



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

**Monday, 13 January 2014 at 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice- Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Councillor Ellen Cargill</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Lauren Cassidy</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Frank Fraser</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Pauline Hignett</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Kath Loftus</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Geoffrey Logan</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Bill Woolfall</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Miss Elizabeth Lawler</b>	<b>Co-optee</b>

*Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 511 8708 or e-mail [michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk) for further information.*

*The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 24 February 2014*

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

**Part I**

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<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or 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:** 13 January 2014

**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:** 13 January 2014

**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 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**

### **Extracts of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2013**

##### **EXB89 – PLEDGE TO CHILDREN IN CARE – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought approval of the Pledge to Children in Care.

The Board was advised that the Government's Green Paper, Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Young People in Care and the White Paper Care Matters: Time For Change, identified steps needed to improve the outcomes for children and young people in care.

The report noted that the role of Corporate Parent had responsibility for the wellbeing and future prospects of children in care and care leavers. In order to improve that role, the Government had indicated its expectation that:

- Every local authority should put in place arrangements for a Children in Care Council;
- Every local area should set out its 'Pledge' to children; and
- The Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services should be responsible for leading improvements in corporate parenting.

The Board noted that a copy of the Pledge, attached as an appendix, represented the twelve key things which children in care and care leavers had identified as improving outcomes for them. The Care Leaver's Charter, attached at appendix 2, was the document circulated by the Department of Education, but a number of additional matters relating to Halton had been included and highlighted for Members' consideration.

#### **Reason(s) for Decision**

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 strengthened the role of the corporate parent. The Government required every local area to set out its 'Pledge' to children in care and care leavers covering the services and support that they should expect to receive.

#### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**



There was no prescribed format for a Pledge to children in care and care leavers. Halton's 'Pledge' had been designed and reviewed by the Children in Care Council and care leavers and therefore, it was the one they would like the Executive Board to endorse.

Implementation Date

Immediate.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Pledge be endorsed;
- 2) the action to promote the Pledge so it is known to the Council, Children's Trust and other partners, be endorsed;
- 3) actions to support the commitments to Children in Care be noted; and
- 4) the Pledge to Children in Care be presented to the full Council meeting on 16 October 2013.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2013**

**EXB92 – CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, TARGETED PROVISION FOR CHILDREN IN CARE (GO FORWARD) – WAIVER OF TENDERING STANDING ORDERS**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the provision of contracted services.

The Board was advised that the Go Forward Service had been provided by Barnardo's since April 2012, for the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for looked after children. Due in part to a demand for the service, a comprehensive review of provision was underway by Halton's Children's Trust Partners. It was noted that this review would determine the needs of the service area and the provision that was required to meet those needs.

The Board noted that the current contract would end on 31 March 2014, with no facility to extend within the current contract. A waiver of Procurement Standing Orders was required to allow for continued service delivery during this review period.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 be waived on this occasion, where compliance with Standing Orders would result in a clear financial or commercial detriment to the Council, in respect of the contracted Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services, Targeted Provision. The waiver is requested to ensure that children and young people receive continuous care and support whilst a review of this service area is undertaken by Halton Children's Trust partners in order to determine the requirements for future provision; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise be authorised, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, to enter into the above contract for one year from April 2014 to the end of March 2015.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013**

#### **EXB104 – FAIRFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND FAIRFIELD INFANT SCHOOL – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided a summary of responses on the statutory consultation to re-organise Fairfield Infant and Junior Schools.

The Board was reminded that the proposal was to change the age range of Fairfield Junior School to age 4-11 years so that it could become an "all through" primary school from 1 January 2014. A copy of the full proposal was attached at Appendix A. A summary of the 54 responses which had been received was attached at Appendix B. Details of the issues raised by those that did not support the proposals were set out in the report and included:

- Governance;
- Leadership;
- Staffing;
- Closure (of Infant school);
- Resources; and
- Disruption.

It was noted that children from both schools were also consulted through the two School Councils, and both School Councils were supportive of the proposals.

Appendix E outlined the issues which the Board (as decision maker) needed to consider. It was noted that the reason for the decision must be given and should also include the factors and criteria for the decision.

Reason(s) For Decision

The Headteacher of the Junior School had acted as Executive Headteacher of the Infants and Junior Schools since September 2013. During this time, the Infant School had been graded as 'Good' by Ofsted. Combining both schools to an "all through" primary would allow a more coherent and consistent approach to provision at Fairfield Infants and Juniors and ensure that there was a smooth transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No change to the current position was considered. However, this was rejected as it did not provide the same opportunities for curriculum continuity and development, flexibility for staffing and resources and allow seamless transition across the Key Stages.

Implementation Date

1 January 2014.

RESOLVED: That, proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in Sections 19 (1) and 15 (1) of the Education Inspections Act 2006, and having regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to consultation, the following related proposals be approved:-

- 1) the age of Fairfield Junior School be extended to 4 to 11 years with effect from 1 January 2014;
- 2) Fairfield Infant School be discontinued with effect from 31 December 2013;
- 3) the Published Admission Number for the "All Through Primary" School will be 80 per year group; and
- 4) all pupils in the Junior and Infant School would become part of the "All Through Primary" School on 1 January 2014.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013**

**EXB108 – HALTON CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT.**

The Board considered a report of the Independent Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board, on the Halton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2012/13.

The LSCB described how organisations and individuals across all sectors were working together to safeguard children and young people. The Annual Report provided a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The report included lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period including Serious Case Reviews, Practice Learning Reviews and Child Death Reviews. In addition, it listed contributions made to the LSCB by partners with details of its' expenditure.

It was reported that from November 2013, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board would become subject to inspection in its own right, with the Annual Report a grade descriptor within the inspection framework. A copy of the report was attached at Appendix 1.

Audrey Williamson, Independent Chair of LSCB, attended the meeting to present the Annual Report and answer Members' questions. It was reported that Ms Williamson had resigned from the Board, after chairing it since its formation in 2006. Members thanked Ms Williamson for attending and for her contribution to the development of the LSCB.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be welcomed;
- 2) the recommendations be noted; and
- 3) appropriate action be taken to address the matters raised within the report.

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

**DATE:** 13 January 2014

**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.

## Minutes - Halton Children's Trust Executive Group Meeting 15 October 2013

### Present:

Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision, HBC
Gareth Jones	Head of Service, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service, HBC
Mark Grady	Principal Policy Officer, HBC
Julia Rosser	Consultant, Public Health
Simon Clough	Divisional Manager, 14 – 19 Services, HBC
Michelle Forder	Parent & Voluntary Lead Engagement Officer, HBC
Tracy Ryan	Assistant Policy Officer, HBC (Minutes)
Gill Frame	Halton CCG
Lorraine Crane	Divisional Manager, IYSS, Commissioning & Inspiring Families, HBC
Catherine Johnson	Principal Performance Officer, HBC
Julie Karmy	Integrated Commissioning Manager, HBC
Dave Sweeney	Operational Director Integrated Health Commissioning, Halton CCG
Michelle Bradshaw	Assistant Director, Child and Family Services, Bridgewater CHT
Steve Nyakatawa	Operational Director, Learning and Achievement, HBC
Steve Doore	Policy Officer, Policy & Strategy, HBC
Sharon McAteer	Public Health Development Manager, HBC

### Apologies

Jan Snoddon	Chief Nurse, Halton CCG
Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director Children & Enterprise, HBC (Chair)
Tracey Coffey	Operational Director, Children and Families Services

Item		Action	Deadline
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising from 3.9.13</b>		
1.1	1.4 <u>Maternity, Children &amp; Young People Strategic Clinical Network</u> JR attended the meeting, more information to follow.	JR	26.11.13
1.2	2.1 <u>Effectiveness of Early Help Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open CAF's 18 months+ - sample to be reviewed</li> <li>• Business Case – deferred next meeting</li> </ul>	TC TC	March '14 26.11.13
1.3	2.2 <u>Children's Trust Structure:</u> JB to map out current youth and children's participation and an MF to update on the new participation board – deferred to next meeting.	JB/MF	26.11.13
1.4	2.3 <u>Protocol</u> Actioned - protocol fully approved at all Boards.		
1.5	4.1 <u>Induction Evaluation Report</u> Letter to partner agencies – actioned. Request for sign-up to induction modules encouraged.		

