECEMBER 2010



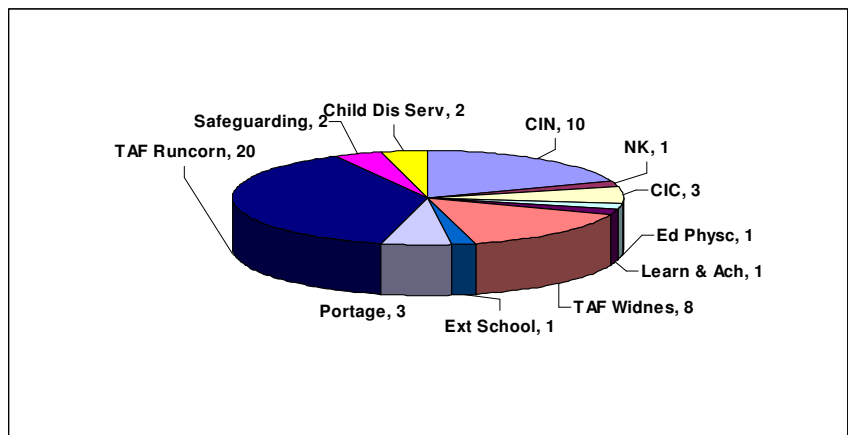
Source of Compliments

- 39 Service Users
- 2 Local Councillors
- 1 Judge
- 19 Other worker/ Professional

6.0 COMPLIMENTS BY SERVICE AREA

There are 2 compliments that cross over two divisions and these have been counted twice.

2 were received by young people



7.0 QUARTER 1 – 1ST APRIL 2010 TO 30TH JUNE 2010

13 Compliments were received in total

Compliments were made by 10 Service Users, 1 Local Councillor and 2 other workers/professionals.

- **Cllr Brown** rang Strategic Director pass on his thanks to the Adoption Team for their help with an adoption issue he had been dealing with. Particular thanks to Principal Manager, Community Support Worker and Social Worker. (CIC & CIN)
- **Service User** “I booked a couple of activities for my son who is 6 years old, well organised and my son thoroughly enjoyed them, so much so that he now wants to attend martial arts training school which is run by the man who organised the taster session! EXCELLENT! I think the range of activities put on was fabulous and he is looking forward to the summer timetable”. (Extended Schools Service)
- **Worker/professional** “Once again the staff at Inglefield helped me out again, one young person had diabetes so it was really important I got some tea for her. Staff are always helpful and nothing seems to much trouble, please pass on my thanks to all for their support”. (CIN)
- **Service User** Community Support Worker and Student Social Worker visited a

family to investigate a referral which turned out to be malicious. The Mother wanted to pass on her thanks, she was completely put at ease, in what was an extremely stressful situation and wanted to thank them for the staff for their professionalism and kindness.(CIN)

- **Service User** “I think the Surestart centre (Brookvale) has really helped me in lots of different ways including my education it’s also helped me to become closer to my son from my eyfs course. I have also done a first aid course and keeping your child healthy and safe and first step art. My son has come on a lot and mixes with other children better. I think the Surestart centre is great and the staff are really nice people and understanding. Thanks”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “Attending of the Can Cook session, this was a major turning point in my life and being honest a lifeline, Brookvale Childrens Centre has turned my life around and has helped me make friends, it has a positive impact on my life. The staff are there for any problems I have and always ready to advise. Without this I would still be in a dark place, from the Centre Manager, Family Support Workers, Crèche Girls, Cook and Girls, Fantastic”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “Before I came here my stress levels were high, I didn’t know which way to turn I just wanted to cry, but week by week I feel myself getting stronger Being a mum can be such a struggle with the help of this group I’m learning more about my family life, I’m loving my boys so much, Thank you for putting up with me. You know what I am like so I bet it wasn’t easy”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “I was feeling very nervous and frightened but was soon put at ease because of the welcoming staff. The courses have helped me greatly as I suffered a very deep bout of depression, so much so that I have been able to start my own support group in the centre. We have discussed how the centre has helped us all in many ways and would like to thank all the members of staff, long may it continue to run”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “I am a sufferer of depression and anxiety, through these groups I have met a number new friends who meet up for catch ups and support at a group we set up ourselves. After the initial anxiety I am no longer nervous on visiting. Also if I need support I know the staff are there for me”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “To all the staff at Brookvale, thank you for all the effort you have put in to our days out, we loved them”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “This place has made such a difference to my life I no longer feel upset and lonely because I have people who are there for me. They listen if I have a problem. I even attend the centre on other days just for a chat or meet for a coffee. My baby loves the attention she gets, my other children have noticed a difference to and say that I am happier than I’ve been for a long time”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “Before going to the centre I was isolated and in need of support, since attending I have been able to make better decisions, I know feel more in control of my life the staff at the centre are very professional and friendly. Many thanks to all the staff at Brookvale”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker/professional** “Over the past year the number of children attending school displaying special educational needs has increased greatly. As a result of this we

have found the advice and support of the Educational Psychologist invaluable in enabling us to make provision for these children, thus helping them to realise their potential. I would therefore be grateful if you could pass on my thanks". (ED Phsysc)

8.0 QUARTER 2 – 1ST JULY 2010 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010

18 Compliments were received in total

Compliments were made by 16 Service Users, 1 Local Councillor and 1 Judge.

- **District Judge** at Liverpool Youth Court complimented the reports written by the Social Worker and the Halton and Warrington YOT. The Judge stated that they were the best reports that he had read in 16 years and they had set out very clearly what the plan was and that he wouldn't want to interfere with such clear planning.(CIC)
- **Service User** "Just a quick word to say how much I appreciated being a part of Child's life appreciation day. It was an eye-opener hearing just how much work went into making the right decisions for Child's life and I think you are all doing a wonderful and often difficult job. It has been a privilege to be a part of the process". (CIC)
- **Service User** "I have not always agreed with the Residential Home Manager and her staff but I have always respected them. Now I have a good relationship with all the staff and they are always here for myself, to listen to me, which I appreciate as it is nice to know that they are not just here for Child they are for us as a family too". (CIC Res)
- **Service User** "Portage Worker has always been cheerful, patient and understanding and always contactable throughout their difficult times and feels the work and support given to the whole family was above and beyond her job role". (Portage Service)
- **Service User** "The centre provides a safe, secure environment which has been a haven, Staff are always available to listen to any concerns, for which I am extremely grateful, in all honesty I don't think my sanity could have survived without the centre and it wonderful staff. I just wanted to say a big thank you, you all do an incredible job". (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** "Regarding a joint activity with Early Years Centre. Thank you so much for giving the children and staff at Ditton Early Years Centre the opportunity to have a wonderful adventure. The children said thank you for the pictures from the day we all enjoyed these and thought they were really nice, especially their parents". (TAF Widnes)
- **Service User** Card – "To Worker, thank you for all the fun and laughter you have given us and the memories we will cherish". (TAF Widnes)
- **Service User** Card – "To Worker, thank you for all your help, we loved coming to your group to see all my friends, I will miss you when I go to school". (TAF Widnes)
- **Service Users** Feedback from adopters funday which was a joint event with Warrington and St Helens Adoption Services. There were positive comments from 12 families residing in Halton. Comments included: kids really enjoyed themselves,

great afternoon, lot's to do, enjoyed the activities, excellent setting/location to meet other families and thank you we all had a great time.(CIC)