1.6	<b>5.1 <u>Flu Vaccinations</u></b> Report circulated – actioned. For 2013, Halton’s Flu Vaccination programme has been extended to include children aged 2 and 3 years. Two dates for Council staff to receive Flu Jabs noted as Tuesday 29 October, 9am-5pm at Municipal and Thursday 31 October, 9am-5pm at Runcorn Town Hall.		
2.	<b>ITEMS FOR AGREEMENT</b>		
2.1	<b>Halton Strategic Partnership Website Demonstration</b> Steve Doore provided an outlined of the proposed HSP website and the linkages with the Sustainable Community Strategy. Members agreed further discussion was required to agree the content of Children’s Trust elements within this website.  <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SD to liaise with MG, CJ and a Public Health rep (JR/SMcA) to set up a small working group to agree the website content and take forward.</b></li> </ul>	SD/MG/ CJ	26.11.13
2.2	<b>Health JSNA – Working Group Progress Report</b> Progress report presented for discussion and agreement.  <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter Framework revisions agreed included merging ‘Children with disabilities with complex needs’ and ‘Learning Disabilities and Autism’ to become ‘Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs’.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pam Beaumont, Lead Officer SEN Review and Integrated Commissioning Leads (either Gareth Jones or Sam Murtagh) to assist in development of this chapter for the JSNA.</b></li> <li>• <b>Key messages from across the JSNA and progress report agenda item for next meeting on 4 February.</b></li> </ul>	SMcA  PB, GJ or SM  SMcA/ TR	4.2.14  4.2.14  4.2.14
2.3	<b>Halton Children’s Trust Strategic Priorities from 2014</b> Revised proposals presented for discussion and agreement. Concerns were raised around the provider element of commissioning in terms of the proposal to add the Commissioning Partnership as another layer in the structure.  <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other structural models to be researched and report submitted next meeting. GF happy to support MG and AMc in progressing this.</b></li> </ul>	MG, AMc & GF	26.11.13
2.4	<b>Multi-agency assessments</b> MG outlined the proposals developed from the task and finish group which reviewed the multi-agency assessments in place across the different agencies to develop a common assessment approach reducing workloads and to support performance monitoring utilised across the multi-agencies.		



	<b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multi-agency assessment process developed through Inspiring Families to be trialled within Bridgewater</b></li> </ul>	<b>MB/ LC</b>	<b>Update at 26.11.13</b>
<b>3.</b>  <b>3.1</b>  <b>3.2</b>  <b>3.3</b>  <b>3.4</b>	<b>PRIORITY UPDATES</b>  <b>Commissioning Partnership</b> Key areas of progress included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PB to draw up Terms of Reference for strategic group regarding the SEN Review and a number of task and finish groups which will be mapped against existing groups.</li> <li>• £75,000 support received to implement within Halton and Pathfinder support available. The Code of Practice is out for consultation, copies available if required.</li> </ul> <b>Early Help and Support</b> Key areas of progress included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help Model working group to meet to finalise new model in October/November.</li> <li>• Mapping exercise of cases escalated being developed to review anything missed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MB mentioned that now has new role as Head of Family Services across four boroughs which will impact time and capacity to progress this</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Vulnerable Groups</b> Report circulated for information. <b>Q1 Performance Report</b> Key areas of discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obesity – it was recognised that the improvements made in Halton are making a massive difference as nationally this is not happening.</li> <li>• Anti-social Behaviour – performance data demonstrates that this has escalated recently which is a challenge, some of this is due to the usage of mini moto's by young people locally.</li> <li>• Admissions from alcohol – these have reduced which is an improvement.</li> </ul>	  <b>AMc</b>          <b>MB</b>	  <b>26.11.13</b>          <b>26.11.13</b>
<b>4.</b>  <b>4.1</b>  <b>4.2</b>	<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>  <b>Inspiring Families update</b> Report circulated for information. <b>CQC Children's Inspection Reviews</b> AMc advised members of the new guidance for the inspection reviews involving multi-agency approach. <b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It is important that partners work collaboratively and support one another during these.</b></li> </ul>	          <b>ALL</b>	          <b>On-going</b>

<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Gareth updated members on the agreement of the YOT direction sitting nationally with YOT.</p> <p>Gill advised that the CCG is currently reviewing the community midwifery service. The contract with the current provider is being extended into 2014/15 in order to better understand the impact of the national tariff on the sustainability of the current provider and to introduce a minimum data set for community midwifery across all the providers. The CCG is undertaking an exercise to 'soft market test' the service. Halton is unusual in that the community midwifery service is a stand-alone service and not attached to a secondary care provider. There is a high level of satisfaction from a service user perspective with the current service.</p> <p><b><u>Date/time of next meeting:</u></b></p> <p>Please note the venue is same as usual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 26 November, 1-3pm</b> <b>Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>2014 Meetings:</u></b></p> <p>TUESDAYS in Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall, 1-3pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 February</li> <li>• 18 March</li> <li>• 13 May</li> <li>• 24 June</li> <li>• 5 August</li> <li>• 23 September</li> <li>• 4 November</li> <li>• 16 December</li> </ul>		
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**Minutes - Halton Children's Trust Executive Group Meeting  
26 November 2013**

**Present:**

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director Children & Enterprise, HBC (Chair)
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision, HBC
Mark Grady	Principal Policy Officer, Children & Enterprise, HBC
Julia Rosser	Consultant, Public Health
Michelle Forder	Parent & Voluntary Lead Engagement Officer, HBC
Tracy Ryan	Assistant Policy Officer, Children & Enterprise, HBC (Minutes)
Catherine Johnson	Principal Performance Officer, Children & Enterprise, HBC
Dave Sweeney	Operational Director Integrated Health Commissioning, Halton CCG
Michelle Bradshaw	Family Services Manager (universal services), Bridgewater CHT
Steve Nyakatawa	Operational Director, Learning and Achievement, HBC
Tracey Coffey	Operational Director, Children and Families Services, HBC
Caroline Williams	General Manager for Children's Services, Bridgewater CHT
Sheila McHale	Head of Children and Families Commissioning, Halton CCG
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review, HBC
Simon Clough	Divisional Manager, 14 – 19 Services, HBC

**Guests**

Angela Houghton	Think Family Principal Manager Children Centres, Widnes, HBC
Claire Hunter	Think Family Principal Manager Children Centres, Runcorn, HBC
Clare Myring	Integrated Commissioning Manager, HBC

**Apologies**

Jan Snoddon	Chief Nurse, Halton CCG
Gareth Jones	Head of Service, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service, HBC
Gill Frame	Halton CCG
Lorraine Crane	Divisional Manager, IYSS, Commissioning & Inspiring Families, HBC
Dave Sweeney	Operational Director Integrated Health Commissioning, Halton CCG

Item		Action	Deadline
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising from 15.10.13</b>		
1.1	<u>1.1 Maternity, Children &amp; Young People Strategic Clinical Network</u> Actioned - information previously circulated.		
1.2	<u>2.1 HSP Website Demonstration</u> SCS indicators currently being reviewed and HSP website work in progress.		
1.3	<u>Health JSNA</u> Actioned – agenda item for update report on Forward Plan Agenda for 4 February '14 meeting.		
1.4	<u>2.4 Multi-agency Assessments</u> Piloting of process not yet commenced.		

1.5	<p><b>Action:</b> Update required at next meeting.</p> <p><u>3.1 Commissioning Partnership</u></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agenda item - invite PB to next meeting to provide update report and latest strategic plan.</b></li> </ul>	MB/LC	4.2.14
2.1	<p><b>2. ITEMS FROM GUEST SPEAKERS</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Children's Centre Performance and Improvement Plan</b> AH/CH highlighted the key elements of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ante-natal engagement offer only 3 of the 8 Children's Centre are delivering this service, the recommendation is to review if there are further opportunities to deliver more ante-natal services.</li> <li>• work-focused training provided via Jobcentre Plus has been sporadic, they have a weekly presence in all the Runcorn CC's however, they only deliver services through Warrington Road.</li> </ul> <p>The discussion included the review of the Health offer (Community Midwifery Services) being delivered via the Children's Centres which will help to ensure strategic delivery of services.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Invite JCP to a future meeting date to be agreed, to review the partnership working arrangements.</b></li> <li>• <b>Review of the Health offer provided being progressed via the Early Help Model Working Group.</b></li> </ul>	TC MB	Update on both 4.2.14
3.1	<p><b>3. EXECUTIVE CHALLENGE ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Pupil Premium Update</b> SN provided an overview of the following performance issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years Foundation Stage Profile - Halton is currently ranked 23/23 against other North West local authorities.</li> <li>• Key Stage 1 the gap has narrowed slightly.</li> <li>• Key Stage 2 the gaps have narrowed since 2011 at around 10% or below.</li> <li>• Key Stage 4 the gap has widened.</li> </ul> <p>Although several schools noted in Appendix 1 of the report had an overall outcome of 'requiring improvement', it was recognised that all these schools have a support package in place to assist improvement.</p>		
3.2	SN posed the following area of challenge - How do we focus		