- **Cllr Wallace** “I always find it a great pleasure to visit Inglefield. I find the home extremely inviting and see all who visit receive a lovely welcome, something most users and families really appreciate and it does make a huge difference, especially knowing they are entrusting their precious child to you. You are generous to a fault in the way I have witnessed your caring and attention to detail when you look after young people. Inglefield is a very valuable service the Council provides for those families who desperately need respite and care for their children”. (CIN)
- **Service User** Card – “To Community Support Worker, thanks for everything”.
- **Service User** “I would like to thank you for your help and advice. It really helped me with what is happening. Also thank you for your support and to say if I need any more help or advice just to phone and you'll be there. Thank you” (CIN)
- **Service User** Card – To Practice Manager, “Thank you for all your help and support”. (CIC)
- **Service User** “Thank you so very much to everyone, without this centre being here and everyone being so friendly, happy, active, helpful and kind my summer would have been long, hard and stressful but instead it was fun, happy, a lot of family bonding and it made me realise I'm so proud of having two beautiful happy boys. Thank you Brookvale”. (TAF Runcorn).
- **Service User** From Child aged 12 – “Social Worker is kind and has really helped me out. I enjoy seeing her because most of the time she knows the answers to my questions and she is very understanding”. (CIN)
- **Service User** Whilst attending Children in Care Council Meeting, young person approached Customer Care Manager and asked if she could make a compliment about 2 Community Support Workers. She wanted to thank them for all their work supporting the Council and arranging events. Even though it wasn't what she personally enjoyed (paint balling), she recognised that others did enjoy it and she did enjoy seeing everyone. She also wanted to thank the Divisional Manager for meeting with her and taking the time out of her diary to talk to her. (CIC)
- **Service User** Card – thanking Education Support Workers and Community Support Worker for helping to organise Making Memories Summer event for young people in care who had completed their compulsory education. (CIN & Learning and Achievement)
- **Service User** This compliment came from a mother, her children were removed due to drug use and chaotic lifestyle, they moved area to Halton, the parents are now drug free and the children are back with them. “I just want to thank the Social Services for helping and supporting us in the aid of reuniting our family back together. I know at first this was not going to happen because of the situation, but once we worked together, progress became very fast. To let you know that I now do believe that the system can and does work. I do believe that you have the children's needs as a priority, so really we both wanted the same outcome. It is also very good to have consistent and long standing Social Workers work with families to build up rapport and trust. Thank you for all your help”. (CIN)

9.0 QUARTER 3 – 1ST OCTOBER 2010 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2010

16 Compliments were received in total

Compliments were made by 5 Service Users, 11 other workers/professionals.

- **Worker/professional** “just to say a big thank you to the Community Support Worker for all your help and support it is much appreciated”. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** Card “A huge thank you, to you for all your support, encouragement and guidance on our journey to becoming parents, it’s been a long way from that first visit during the very bleak times, we really held on to your words ‘you will be parents’ and kept going. Who would believe how amazingly lucky we’d be in the end. A huge heartfelt thank you”. (CIC Adoptive parents)
- **Worker/professional** Thanks for all you are doing, you’re a legend. Community Support Worker (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker/professional Guardian** – commented on how impressed she was with a piece of work that the Social Worker involved in. Social Worker has been a great support to the relinquished baby’s mum and tried really hard to keep them together being mindful of the sensitivity/emotions around the situation and that mum had valued her support, patience and understanding. (CIC)
- **Service User** “May I take this opportunity to thank you and all your friendly, helpful staff for your continued support with our group” (Parents & Carers support group for children who have just had a diagnosis of additional/special/medical needs). (TAF Widnes)
- **Service User** “I thought my Social Worker was really nice and very helpful and I will miss her a lot, she is really good at her job”. (CIN)
- **Worker/professional Housing** – “thanks for all the time / hard work which is clearly self evident, that you have put into this case. It is really appreciated by me and I am sure the family are delighted with your efforts to. I have every confidence that they will function much more effectively as a family due to your involvement and work with them. Many thanks again”. (TAF Widnes)
- **Worker/professional School** – asked to pass on her thanks for what she described as a very positive and supportive experience dealing with Runcorn IWST. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** “I have found the Social Workers support invaluable in helping me cope with the upset and the disruption. I feel that the Social Workers involvement has been pivotal in the protection of NAME and without her reports the hearings would have been more challenging and stressful. She has always been understanding, informative and invaluable to me in my moments of distress she has given me the strength and hope to carry on caring for NAME and protecting her”.
- **Worker/professional Housing** - thanks again for your help regarding child missing from home. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User**, Foster Carer was extremely grateful and impressed with the support that had been provided. She was at a very low ebb when he came in, and her greatest fear was that she would be unable to sustain the placement and she credits him with getting both her and Child through a crisis period. Child was also

very positive about how he gets on with him. (TAF Runcorn)