	<p>making the biggest impact to support parents/families? The options suggested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilising Children’s Centre resource more creatively by linking the Early Years setting more with Children’s Centres. To be progressed via Mark Conway’s team (Child, Place, Planning), via the Early Years’ newsletter is produced and network meetings.</li> <li>2-year old placements take-up rates could be of assistance – Mark Conway’s team can provide this.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the issues around the lack of capacity by services to resource Speech and Language Therapy may have had an impact on early education. However, plans are now in place to improve this via the Commissioning Partnership.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Options proposed to be progressed and an update provided at the 18 March meeting (TR to agenda).</b></li> </ul>	SN	18.3.14
4.	<b>ITEMS FOR AGREEMENT</b>		
4.1	<p><b>Children’s Trust Structure from 2014</b> The revised proposals were presented for an in-depth discussion and agreement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Option A</b> – continuation of existing structures with a multi-agency strategic group established to support the closing the gap.</li> <li><b>Option B</b> – enables the strategic elements of the Commissioning Partnership to sit directly under the Executive Group with the operational elements of commissioning sitting within the operational sub-groups.</li> <li><b>Option C</b> - proposes the Commissioning Partnership sitting alongside the Executive Group supporting the other groups.</li> </ul> <p>An alternative structure was agreed <b>Option D</b> – this was a slight amendment to Option ‘C’ involving the Early Help and Closing the Gap as a joint Strategic Group. The group will appoint task and finish groups as required depending on tasks and workload.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Include Halton Safeguarding Children Board and HWBB within the structure to highlight the relationship with the Children’s Trust.</b></li> <li><b>Briefing paper outlining the revised structure Option D to be produced and circulated for consultation.</b></li> </ul>	AMc/MG	26.11.13
4.2	<p><b>Early Help Model Report</b> MB provided an overview of the latest Early Help Model report which included the new locality mapping proposals suggesting 6 teams, 3 in Runcorn and 3 in Widnes. The workforce structure within these teams is yet to be agreed. The new model supports greater integration across the multi-agencies to ensure that the CAF partnership lead is improved as opposed to the lead being left with IWST and Family Support workers.</p>	AMc/MG	4.2.14

4.2	<p>This model mostly encompasses Universal Plus and Multi-Agency Planning Levels of Need. Whilst it was recognised that the one 'front-door' still remains, the management of this and the pathways in directing staff within and across the multi-agencies is yet to be agreed. The detailed information within the new model to be developed as this may impact changes of role and function for staff across services.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A small working group to develop the new model strategy for implementation in Summer 2014. Members to include Tracey Coffey, Michelle Bradshaw, Clare Myring and Mark Grady/Tracy Ryan.</b></li> </ul>	TC/MB/ CM/MG & TR	Summer '14
5.	<p><b>PRIORITY UPDATES</b></p> <p>5.1 <b>Commissioning Partnership</b> Key areas of progress included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential placements - progress has been made with children in care in other local authorities.</li> <li>• CAMHS – progress made around the tier guide and the participation process is moving forward.</li> </ul> <p>5.2 <b>Early Help and Support</b> Key areas of progress included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgewater staff move into Kingsway Children's Centre has progressed well.</li> </ul> <p>5.3 <b>Vulnerable Groups</b> Key areas of progress included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the Learning and Achievement Strategy.</li> <li>• Support and intervention.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p><b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b></p> <p>6.1 <b>Update 1 on SEN Reform Project Report</b> AMc provided an update on the SEN Reforms, initially the work required will be progressed through a core Strategic Group, five task and finish groups and an Operational Group. The new SEN Code of Practice is out for consultation. The reforms present a number of challenges to ensure that the changes are fully embedded.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update report required at next meeting 4 February '14.</b></li> </ul> <p>6.2 <b>Youth Participation Report</b> MF provided an overview of this report, which involved a study with young people over the past 12 months. The research suggests that a lot of participation takes place but there is a lack of co-ordination and clear pathways around engaging children and young people. Since this report has been written a new group has</p>	PB/TR	4.2.14

6.3	<p>been established to support and improve engagement. This group can be utilised as a critical friend to offer advice and suggestions to colleagues.</p> <p><b>Inspection Update</b>  MG noted that 4 local authorities have received their phone calls from Ofsted and have commenced their inspection. Following the Christmas period, Ofsted will undertake 7 further inspections between 14 January and mid-February '14. Ofsted will then suspend their inspections to review their processes and intend to resume undertaking inspections from 1 April '14.</p>		
5.1	<p><b>AOB</b> None</p> <p><b><u>Date/time of next meeting:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 4 February 1-3pm in Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other 2014 meetings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 March</li> <li>• 13 May</li> <li>• 24 June</li> <li>• 5 August</li> <li>• 23 September</li> <li>• 4 November</li> <li>• 16 December</li> </ul>		

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	13 January 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Children & Young People
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children and Young People
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Children in Care and Care Leavers
<b>WARDS:</b>	Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is to inform members about the current children in care population and the outcomes for children in care and care leavers. As Corporate Parents, it is important all members have an understanding of the needs of children in our care, and exercise their role in supporting them and advocating for them in all areas as parents do for their own children.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **Members note the contents of this report**
- 2.2 **The report of the Virtual Head Teacher on the educational outcomes for 2012/3 for children in care be presented to members.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The aim should be to strive to keep children within their families where this is consistent with their safety and welfare. However, where this is not possible and the level of risk of harm to a child is significant and increasing despite support, the Local Authority has a duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard their welfare.
- 3.2 Children can come into care for a variety of reasons, and for varying periods of time. This can be by voluntary agreement with the parents under s20 of the Children Act 1989, where the parents maintain their legal parental responsibility for the child. Where the risks to a child are so high and the Local Authority is not able to work effectively with the parents to reduce any risks, an application can be made to the court for a Care Order. If the court's judgement is that the threshold criteria is met, a Care Order means the Local Authority share legal parental responsibility but can make the primary decisions in relation to ensuring a child's needs are met.



3.3 Recently, under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) a young person who is in criminal proceedings may be remanded into custody by the court which now makes that young person a child in care. This has been implemented to ensure vulnerable young people who are remanded into custody receive the support and planning required by the Local Authority

#### 4.0 CURRENT PROFILE OF CHILDREN IN CARE

4.1 All figures date from October 2013. A total of 187 children were in care, which is an increase from 134 at October 2012. The population is as follows:

Male	81
Female	98
0 – 4 years	52
5 – 11 years	60
12 – 15 years	50
15 + years	17

4.2 The majority (118) are placed in foster care. Other placements include with family or friends who are approved as connected foster carers (14), or with parents under a Care Order (4); the others are in a mix of placements including residential care. 4 young people who are the most risk to themselves or others are placed in welfare secure units, and one young person has come into care under the LASPO act.

4.3 The rising population does present some challenges in ensuring that they have the right placement to meet their needs; the increase in older young people means their needs are many and complex and can present difficulties for foster carers, and increase placement breakdown, which is why we are prioritising recruiting foster carers for teenagers.

4.4 The aim of care is to achieve permanence for the child or young person in a timely way, either by returning home or to family, staying in one placement or via adoption. The average length of time in care was 2.6 years which is a reduction from 4.07 previously. For placement stability, where a child in care for longer than 2.5 years has been in the same placement for 2 years or longer, of 89% of children have been in stable placements which is a significant increase from 78% in the previous 2 years.

#### 5. CARE LEAVERS

5.1 We currently have 67 young people who are care leavers. Dependant on

their age when they entered care and the length of time they have been in care, we have varying duties to support them under the Leaving Care Act (2000). This varies from providing them with a pathway assessment and plan which supports them leaving care, financial support in moving into independent living, support with employment, education or training and living in suitable accommodation.

## **6. RECENT ACTIVITIES**

- 6.1 Council has recently endorsed its Pledge to Children in Care; a charter for Care Leavers has also been approved. Both of these outline the Council's commitment to our children and young people. A "Moving On" booklet is

being produced for young people before they leave care so they are aware of duties towards them and the support available; a Care Leavers Action Plan has developed with our partners to increase the focus on group.

- 6.2 The Virtual Head Teacher has recently presented her annual report which outlines the progress that child in care are making in terms of their education and outcomes. It is suggested that this report is presented separately to members so they can scrutinise the educational outcomes.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

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

This service is critically in ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded in Halton.

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

Children in Care may have been adversely affected by their previous care and may need additional support in their education and being prepared for employment education or training.

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

Children in Care may have been adversely affected in terms of their physical, emotional and mental health by their experiences before care and may require additional support and targeted access to specialist services

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

Children in Care dependant on their age and experiences prior to coming into care may have issues with drugs, alcohol, anti-social behaviour, offending behaviour and their vulnerability may expose them to increased risk of harm and exploitation. Stable and experienced care and support

from partner agencies is necessary to manage risks to the children and young people themselves and the wider community.

#### **7.5 Environment and Regeneration in Halton**

There are no immediate implications

#### **8. RISK ANALYSIS**

The service provides critical intervention and support for children who may be or are at risk of significant harm in line with statutory guidance and legislation. Failure to ensure the service has appropriate staffing and management, and that front-line staff have the necessary capacity to meet the needs of children would mean that children may be exposed to unnecessary risk, and would lead to a negative inspection outcome from the regulator Ofsted.

#### **9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

The service has in place support services for families where there are equality and diversity needs, to ensure they are fully involved in their assessment and plans, with support from advocacy of required.

#### **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Increasing numbers of children in care will lead to rising costs for placements, both for foster care and residential placements which will cause budget pressures.

#### **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None under the meaning of the Act.

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director, Children Young People and Families
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Halton Consultation and Review of Alternative Provision
<b>WARDS:</b>	All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Consider the outcome of the Halton Consultation and Review of Alternative Provision (AP) to inform a revised model of delivery for KS3 & KS4 from January 2014.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.0 That the Board endorse and support the approach to revising Alternative Provision in the Borough;
- 2.1 That further work is undertaken to identify and understand where there is low attendance; and
- 2.2 In line with the OFSTED review of pupils missing out on education a joint approach to information sharing is agreed which can be used on a case by case basis by health services, youth offending teams, police, education services and other key partners.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Following a recent consultation and review of Alternative Provision (AP) in Halton a report was presented and the recommendations approved by the 11-19 Partnership and the Children and Enterprise SMT.