- **Worker/professional** I felt the need to provide feedback around the support that Community Support Worker has been providing to me as lead professional on two CAF's. he has been excellent and provided meaningful support and generating new energy and ideas. His knowledge base around implementation, practice issues and reassurance have been greatly appreciated. I have said my thanks to him directly but felt the need to feedback the impact that his role is having at the coal face. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker/professional** There have been significant improvements in terms of positive outcomes for this family and the counsellor wants to make a special mention of Family Support Assistants input. She has been outstanding and I would like to record my gratitude to her and yourselves for the high quality of work and commitment. (TAF Widnes)
- **Worker/professional** I would like to thank Community Support Worker for your input, your hard work and commitment to the family. It has been very much appreciated. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker/professional** I would like to pass on my thanks for a member of your staff for going that extra mile to effect positive change with a family I have become involved with. She is currently supporting the family and the hard work that she has put in has enabled the family to address the concerns raised and greatly improved home conditions, this will have a positive impact on the children's health and well being. Please pass on my thanks. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker/professional** Thank you for your prompt and effective support. (TAF Runcorn)

10.0 QUARTER 4 – 1ST JANUARY 2011 TO 31ST MARCH 2011

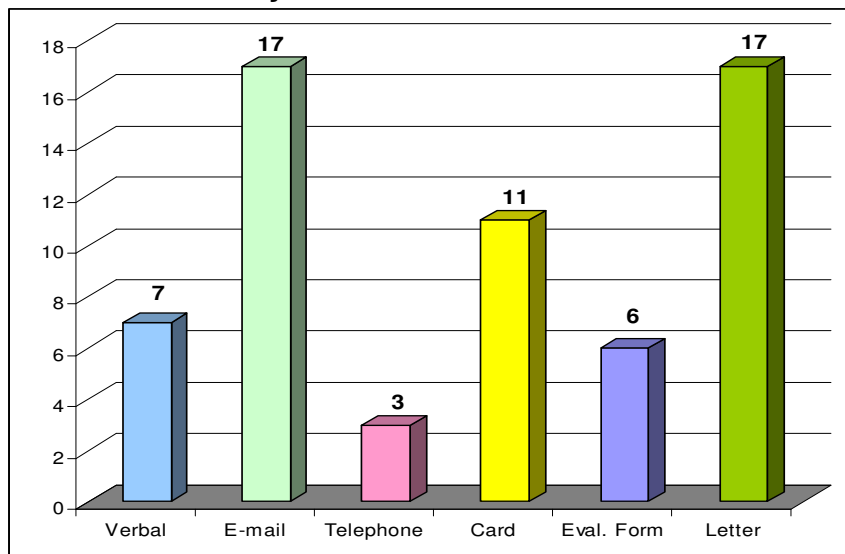
14 Compliments were received in total

Compliments were made by 8 Service Users, 6 other workers/professionals.

- **Service User** thank you so much for all you have done over the past few years above and beyond the support of Portage. The children adore you as do we and will really miss you, child has come such a long way and is flourishing. (Portage)
- **Service User** card thanking for the help and support (CIC)
- **Service User** card thank you for all the happy Thursdays you have spent with me. (Portage)
- **Worker/professional school** card I often find thank you does not really do justice to how someone has gone out of their way to help. This is certainly true here. I am indebted to you for the way you came to my rescue. Thank you so much. (Safeguarding Unit)
- **Worker/professional** I would like to formally recognise the support that the Community Support Worker has given me with regards to managing the care plan for Baby. She has worked hard to ensure I am up to date and has been able to offer support which has prevented difficult circumstances from reaching crisis point. I really appreciate this support and I am sure that mum does too.(CIC)