The review involved consultation with schools, AP providers, pupils, families and LA teams. The main recommendations in the report were that a Multi-agency Strategic AP Group should be established to agree a definition for AP and produce a revised model for AP for the Borough. This group would then establish task and finish groups and monitor and co-ordinate the work of these groups. The Strategic Group would be responsible for AP across the borough, including commissioning provision, monitoring provision and ensuring it is good quality and

tracking all the pupils not in full time education by reason of exclusion, illness or other reason. In addition, it was agreed that the Strategic Group would:

- identify the resources required for the revised model;
- ensure a consistent route to AP and identify the services responsible for its delivery;
- develop a menu of provision including full and part time programmes, outreach and CPD;
- establish clear entry routes and agreed exit outcomes;
- implement a robust quality assurance framework; and
- develop a satellite centre to deliver AP in Widnes

The first meeting of the Multi-Agency AP Group was 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. At this meeting the group were presented with a broad overview of all partner's roles and responsibilities from the recent OFSTED focus on AP. The group agreed the Halton report recommendations, Terms of Reference and the partnership membership. It was agreed that two Task and Finish groups be established with the following remits:

3.2 A partnership approach to data collection to identify, track and monitor all children not accessing school in the usual way. This group will meet on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

3.3 A revised model for AP to ensure all groups of young people accessing AP are correctly identified by key partners and their needs are assessed to provide a personalised programme from a comprehensive menu of provision. The aim is that this is delivered by one AP Service so that all provision can be rigorously quality assured and at there is the expectation that AP settings are at least judged as Good by OFSTED. This group will meet on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

#### 3.4 **The Bridge School PRU KS3 & KS4.**

- The existing PRU provision in Halton was of poor quality. It was judged as Satisfactory by OFSTED, and at significant risk of a poor outcome under the revised inspection framework.
- There were significant gaps in the leadership structure at both KS3 and KS4 over a period of time.
- The national DfE CharlieTaylor Report on Improving Alternative Provision (2012) provided 28 recommendations towards improvement in both PRUs and Alternative Provision.
- These key drivers resulted in the recent reorganisation of the PRU provision in Halton and there is now one school, The Bridge, which shares staff and school buildings. There is an interim head teacher in post and a substantive head teacher will be recruited early 2014 to lead on a full staffing restructure. This school currently requires improvement and is being monitored by OFSTED. However, at a recent monitoring visit, HMI reported they were confident that the LAs plans to remodel AP will support the on-going improvement of

the school. The Bridge has a Management Committee that has representation from 7 high schools and is well supported by LA officers.

### 3.5 Single Inspection Framework

The Framework and Evaluation Schedule for the Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers (2013) clearly indicates the responsibility for LAs to ensure they know and monitor all young people accessing AP and they are confident of the quality offered and that the pupils make good progress. This has implications for the LAs overall defining judgement for safeguarding. In Halton AP includes The Bridge School PRU, local training providers, Further Education Colleges and home tuition.

The OFSTED framework states that there will be a focus on those children and young people who are missing from education or being offered alternative provision. In order to receive a grading of good there must be evidence that steps have been taken to ensure that all children, including those are a missing from school, are safe. In addition, Children and young people who do not attend school have access to 25 hours per week of good quality registered alternative provision. OFSTED expect to see that these children and young people have been encouraged and supported to attend the provision and there is regular review of their progress. Urgent action must be taken to protect children where they are missing from school or their attendance noticeably reduces. OFSTED expect the local authority to hold clear records in respect of the number of children receiving alternative education and for those missing from education.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection>

These new requirements present a number of challenges for Halton.

The first issue is that currently there is no single record of pupil and students receiving alternative provision. A record can only be established with the co-operation of all partners, in particular all providers of education, including academies and free schools. Identifying the data required and a mechanism for collecting this data has been assigned to the data Task and Finish Group.

Secondly there is currently no process to ensure all young people have access to 25 hours good quality provision. The aim of the second Task and Finish Group is to develop the offer for Halton and establish a process for monitoring and tracking both the children and young people and their progress along with the quality of provision.

Finally, concerns were raised about the attendance of CIN, CP and CIC etc following the completion of Annex A information for the forthcoming OfSTED inspection. It was therefore decided to undertake a multi-

agency review of a small sample of cases where attendance was a significant factor for the child/young person.

On 14 November 2013 a multi-agency review of 8 cases identified by Children's Social Care was undertaken. The auditors of the review were Sharon Williams, Nicola Noon, Sue Wilkinson and Sue Graham.

- 3.6 The review considered 4 areas: (i) Timeliness/Escalation of Intervention (Halton's level of need). (ii) Partnership working (iii) Journey of the child/pupil voice (iv) impact of service delivered to support families.

The cohort consisted of 7 children in need, 1 child in care and 1 child missing education who was also a child in need.

Timeliness/Escalation: 2 reviews considered to be good. 4 reviews require improvement and 2 were satisfactory.

Partnership working: identified as good in 7 reviews and required improvement in 1 other.

Journey of the child/pupil voice: 5 reviews considered good. 1 requires improvement and 2 satisfactory.

Impact of Service delivered to support families: 1 was considered to be good. 4 satisfactory and 3 require improvement.

The key themes identified were as follows:

Communication:

Workers not always fully aware who is involved with a family and the purpose of their involvement. Additional intervention undertaken in isolation of existing plan.

Drift:

Child in Need meeting reviews not always undertaken. Reasons identified for this absence of Social Worker, change of staff and reallocation of worker.

Levels of Need:

Professionals not always clear about the level of need e.g. CAF, Child in Need.

Neglect:

No clear protocol to identify when school non-attendance becomes neglect, therefore cases not necessarily escalated appropriately.

Confidence:

Lack of confidence in understanding processes used by different agencies and about using the escalation process to challenge decisions.

### 3.7 Pupil Missing Out on Education Survey Report November 2013

Earlier in the year OFSTED undertook a national survey of AP including Halton Borough Council and local schools. This report has now been published and it estimates that there are nationally approximately 10,000 children not accessing school in the usual way. The recommendations clarify the roles and responsibilities for LAs, schools and OFSTED. These recommendations are consistent with those in Halton's report.

The recommendations are;

Each local authority should:

- establish a central record of all children not accessing full-time education in the usual way, including those who are accessing alternative provision full time away from mainstream school, regardless of where they are on roll; and maintain good information about the achievement and safety of any child or young person not accessing education in the usual way.
- identify clear lines of accountability for the quality and amount of provision, as well as the educational and social outcomes, for all children and young people of compulsory school age who do not access education in the usual way; taking note of the survey's finding that this was most effective when a named person at a senior level was held to account for this statutory duty.
- share information across local authority boundaries in a timely and appropriate way to minimise interruption to a child or young person's educational provision.
- ensure that every child is on the role of a school, regardless of circumstances, unless parents have elected to educate their child at home.

Schools, including academies and free schools, should:

- with immediate effect, stop unlawful exclusions and provide suitable support for children and young people with behavioural difficulties.
- establish clear accountability for the achievement, safety and personal development of all children and young people who are on the school roll but not accessing school in the usual way, and for the quality and amount of provision made for them.
- inform the local authority of any part-time education arrangements, regardless of the type of school.
- keep children and young people on the school roll during periods of illness or custody (or for as long as it is relevant), in line with Government policy and guidance.



- respond quickly to any early signs of children and young people's raised anxiety or dips in their progress, attendance or engagement in learning.
- give governors sufficient information about children and young people who are not accessing school in the usual way, so that governors can challenge the amount of provision being made and evaluate its effectiveness.

Health services, youth offending services, police, education services and other partners should:

- agree on joint approaches to sharing information, to be used case by case, so that education provision and safeguarding for any child or young person who does not access education in the usual way is effective.

Ofsted should:

- as part of its Integrated Looked After Children and Safeguarding inspections of local authorities, ask for a report on children for whom the local authority is responsible who are of school age and who are not in receipt of full-time school education at the time of the inspection. This report should include for each child:
  - the child's unique ID, date of birth, Unique Pupil Number (UPN)
  - type of educational provision being received, including home tuition
  - number of hours provision each week (in particular whether the child is receiving more or fewer than 25 hours)
  - if the child has been excluded, the type of exclusion
  - the date when the alternative provision began

This information will inform the selection of cases for further examination, including in relation to any safeguarding concerns, and may affect the overall inspection judgements.