- **Worker/professional** just wanted to say thanks for coming this afternoon. I found these really useful and gained lots of tips. I feel I am learning a lot about the role of Safeguarding Co-ordinator from these meetings. Thanks very much. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Worker /professional** thank you for your help and support today, it is much appreciated especially by me. Community Support Worker. (TAF Runcorn)
- **Service User** just to say thank you for all the help you have all given to us through out the past year. (CIC)
- **Service User** card thank you for actually caring, and flowers received from the family (TAF Widnes)
- **Service User** Compliment received from Mum, the child had just returned home following a serious family breakdown which resulted in child being accommodated for 3 weeks. Thanks for today and what you are doing for child, you have been a good help and I will follow what you have said. (CIN)
- **Worker/professional** your contribution to this successful outcome was very positive and the report you presented was of a very high quality, Thank you for your skill and commitment. Social Worker (CIC)
- **Service User** father thanks for all your help advice and support in the transition from Children's to Adults Services. Thanks to all the Outreach Team. (Disabled Childrens Service)
- **Service User** Mum wanted to acknowledge how appreciative/pleased she was that the application to the Caldwell Trust that Community Support Worker had completed was successful. This will benefit the whole family. (Disabled Childrens Service)
- **Worker/professional CAMHS** had received 2 independent compliments from Foster Carers regarding Reviewing Managers work on Children's reviews. Her good work is appreciated. (Safeguarding Unit)

11.0 Compliments were received by



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

DATE: 31 October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

SUBJECT: Young Carers Scrutiny Topic

WARDS: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report on the findings and recommendations of the Young Carers Scrutiny Topic Group that was established to consider the services to young carers and their effectiveness.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The contents of the report are noted;**
- (2) The profile of young carers is raised within the Borough via a new strategy, which incorporates the issues raised during the scrutiny process.**
- (3) An action plan is formulated and implemented in order to deliver the new strategy**
- (4) The issue of young carers is brought back to the Board in twelve months to review progress and further developments**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Context and Methodolgy

3.1 Young carers are children and young people under the age of 18yrs who provide care to another family member who has a physical illness and/or disability; mental ill health; sensory disability or has a problematic use of drugs and/ or alcohol. The care given may be practical, physical and/or emotional. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result their role potentially can impact on their childhood and ability to fully reach their potential.

3.2 The topic for young carers has been a subject to scrutiny since September 2010. This is because young carers are a vulnerable group given their family circumstances, and they could be defined as 'children in need' as defined within the Children Act 1989, especially when their caring role inhibits the experience and usual development of childhood. Based on research by Saul Becker et al (1995), it is suggested that 2.1% of the population of young people are young carers. Therefore there should be around 515 young carers living in Halton. However, there is some caution with this figure as it does not include those young carers

from families where there are drug and alcohol issues. It is likely that this figure is higher due to these 'hidden' carers.

3.3 The scrutiny process consisted of Members and Officers within Children and Families Services. Members were Cllr Mark Dennett; Cllr Kath Loftus; Cllr Margaret Horabin, Cllr Joan Lowe; Cllr Mike Fry; and Cllr Peter Browne. Officers were Nigel Moorhouse (Operational Director); Emma Taylor (Divisional Manager); and Tracey Dean (Principal Manager). At the start of the scrutiny process, key outputs and desired outcomes were agreed. These were:

- That young carers are appropriately identified, their needs assessed and a plan of support agreed (strong and effective pathway);
- That the needs of young carers figure prominently in strategic planning activity across the Council and partner agencies;
- That young carers are able to participate in everyday life, as children first;
- That services to young carers are inclusive and delivered as part of universal services, where appropriate, based on the Think Family model (ie the Team Around the Family- TAF- model within Halton);
- To increase the number of young carers identified and have their needs met.

3.4 To achieve these a number of activities took place:

- 3 Scrutiny Group meetings were held (October 2010, June 2011, July 2011) where current practice was examined as well as data and performance;
- Members observed the 2 Young Carers' Groups facilitated by HBC staff;
- One Member met individually with 2 young carers, with their permission. They were asked a number of relevant questions relating to their caring role; support services they received; and how useful they felt these were to them and their families (see **appendix 2**)

Service description- HBC staff and resources

3.3 In April 2010 HBC restructured its Children and Families Department and a new Division was created with the focus on early help and support. This Division brought together Children Centre provision, family support, the Integrated Working Support Team, short breaks for disabled children and their families; and support to young carers. Prior to this, support for young carers came via a voluntary organisation (HITS). As a result, 3 workers transferred to HBC where there is 76 hours (3 individual posts) of support available for young carers. There is 1 fte vacancy but the remaining 2 part time workers offer one to one support

(including home visits) and group work to young carers who need help regarding their self esteem and confidence.

Commissioned Services (including Carers Centre)

- 3.4 There are a range of services available to young carers and their families, by different providers. Adult Services commission a number of voluntary organisations to deliver counselling and short break activities to young carers. The Carers Centre is also commissioned to provide independent advice and signposting for all carers, including young carers. The Centre undertakes assessments of potential young carers, as well as awareness raising sessions with partner agencies.

Governance

- 3.5 Strategically, services to all carers and their effectiveness are monitored via the Carers Strategic Group, chaired by the Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Care in Communities Directorate. There is representation from voluntary providers, Adults and Children's Services and Health. Operationally, these services are monitored via a number of LIT Groups (Local Implementation Teams). There is a specific LIT Group for young carers which is facilitated independently by a voluntary organisation (Action for Children). This Group differs from the others as it consists of young carers themselves as well as providers. The aim is to ensure full participation of young carers to identify gaps in provision and advise on future service development.

Halton's Children's Trust is ultimately responsible for the outcomes of young carers; therefore, regular reporting to the Trust is required regarding the strategy and its action plan.

Performance

- 3.6 As of 20 September 2011 there are 247 known and identified young carers in the Borough. This is the total number of individual carers registered with the Carers Centre, and those receiving a service from either contracted providers or HBC. The information from each organisation's database has been collated and each young carer has only been counted once.

Partnerships

- 3.7 There are a number of key partnerships in place that help HBC deliver a coordinated response to young carers. A particular development is awareness raising within schools. Work is underway to increase schools' knowledge about young carers and potential signs that a child may be undertaking caring roles within their family.

Following the restructure within the Children and Families' Department, there is increased joint working between Adults and Children's Services.

Joint monitoring of contracted services is now in place; and there is Senior Manager representation on both the Carers Strategic group and the Children's Trust, thereby ensuring consistency in approach across both Directorates.

Finance

- 3.8 HBC funds 2fte young carers posts which are held within the Team Around the Family model of early help and support (£42834). Currently, there is 1fte vacancy. Children and Families' Department also contributes £30,000 to the Carers Centre, which helps fund provision to young carers. Adult Services commission a number of voluntary organisations from the Carers Fund to provide short breaks and counselling service to young carers. This is a total of £22268.

Case Studies

- 3.9 There are a number of case studies, examined independently, that highlight that the positive impact that services have on young carers. In particular, young carers who attend the groups have written their own impact statements explaining how attending the groups (and having one to one sessions) has increased their self confidence and reduced their feelings of isolation. Please see **appendix 1** for a selection of these statements.

Scrutiny Process

- 3.10 The Scrutiny Group process highlighted a number of positive factors regarding young carers that came to light through Members' direct observations of Young Carers Support Groups and interviews with 2 young carers individually:
- Positive work is being undertaken by a range of organisations, including HBC.
 - There is evidence of positive impact of the services on young carers and their families. Young carers fed back that they no longer feel "guilty" about leaving their family for periods of time; and others feel more confident when with their peers
 - There is increased awareness of young carers' issues across the Borough
 - There is increased joint working between adults and children's services
- 3.11 The process also raised a number of areas for further development:
- **Service provision**- young carers' vulnerability means that early help services need to continue to support them and prevent their needs from escalating. Access to a range of services is important with clear of roles and expectations from providers and no duplication;
 - **Strategy**: this in need of review due to movement of staff and restructures. The strategy needs to reflect Halton's model of early help;