- regard any failure by local authorities to comply with their statutory duty as a matter likely to affect the overall judgement on safeguarding.
- continue to ensure that all school inspections evaluate the effectiveness of arrangements for children and young people who are not able to access education in the usual way.
- ensure that meetings between local authority officers, Ofsted's Regional Directors and Ofsted's Senior HMI include a focus on the amount and quality of education, as well as the progress, attainment and safeguarding of children and young people who are not accessing education in the usual way.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupils-missing-out-education>

**3.8 The Bullfinch Report - Action in Response to Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire, November 2013.**

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Oxfordshire County Council published a report into the learning and actions they had taken following the Operation Bullfinch Investigation. This report suggests that a national response is needed to tackle the issues raised in a coherent way. It also emphasises the role each of the agencies need to play. In terms of schools it proposes that action should be taken to improve the behaviour and attendance of young people including:

- Establishing a scheme where carers of our looked after children are notified immediately if the child fails to turn up for school.
- New processes are in place to ensure that looked-after children who are placed in the LA from another LA are immediately placed on a school roll at our Pupil Referral Unit and provided with tutor support to ensure that there is no 'gap' in their educational provision.
- Working with schools to better understand how they address the needs of 'challenging' children through exclusions and other processes that may include reduced timetables.
- Providing information to schools on the intended use of the 'B-code' in school registers and the role of Ofsted in ensuring that pupils are actually being safely educated off site.
- A new Behaviour Strategy which clearly sets out that a school will retain responsibility for the educational provision of a child on fixed period exclusion. The child only becomes the responsibility of the local authority on day 6 of a permanent exclusion and at that point a suitable full time placement needs to be identified prior to a new school placement being located.
- The council rigorously monitors performance on attendance and behaviour issues and challenges Head Teachers where there are concerns.
- Developing a directory of providers of alternative education provision who meet agreed kite marked criteria to ensure that standards are met and usage and daily attendance of pupils can be monitored.

These key findings are in line with Halton's own findings and the recent OFSTED survey and inspection framework.

Although work has already started to work differently with schools and partners this work now needs to be rapidly progressed and the commitment is required of all partners to ensure that we have good quality provision available for all young people and we are aware of any significant reductions in attendance.

<http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/resources/files/30891>

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Halton's Children and Young People's plan have key priorities to raise achievements of all young people. These priorities include; Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support, Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning, Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The revised AP service will be funded through LA funds and contributions from schools

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

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

Supports key priorities to ensure that Children and Young people do well wherever they live and provides opportunities for young people to access good quality education provision.

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

Ensure appropriate, good quality interventions and AP are in place and monitored supports Halton's key priorities to:

- Reduce the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET).
- Need to improve educational outcomes for C&YP particularly narrowing the gaps for vulnerable learners (evidenced through PRU results and outcomes for CiC).
- The need to ensure that there is a consistent and fair approach to accessing all alternative provision.
- Improve the quality of AP. There are currently fluctuations in the quality of the provision (Evidenced by OFSTED judgements for PRU and inconsistency in QA process).
- Need to strengthen leadership, management and governance of the PRU and establish a staffing structure fit for purpose.
- Need for increased diversity and level of provision required.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Will create opportunities to further reduce NEET, young people in NEET are at a higher risk of ill health.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Young people who are not in education and/or NEET are more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

## 7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The following risks have been identified:

LA OFSTED, The Bridge OFSTED, C&YP NEET, narrowing the gap.

## 8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Halton Borough Council are responsible for arranging suitable education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made.

## 9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None.

## 10.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

From 1 January 2014.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
OFSTED requirements	See website below:	
<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-school-inspection">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-school-inspection</a>		
<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection</a>		
DfE Reports Exclusions Trial	See website below	
<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-school-exclusion-trial-first-interim-report">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-school-exclusion-trial-first-interim-report</a>		
Charlie Taylor Report	See website below:	
<a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/b00204776/taylor-review-of-alternative-provision">http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/b00204776/taylor-review-of-alternative-provision</a>		
OFSTED Surveys	See Website below	
<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/alternative-provision">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/alternative-provision</a>		

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	13 January 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Overview of Child in Need and Child Protection
<b>WARD (S):</b>	All

### 1.0. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update members on issues impacting on performance within the Children in Need service (CIN) on a six monthly basis. This report covers Qtrs. 1 and 2 of 2013/4.

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.

The CIN service provides contact and referral, assessment and services to children in need and children in need of protection.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

**1) Members note the work of the service and the improved outcomes for children in need and in need of protection**

**2) A further report is provided in 6 months.**

### 3.0 ANALYSIS

3.1 It is important for members to note that since 2 September 2013, all contacts and referrals are now managed by one central team, the Contact and Referral Team (CART). This team consists of a Principal Manager, 4 social workers and 2 administrative staff whose role is to gather all necessary information to inform whether to progress a contact to a referral and subsequently an assessment, or to provide advice to the referrer and signpost to other services. Since 3 December, staff from the Integrated Working Support Team (IWSWT), who support agencies to respond at Level 2 of the Levels of Need framework via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) have also been co-located alongside CART. This means that agencies now have one point of contact rather than 2.

3.2 All contacts and referrals are reviewed on a weekly basis by all the managers in this service, overseen by the Divisional Manager. This allows for quality assurance of the recording and decision-making of this critical part of the service.

### 3.3 Contacts

Contacts are where the threshold at Level 3 of Halton's Level of Need framework is not met or are requests for information from other agencies, Referrers are given advice and guidance and if a response at Level 2 would support the child's needs, the IWSWT service will follow up.

3.4 Recording of contacts has changed since the last report, with all contacts with social care recorded, regardless of whether they progress to a referral and assessment. This makes comparisons with earlier reports difficult but contacts numbers have increased and will fluctuate dependant on the time of year – there were peaks in May (583) and July (420) which coincided with school holidays for example. August was the lowest in this period (293). The police still have the highest contacts, but this reduced in the second Qtr to 29%. The percentage of contacts which did not meet the threshold under Level 3 was 24% in Qtr 1 with a slight increase to 26% in Qtr 2. Neglect, followed by domestic violence were the highest presenting reasons for contact.

### 3.5 **Referrals**

Referral rates have generally stabilised but are still higher than in previous years. April, May June and September were fairly static with an average of 140 referrals per month but there was a spike in July and August of 191 and 152. Police were the highest referrers with 30% of all referrals. Neglect (32%) and domestic violence (25%) were the highest presenting reasons at referral. Re-referrals within 12 months remain at 13% which is in line with the NW average and significantly below our statistical neighbours average rate of 21%.

3.6 94.1% of referrals led to an assessment

### 3.7 **Assessments**

During this period, Halton has introduced the Single Assessment to replace the Initial and Core assessments. This is in line with Working Together 2013, and all Local Authorities are expected to have implemented this by 1 April 2014. Halton is one of the first regionally to have implemented this in full.

3.8 Prior to the implementation of the Single Assessment, (which has a guided timescale of 45 working days), both the number of Initial Assessments and Core Assessments had increased significantly in line with the peaks outlined above. In Qtr 2 for example, 485 IAs and 296 CAs were undertaken compared to 185 and 108 respectively for the same period last year. This increase in demand has had an impact in recorded timeliness of completion, with a reduction to 47% for both IAs and CAs. However, it is important to note that with the introduction of the Single Assessment, all assessments to date have been completed within 45 working days; more detailed reporting on this will be in the next report.

### 3.9 **Child in Need/Child Protection/Children in Care**

There were 770 children in need during this period which is a reduction. During this period, a review of all CIN children open for 12 months or longer was undertaken to ensure that children were at the right level of support. This has resulted in a number of children being stepped down into Level 2.

3.10 In addition, work was done with staff and managers and with the police in line with the revised Working Together 2013 to ensure that risk was being assessed and recorded in a timely and appropriate manner, and part of the CIN review also looked at whether children's cases should be escalated to Child Protection. As a result of this work, the number of children with a child protection plan increased from 64 at the end of May to 128 at the end of September. Children with a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time remains low, and the main categories for a plan are emotional abuse and neglect.

3.11 The numbers of children coming into care has also increased to 179 at the end of September compared to 134 for the same period last year. The numbers of children 0-4 coming into care has remained fairly static, with an increase in older children 5-11 and 12-

15. This has to be seen in the context of the increasing number of referrals during this period but also increased recognition in cases of neglect that adequate improvements had not been made or sustained for older children. More applications have been made to the family court for interim and full care orders during this period.

**4. Performance**

4.1 Significant improvements have been made by our IT services to the ICS system CareFirst, including chronologies and case summaries with a staff user group now advising on further improvements. A suite of real-time management reports have also been designed and implemented, which is allowing increased oversight of performance in all areas of activity. Implementation of an Electronic Social Care Record (ESCR) to replace all paper files is now well advanced, with staff currently undergoing training with ESCR becoming operational by March 2014. This will reduce bureaucracy for social workers, standardise reports and formats for all case recording and increase the capacity of administrative staff to support social workers.

**4. Staffing and Caseload**

4.1 Work has continued with staff and managers to work towards more manageable caseloads and on average caseloads were reducing to an average of 25 during this period; however the demands on social workers have not lessened but increased because of the higher numbers of children with a child protection plan. The establishment of CART has been positively received by staff who now can concentrate on assessment and direct work with children. Runcorn has experienced some difficulties during this period with 7.5 staff on maternity leave; this has been initially covered by agency social workers but this does not provide the much needed stability for children and families as agency workers do not have the same commitment to the service as permanent staff do. We have also had a change of managers as 2 Principal Team Managers left to pursue developments elsewhere.

4.2 All children have been allocated and seen, and agency manager cover has been in place to provide support and supervision. Currently, we have 1 future social worker vacancy and 3 staff on maternity leave are due to return in the New Year. We have also appointed 3 of 4 social workers on 12 month contracts to reduce reliance on agency staff in future.

4.3 We have also appointed to all current Practice Manager vacancies. These posts have been hard to recruit to historically and it is excellent news that 3 of our staff feel they will be sufficiently supported and managed to make the step into this role. Their posts as social workers have been appointed to and all will take up their position in the New Year. In addition, we have appointed a Principal Team Manager externally and have had positive interest in the one remaining post.

4.4 Workshops have been held with staff in the last couple of months about the future of the service and how it needs to develop. Staff have had many constructive and positive suggestions, which will inform a formal consultation prior to implementation of any revised service from 1 April 2014.

**5. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The service needs to be sufficiently staffed and retain skilled and experienced workers to ensure that children's needs are recognised and supported, and timely and appropriate action taken to safeguard them.

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills**

Children need be to be supported and safeguarded in order to achieve their full potential

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

Children and families are supported to recognised and meet their health needs

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

Children are protected from likely and actual harm and are less vulnerable to exploitation and engagement in anti-social or offending behaviour

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

No direct implication

**6. RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 This area of work is one of the most challenging areas of the council's business. Failure to consistently and actively support and protect children can lead to significant harm to individual children and risks the council receiving and inadequate judgment from Ofsted.

**7. Equality and Diversity Issues**

Staff in all areas ensure that they listen to children in a way that's accessible and non-judgemental, and takes account of their ethnic and cultural background, and their level of disability and preferred method of communication, and their sexual orientation.

**8. Background papers**

None under the meaning of the Act



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

**DATE:** 13th January 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Health; Children, Young People and Families

**SUBJECT:** Mental Health Awareness Promoted in Schools (MHAPS) Pilot

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide PPB with information on the forthcoming MHAPS pilot to be delivered in Warrington.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **PPB note the report**
- ii) **Comments from PPB to be made to the Pilot Coordinator**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 As a result of a visit made by the Joint Health and Children, Young People and Families PPB Mental Health Scrutiny Topic Group to Thorn Road CAMHS in October 2013, the group met an ex CAMHS service user, Hannah, who is now employed by 5 Borough's Partnership to run a Mental Health Awareness Promoted in Schools pilot.

3.2 The scrutiny group were particularly interested in this pilot, as it comes at a time where young people are increasingly vulnerable to social pressures and at risk of developing poor mental health. Although the pilot is being undertaken in Warrington, it is anticipated that it will be rolled out across the rest of the 5 Boroughs footprint during the second half of 2014.

3.3 The pilot's foundations come from a general lack of awareness about mental health issues amongst secondary school aged pupils, the perceived stigma that is associated with mental illness, lack of understanding about what services are available and how pupils can seek support. This has become apparent through high profile cases where a small number of pupils have reached crisis point and in a case of one, resulted in suicide.

- 3.4 The delivery of a pilot in schools to address stigma and raise awareness was also emphasised by the short film 'You're not alone', based around the day in the life of a young person with Mental Health problems, produced by Investing in Children Group from Halton Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- 3.5 The film was designed to reflect young people's experiences of coming along to services and meeting other young people with similar experiences. Other young people's experience of Mental Health and their lack of knowledge of who to talk to in their schools about asking for help was also a driving factor in the development of the MHAPS pilot.
- 3.6 The pilot coordinator is able to lend some personal experience to delivering the pilot from the perspective of recalling her own experience of not understanding Mental Health or the difficulties she was going through , and also not knowing how to access Mental Health Services.
- 3.7 Thomas Boteler High School in Warrington has been selected for the initial pilot. The reason for this school being chosen was that CAMHS have an established link with this school through a well-being worker at the school who would be able to offer support to the pilot.

#### The Pilot

- 3.8 The Pilot will be trialled across Year 9 pupils and consist of each pupil attending at least 1 dedicated lesson within the Health, Physical and Social Education curriculum which will address mental health stigma and awareness raising.
- 3.9 Within the pilot there will be information to direct the pupils to the right people if they feel that they need to talk to somebody within school, including peer support.
- 3.10 The lesson will be supplemented by a teacher's resource pack and materials for the pupils to take away. At this stage much of the resources are under development.
- 3.11 The pilot coordinator, being an ex CAMHS service user herself, is able to provide a valuable insight into the benefits of accessing services and also resonate with the pupil cohort by being able to provide a real life story of addressing mental health and delivering a message of hope and optimism.
- 3.12 It is anticipated that the pilot will be undertaken between February 2014 - May2014. The pilot will be evaluated by pre and post session questionnaires, and is overseen by CAMHS clinical and operational management.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The success and findings of the pilot will affect how the programme is rolled out across the rest of the 5 Boroughs Partnership footprint. There will be implications for both Health and Children, Young People and Families in Halton, which will be explored in due course.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Financial analysis will form part of the pilot evaluation and will be available in due course.

5.2 Consideration should be given by the pilot as to the impact on other services CAMHS services, and other services such as the school nursing programme.

5.3 Before implementing in Halton, consideration should be given by the Mental Health Promotion Sub Group (of the Mental Health Board and the CAMHS Board) to the impact on any existing provision of mental health awareness raising currently happening in schools, for example, coordinating with the Bridgewater NHS Trust Health Improvement Team delivery of the 'Healthytitude' programme in schools. This will ensure a complimentary and coordinated approach and reduce duplication.

5.4 There is opportunity for coordination between the Halton 'Like Minds' campaign and any future MHAPS work in Halton.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Emotional and mental health and wellbeing is a critical factor in supporting children and young people's social development, behaviour and resilience, educational attainment and achievement and life chances. This area of work also supports Halton's focus on Early Health and Support and the priorities within Halton's Children and Young People's Plan.

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

Good emotional and mental health and wellbeing is a vital factor in children and young peoples and adults accessing learning and future employment opportunities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Emotional and mental health services impact directly upon the

health and wellbeing of children and young people with an identified need or who are at risk of developing a need.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Those who do not experience good emotional and mental health and wellbeing are more likely to be subject to a range of risk factors that can impact negatively on community safety issues.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None Identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 National and local evidence demonstrates that failure to ensure that appropriate services to support emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is likely to impact negatively on their outcomes and life chances. Failure to provide effective mental health prevention and promotion services across the life course could also result in an increase in the need for specialist services thus leading to potentially increased costs to the Council.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified at this stage.

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

9.1 None identified under the meaning of the Act

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Children Young People and Families Policy Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Investing in Children and Young People Board - Presentation
<b>WARDS:</b>	All

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

- 1.1 The Investing in Children and Young People Board was established to ensure that all the work of agencies in Halton that deliver services for our children and young people have a central focus on ensuring that our children are safe. The following presentation outlines the challenges within the borough and the response to date.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.0 **That the Board endorse and support the approach by the Investing in Children and Young People Board;**
- 2.1 **As corporate parents members consider the contribution they can make to ensuring the best outcomes for our children and young people.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Board was set up following the Peer Practice Review in July 2013. Its purpose is to provide strategic leadership to ensure that agencies focus on bringing tangible service improvements that deliver quality outcomes for our children, young people and their families.
- 3.2 In Halton agencies are seeking to do this through evidence within their practice, including the voice of the child, to ensure quality outcomes. This in turn will bring a positive inspection judgement in an inspection.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Board will allow us to test our services and responses in preparation for the unannounced Ofsted single inspection framework of local authority

services for vulnerable children, examining early help, child protection, looked after children and care leavers and fostering and adoption services

**4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

**6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The aim of the Board is to ensure that the experience of childhood for children and their families in Halton is positive and supported wherever needed by agencies across Halton Children’s Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board.

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

N/A

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

N/A

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

The central focus of the Board is to ensure that children in Halton are safe.

**5.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The key risk is that OFSTED does not judge that our services provide the best outcomes for children and young people in the Borough. The Board has developed an project plan covering key themes and reports and on a bi-weekly basis there are reports on progress.

**6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The purpose of the Board is to ensure that agencies and services work together to secure the best outcomes for all children and families in the Borough.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
OFSTED requirements	See website below:	Ann McIntyre Operational Director- Childrens

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
		Organisation and Provision
<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection</a>		
Investing in Children and Young People Board – minutes and papers	Rutland House – Halton Lea, Runcorn  ann.mcintyre@halton.gov.uk	Ann McIntyre Operational Director - Childrens Organisation and Provision

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director Policy & Resources
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Performance Management Reports for Quarter 2 of 2013/14
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Resources
<b>WARDS:</b>	Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider, and raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for the second quarter period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2013-16 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
  - Children and Families Services
  - Learning and Achievement
  - Children's Organisation and Provision

The report details progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provides information relating to key developments and emerging issues that have arisen during the period.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board**

- 1) Receive the second quarter performance management reports;**
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Board.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.



**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

**5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

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

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Thematic Priority Based Report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross - cutting activities being reported, means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the Council priorities.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Not applicable.