- **Participation:** HBC needs to ensure that the systems in place ensure meaningful participation from young carers, especially regarding effectiveness of services and future delivery. Most importantly, that young carers feel they are being listened to and can see positive change happen as a result.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is a range of legislation that give HBC statutory responsibilities towards young carers and their families, eg Children Act 1989; Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004; Services for Young Carers: A Framework.
- 4.3 The National Carers strategy (June 2008) highlighted the need for extended planned breaks for carers and the need for greater engagement with carers and more effective joint working between agencies.
- 4.4 Young Carers have a right to an assessment of their own needs as a carer and to have their views taken into account (Carers Recognition and Services act 1995). They are also entitled to assistance and support to engage in education and employment (Carers Equal opportunities Act 2004).
- 4.5 The implications here are that HBC must have a clear strategy for engaging, assessing, supporting and enabling young carers to reach their full potential and access the help they need via appropriate local services. This means a range of services, for example, counselling, group work, one to one time and short break provision. It also means that whilst carers have the right to have their own needs assessed, that this should be undertaken in conjunction with the whole family, ie a holistic approach is required to fully meet the needs of young carers.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Young Carers Strategy:** A new strategy is needed to fully incorporate the current structures, pathways and Children's Trust's priorities. It is recommended that a new strategy and action plan is implemented following consultation with providers, HBC staff and, of course, young carers themselves.
- 5.2 **Young carers' model:** The scrutiny process has helped highlight the need for a clearer model and pathway to services. Pathways should be clear with a continuum of services available to young carers with no duplication. A single point of entry is needed for young carers to access support, and organisations, including HBC, should all be clear on where they fit along the continuum of support. It is recommended that a new model and pathway of support for young carers is implemented following consultation with commissioned providers, Adults and Children's Services, and young carers.

5.3 Memorandum of Understanding: It has previously been agreed by Directors of Adults and Children's Services that close working is required when dealing with young carers and the issues this brings. A holistic approach is required, ie the whole family's needs should be considered to avoid issues being missed. The child's safety and well being is priority, whether a professional is working with the adult or child; and clear processes and protocols are required to ensure both Directorates deal with young carers effectively. The scrutiny process has helped to improve joint working between the Directorates and there is commitment to this continuing. This means the continuation of joint monitoring of contracts for short breaks for young carers; as well as joint strategic planning meetings and overview of services across both Directorates.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

It is the Children's Trust priority that outcomes for children and young people improve via access to early help and support services. It is also a priority that this is achieved by embedding integrated processes between agencies and effective joint commissioning of services locally. Most importantly, services needs to be targeted effectively to ensure that outcomes improve for the children and families with the greatest need. The strategy for young carers highlights all these priorities and focuses on need to offer early help for young carers and their families to help prevent their needs escalating and more specialist and intrusive intervention becoming necessary. The overriding objective is to enable young carers to enjoy their childhood and access the same opportunities whilst maintaining their caring role, wherever possible.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

All young carers have the right to continue their education and access further training or employment when they leave school. Their caring responsibilities should not restrict or prevent them from achieving their full potential. HBC needs to ensure that mechanisms are in place, via the strategy and action plan, to identify young carers within the Borough, offer the appropriate support services and prevent their caring role from impacting negatively on their own education and future employment plans. This requires effective awareness raising within schools and other universal provision (eg youth centres) where young carers are likely to be identified first.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Young carers are entitled to enjoy healthy lives, both physically and emotionally. Caring responsibilities can affect a young person's health in many ways; therefore, as in point 6.2, a clear strategy is required to ensure HBC works alongside health partners to help prevent long term health problems for young carers as they enter adulthood. Policies and procedures are needed that cover all aspects of young carers and the

challenges they face. Primary mental health services and CAMHS need to have processes in place to monitor and evaluate the emotional well being of young carers, especially where 'hidden harm' is a factor (ie the risk of the child's needs being ignored as a result of a parent with drug and/or alcohol issues).