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

Not applicable

## Children and Young People Priority Based Performance Overview Report

**Directorate:** Children and Enterprise Directorate

**Reporting Period:** Quarter 2, Period 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013

### 1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred within Quarter 2. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).

Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

### 2.0 Key Developments

#### 2.1 Ofsted Inspection Framework

This has now been published and will cover all aspects of local authority children's services, from early help, assessment, children in need and child protection to children in care and care leavers. It will also include the fostering and adoption services as well as children who are missing education and quality of alternative provision. Ofsted has been very explicit that the bar has been raised in judging effectiveness and outcomes for children, and that it anticipates there will be a significant increase in the Local Authorities judged as "requires improvement"<sup>1</sup>. The Local Safeguarding Board will also be reviewed at the same time, and a judgement made about its effectiveness.

Work is already underway in preparing for the inspection which is implemented from November 2013. The inspection is unannounced, and takes place over a 4 week period. Inspections take place over a three yearly cycle, and as Halton's last full inspection was in February 2011 it is anticipated that Halton will be in the first or second phase of the cycle. Following inspection, the Local Authority will be required to publish its plan in response to the recommendations. (TC)

#### 2.2 Adoption Inspection August 2013

The outcome of the adoption inspection was adequate overall, with good judgements for safeguarding and quality of outcomes, but adequate judgments for leadership and management, and quality of service. The revised and more exacting methodology and approach which will be part of the new Inspection Framework (see 2.1) was evident in the adoption inspection, even though it was undertaken under the Adoption Inspection Framework which will cease from November. There were no requirements made, and an action plan has been drawn up and implemented in response to the recommendations. (TC)

#### 2.3 Contact Advice & Referral Team (known as CART)

This is a newly established central team which receives all contacts and referrals to Children's Social Care in one place. This team will ensure that the quality of information received is of a consistently high quality to inform decision-making about how the Levels of Need Framework is applied, and the outcomes for children and families are clearly recorded and overseen by one manager. (TC)

#### 2.4 Performance reports

In conjunction with IT services, a new suite of performance and management information reports has been developed and implemented. This will improve the "real-time" management of activity

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<sup>1</sup> "Requires Improvement" to be good

within the service, and also enables oversight and management of that activity at all levels within the service to be evidenced. This suite of reports will be key in improving outcomes for children and young people.

### **2.5 School Improvement Link Officer Support**

Following the national cessation in 2011 of funding to local authorities for the National Strategies' School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme, and at the same time the significant reduction in the number of school improvement personnel, a decision was taken not to maintain a link officer role within all of our schools. The expectation was that schools would have increased autonomy and accountability for their own improvement. Funding for consultants and advisory teachers was withdrawn from local authorities and was re-directed to schools to enable them to purchase their choice of school improvement, including external SIPs. The Local Authority focused its remaining school improvement resource on working with those schools that were not yet judged to be good or better.

As a result and overtime our knowledge, particularly of our good and outstanding schools, has diminished and we have genuinely missed those opportunities to engage with all of our head teachers in their schools on a personal level. Some of our head teachers have missed this too. Despite diminishing resources there is an expectation that the local authority maintains a good knowledge of all their schools, beyond desktop analysis and scrutiny of published data. This has become particularly apparent following recent inspections of some schools where it has been Ofsted's scrutiny of the schools' current internal data that has resulted in 'downgrading' of their overall effectiveness, including schools previously judged to be good or outstanding.

Sir Michael Wilshaw, Chief Inspector of Schools in England and head of Ofsted stated that; '*local authorities should support all schools, including academies .... Council's have a statutory responsibility to ensure that **all children** in their area have access to a good education so should also raise the alarm if academies were underperforming*'.

In response the Learning and Achievement Department have made the decision to reintroduce a link school improvement officer for all schools. For good and outstanding schools, this will continue to be relatively 'light touch' but there is an expectation that Head Teachers of good and outstanding schools, including academies, will agree to meet with their link officer for at least one meeting during the year. This will provide the opportunity to share what has been particularly successful and any areas of good practice that they would be willing to share with other schools. For other schools where we have identified that more support is needed, we will continue to ensure that the link officer works to support them and, as now, broker in any additional support that is identified. A schools' category will continue to determine how much officer time will be offered to each school. (SN)

### **2.6 Ofsted inspections of Schools**

Ofsted inspections include an increased focus on the use of the pupil premium. In 2012-13 eligibility was extended to pupils who have eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as Ever6) as well as those that have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children of service personnel. Inspectors consider the difference in performance of these groups, supported through the pupil premium, with that of their peers in English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2, and GCSE at Key Stage 4. They report on whether the gap is narrowing and whether the £900 pupil premium per disadvantaged pupil is being used effectively. Inspectors are also reporting upon the use and impact of the primary school sport funding on pupils' lifestyles and physical wellbeing. (SN)

### **2.7 Inspiring Families (nationally known as Troubled Families)**

The wider impact across the partnership for the 101 families where the payment by results has been claimed is showing the following;

- Engagement with 205 young people and 248 adults;
- 3519 less police calls for the service in Year 1. There is the potential for the Police Service to benefit by £2000 per family per year in reduced calls/arrest;
- 48 adults on the Work Programme;

- There has been a 78% reduction in the number of offences and 75% reduction in the number of young people offending;
- Improved engagement with adult drug and alcohol services;
- An increase of families with registered doctors and dentists; and
- 38% of young people are accessing youth provision. (AMc)

### **2.8 Missing from Home**

Cheshire Constabulary will be producing local data for 13/14 onwards which will include a split of adults and young people. For quarter 3 onwards this will include CICOLAs (Children in the Care of Other Local Authorities) and the breakdown of incidents and number of repeat young people. For quarter 2 there were 178 incidents for 96 children, of which 45 incidents were for Children in Care.

Performance mapping is regularly taking place to enable targeted prevention work, particularly in schools. There have been a series of sessions on Risks and Dangers delivered in both primary and secondary schools. Catch22 have co-facilitated with HSCB training events to highlight the Missing from Home Service and the link to potential Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Department for Education has been consulting around revised statutory guidance on children who go missing from home or care. The guidance is being updated to take account of recent developments, in particular around child sexual exploitation, hidden missing and unauthorised absences from care placements. It is expected that the guidance will come into effect next year. This will impact on the current pan-Cheshire protocol as each local authority will need to have a process in place around absence/unauthorised absence. (AMc)

### **2.9 Shared Services: Commissioning**

In July, Halton Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council appointed a Strategic Lead for Children's Commissioning to undertake an interim role. The role is focussing on four key areas;

- Commissioning of services including the effective performance management of outcomes and resources;
- Developing, leading and managing a Children's Joint Commissioning service across both local areas;
- Effectively managing the commissioning activity for children, young people and their families so that the totality of resources are used effectively and efficiently to improve agreed outcomes; and
- Acting as the strategic lead officer for Youth Services across the Borough by developing, commissioning and implementing an integrated youth support services strategy.

It has been identified that there is an opportunity to look at developing a shared service for children's commissioning. (AMc)

### **2.10 Teenage conceptions**

In Halton teenage conceptions have continued to reduce. The latest data indicated a reduction of 10.7% on the previous quarter, with Halton conception rates at their lowest since 1998. (AMc)

### **2.11 Post-16 destinations**

The 2013 school leavers entered the 16-18 cohort during August and are currently being tracked into learning destinations. Monthly tracking data shows that a high proportion of 16 year olds are currently recorded as 'not known'. The Halton Borough Council commissioned tracking service is following up these young people to confirm their education status. Halton has achieved its best ever performance in the September Guarantee Offer (to ensure all young people leaving school have an appropriate offer of learning) with 98.2% of Year 11 school leavers having received and post-16 offer. This is an increase from 97.9% recorded in 2012. A quality assured NEET figure is expected in mid-November. (AMc)

### 3.0 Emerging Issues

#### 3.1 Governor Support (Administration and Clerking)

Officers are currently working with colleagues in Cheshire West and Chester to explore the option of a shared service for Governor Support. It is hoped that some economies of scale can be identified, whilst broadening the offer available to Halton's schools. (AMc)

#### 3.2 Two Year Old Free Entitlement

The Department for Education has made available £355,000 capital funding to Halton to support Childcare providers in Halton to increase their capacity in relation to funded two year old placed in areas of the authority with the greatest demand. The team promoted the availability of the funding to all providers and has asked for bids to be submitted which will be assessed against agreed criteria. The local authority will work with those providers whose bids are successful to ensure that additional capacity is appropriately placed, and that any places created will enhance the teaching and learning environment for the children of Halton. (AMc)

#### 3.3 Alternative Provision Consultation

An independent education consultant has been tasked to review the existing alternative education provision within the borough. This will include re-shaping the current alternative provision offer to coincide with the recent amalgamation of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Units (not The Bridge School). The consultation will provide a set of key recommendations to inform the future model for implementation in January 2014. The consultation will include;

- Questionnaires
- A workshop
- Discussions with pupils, families and other agencies
- Face to face meetings with Schools and other providers
- Desk based analysis of existing provision and performance data (AM)

#### 3.4 Information Advice Guidance commissioning

The current Liverpool City Region Connexions contract for the delivery of Careers Information Advice and Guidance services and the Tracking of Young People ends on 31 March 2014. All six local authorities are in the process of planning potential service options which will improve the service offer to young people and provide budget efficiencies. (AMc)

#### 3.5 Social Work Reform

As part of ensuring that we deliver consistently good outcomes for children and young people, a range of activities are currently underway to improve the underpinning systems and structures for staff, investment in staff training and support, and reviewing the current model of service delivery. Proposals on the new model should be ready for consultation in the new year. (TC)

#### 4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2013/14 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks was undertaken during Q2 reporting with no issues to report.