6.4 A Safer Halton

Young carers need to feel safe and secure whilst undertaking their caring responsibilities. There are potential safeguarding issues; especially 'hidden harm' is an issue. HBC needs to ensure clear processes to deal with these issues and it is essential that Children's and Adults Service work closely together so that young carers' needs and safety are fully considered when working with adults where there are mental health, drug and/or alcohol issues. Clear lines of responsibility and accountability are required. This needs to be fully considered within the strategy and action plan.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no implications here.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The recommendations in this report give opportunities to build on the successes so far regarding services and outcomes for young carers. There is scope for further improvement and plans are already in place

7.2 The risk is that the ongoing and future success of the strategy will depend on availability of funding both from Adults and Children's Services. Improving outcomes for young carers will depend on early help services being available in order to help prevent young carers' needs escalating, leaving them more vulnerable to more intrusive interventions (ie statutory services).

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

N/A

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

None under the meaning of the Act

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

DATE: 31st October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy & Resources

SUBJECT: Business Planning 2012-15

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To offer a timely opportunity for Members to contribute to the development of Directorate Business Plans for the coming financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board indicates priority areas for service development and improvement over the next 3 years.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Each Directorate of the Council is required to develop a medium-term business plan, in parallel with the budget, that is subject to annual review and refresh. The process of developing such plans for the period 2012-2015 is just beginning.
- 3.2 At this stage members are invited to identify a small number of priorities for development or improvement (possibly 3-5) that they would like to see reflected within those plans. Strategic Directors will then develop draft plans which will be available for consideration by Policy and Performance Boards early in the New Year.
- 3.3 Service Objectives and Performance Indicators and targets will be developed by each Department and this information will be included within Appendices to the Directorate Plan.
- 3.4 These Departmental objectives and measures will form the basis of the quarterly performance monitoring received by the Board during the year. It is proposed that this Departmental information will be reorganised by priority in line with the new performance framework from 2012/13.
- 3.5 It is important that Members have the opportunity to provide input at this developmental stage of the planning process, particularly given the anticipated funding announcements, to ensure that limited resources may be aligned to local priorities.

- 3.6 It should be noted that plans can only be finalised once budget decisions have been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2012.
- 3.7 To assist Members in their considerations the Board may choose to invite each Operational Director to give a short presentation setting out the key issues and challenges for their service over the coming 3 years. This could be achieved via a presentation discussion at a scheduled PPB or a less formal briefing/ discussion before a scheduled PPB or at some other time.
- 3.8 The timeframe for plan preparation, development and endorsement is as follows:

| | Information / Purpose | Timeframe / Agenda on Deposit |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| PPB | Discussion with relevant Operational / Strategic Directors concerning emerging issues, proposed priorities etc. | November 2011 PPB round |
| Directorate SMT's | To receive and endorse advanced drafts of Directorate Plans | SMT dates to be agreed with all Strategic Directors |
| Corporate Management Team | To receive and comment upon / endorse advanced drafts of Directorate Plans | By Mid December 2011 |
| PPB's | Advanced draft plans including details of relevant departmental service objectives/milestones and performance indicators | January PPB Cycle |
| Executive Board | To receive advanced drafts of Directorate Plans | 9th February 2012 |
| Full Council | To receive advanced drafts of Directorate Plans | 7th March 2012 |

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Business Plans form a key part of the Council's policy framework.
- 4.2 Elected member engagement would be consistent with the new "Best value guidance", announced in September 2011, to consult with the representatives of a wide range of local persons.

4.3 Plans also need to reflect known and anticipated legislative changes.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Directorate Plans will identify resource implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

6.1 The business planning process is the means by which we ensure that the six corporate priorities are built into our business plans and priorities, and thence cascaded down into team plans and individual action plans.

6.2 From 2012/13 it is proposed that with the introduction of the new performance framework Departmental Reports now be available to members via the intranet. Also priority based reports for each respective Policy & Performance Board be introduced, containing details stated within the Appendices of the Directorate Business plans.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Risk Assessment will continue to form an integral element of Directorate Plan development. This report mitigates the risk of Members not being involved in setting service delivery objectives.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Those high priority actions that result from Impact Review and Assessment will be included within Directorate Plans and will continue to be monitored through Departmental Performance Monitoring Reports.

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

There are no relevant background documents to this report