#### 5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

The Council must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.




As a result of undertaking a Departmental Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate for Quarter 2 2013/14.

#### 6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

#### Integrated Commissioning

##### Key Milestones



Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
COPS1	Complete the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) and implement the action plan to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and age groups	
COPS1	Ensure that priorities in capital spend are in line with the Government guidance and agreed by all representative bodies	
COPS2	Evaluate and monitor the sustainability of current school provision following the transfer of maintained schools to academies and the introduction of Free Schools, working in partnership with all schools to ensure diversity for parents by March 2014	



##### Supporting Commentary

COPS1 The CSA review has been completed and an action plan prepared. Key actions are to continue to identify 2 year old free entitlement places for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and to work with 3 and 4 year old free entitlement providers in the Upton Children's Centre reach area to increase provision. Officers continue to work with key stakeholders and partners on those actions to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and across all age groups.

COPS2 A members briefing was delivered on Academies in September 2013. A briefing note has now been circulated to members and a briefing note will be provided to all local authorities on governing bodies. Cavendish School have indicated they would wish to convert to academy status on 1 January 2014. The Heath Family Trust have indicated that they would wish the conversion of The Park to take place 1 March 2014.

##### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS CYP15 (NI112 adjusted)	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (58.9 rolling quarterly rate)	41.5 Rolling quarterly average rate	56.3 Rolling quarterly average rate	Refer comment below		

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS CYP07	Rate of CYP admitted to hospital for substance misuse from 2010/11 (22.7 rate per 10,000 baseline)	6.7	N/A	6.7	N/A	N/A
SCS SH04	Reduce the number of Young People who repeatedly run away in Halton	623	N/A	178	N/A	N/A
SCS CYP09	Percentage of maintained educational settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	74%	84.5%	74%		

SCS CYP15: Halton continues to reduce teenage conceptions and in Q1 2012 there were 25 conceptions, which equates to a reduction of 10.71% compared to quarter 4 2011. Halton conception rates are at their lowest since 1998.







SCS CYP07: Local data is showing that the numbers have dropped in 2012/13 for admissions specifically due to alcohol and substance misuse in under 18's. There has been a reduction of 3% from 2011/12 to 2012/13. Further analysis of hospital admissions data is needed to identify if admissions are related to the over the counter medicines and therefore possible mental health issues and not experimental, recreational or dependence on illegal substances.

SCS SH04: Cheshire Constabulary will be producing data for 13/14 onwards that will include a split of adults and young people. Cheshire Constabulary have seen a 25% increase in the number of episodes reported during the quarter, although the number reported from children missing from care has reduced by approximately 29%. Numbers presented above should be used as an indication only at this stage.

SCS CYP09: Based upon reports of maintained schools published as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Overall effectiveness across phases: Nursery 67%, Primary 78%, Special 100%, Secondary 25%, PRU's 0%. This measure excludes Academies and Free Schools.

## Child's Journey through the Continuum of Need

### Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CFS2	Further develop opportunities to integrate and co-locate teams by partner agencies by March 2014	
CFS2	Embed integrated services further within Department, Directorate and Halton Children's Trust by March 2014	
CFS2	Statement on new Level of Needs framework and family assessment programme to be implemented after the launch April 2012	
CFS3	Implement the new social work assessment and planning model in line with deadline required	
CFS3	Effectively implement the new Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and the changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children	
CFS1	Evaluate the impact of the management trainee programme for aspiring managers, with the aim of increasing candidates by September 2012	

### Supporting Commentary

CFS2: A series of meetings have taken place within the Trust, focussing on the next steps of the early help model. The general consensus is to establish multi-agency teams operating at level 2 of the levels of need framework, with a remit of 0-19 year olds and their families. Further project meetings will progress this further, with more detailed discussion around line management, roles and responsibilities and membership of these teams. As of September 2013, a health visiting team has been co-located within Kingsway Children's Centre, alongside Children's Centre staff. This is the second arrangement in the Borough.

The Trust project group has agreed that processes, systems and services should be more integrated, from universal to universal plus to Level 2 of the framework. The learning from Kingsway





and Warrington Road Children's Centres will inform how services can become more integrated across the Trust.

Guidance on Halton's new levels of need has been published and sent to partners across the Trust. Individual presentations have been made to key stakeholders, for example, GP's.

CFS3: The single assessment has been implemented in line with the timescale, 2 September 2013.

CFS1: The management trainee programme will form part of the new service model referenced at 3.7 above.

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
CFS LI02	Social Work Assessment measures	Refer comment				
CFS LI03	Number of multi-agency interventions (e.g. CAF) which are in place and operating	318	250	285		
SCS CYP12	Improve the identification of Special Educational Needs at School Action and School Action Plus	19.7%	20.2%	18.4%		
SCS CYP8	Percentage of referral to social care where there is evidence of multi-agency planning in the previous 12 months	Refer comment				

CFS LI02: There will be a number of review point in the new Single Assessment; Number of children seen within 5 working days (98% target), Number of assessments completed within 45 working days (95% target). As this is a new process that not all Local Authorities have implemented yet, it is difficult to establish a baseline to inform the reporting measures and this reporting of target and progress will need refining over the next 18 months.







CFS LI03: The number of CAF's is in line with the target, although lower than the level seen at the same time last year.

SCS CYP12: The data given is the position excluding Academies and Free Schools. It rises to 20.6% when including all pupils in Halton. The position is slightly above the national average and is making good progress.



SCS CYP08: The Children's Trust are currently completing a piece of work to incorporate all assessments under one banner for this measure.

### Improving opportunities for our most vulnerable young people

#### Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CFS4	Continue to implement the appropriate action plan from the multi-agency Children in Care strategy (2011-14) by March 2014	
LAS1	Review the performance of all schools and Early Years settings with a specific focus on those currently graded as satisfactory/requiring improvement by October 2013	
LAS1	Evaluate the outcomes of school inspection through the School Development Panel, and summarised within the Ofsted summary reports, to ensure that learning resulting from the inspection process is effectively shared with schools on an on-going basis.	
LAS2	Conduct analysis of school performance data and ensure appropriate deployment of School Improvement support for identified schools and settings, including school to school support as appropriate	
LAS3	Through data analysis RAG rate schools with end of Key Stage attainment gaps between Free School Meals pupils and their peers and identify areas of need and support required by December 2013	
LAS3	Analyse, evaluate and report on attainment and achievement outcomes for pupils identified as part of the Virtual School for Vulnerable Groups, including Children in Care, by December	



	2013	
LAS3	Analyse the levels of absence, including persistent absence, across all phases on a termly basis	
COPS1	Review and improve the quality of childcare provision, in particular child minders through targeted training and support by August 2014	

### Supporting Commentary

CFS4 Actions continue to be implemented and reviewed at the Children in Care Partnership Board.

LAS1, LAS2, LAS3 The performance of all schools is monitored as new data becomes available. Following publication of un-validated 2013 test and assessment outcomes, a detailed analysis of school performance has been undertaken. However, validated data will be available in late Autumn when further analysis will be conducted. Target schools will be identified as a result of this analysis. Ofsted outcomes are included as part of the dataset, as well as feedback from Early Years Consultant Teachers and school improvement officers. In providing levels of support the categorisation of private and voluntary settings is undertaken by Early Years Consultant Teachers. This is an ongoing process with categories subject to change depending on the context of the setting. This categorisation of settings informs the level of support provided.

Absence analysis is completed for all schools on a monthly basis. National comparison is completed on a termly basis when data is available. Absence is also benchmarked against Halton's statistical neighbours.

COPS1 Level 2 Safeguarding Training has been delivered to all Childminders. Satisfactory Childminders have been targeted with support visits and additional training. A programme of Safeguarding and Welfare Audits has been targeted at after school clubs who had a satisfactory grade and is now being rolled out to all settings.

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS CYP16	Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4	100% KS2 60% KS4	N/A		Refer comment	
SCS CYP03	Proportion achieving 5+GCSE A*-C including English and Maths	59%	56%		Refer comment	
SCS CYP10	Achievement gap at Key Stage 2 English and Maths FSM and peers	13%	12%		Refer comment	
SCS CYP11	Achievement gap at Key Stage 4 FSM and peers	31.9%	24%		Refer comment	
SCS CYP01	Early Years Foundation Stage	54.1%	N/A		Refer comment	
SCS CYP14	The percentage of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or receiving enhanced provision achieving levels or sub-levels of progress	86.2% English 79.6% Maths	N/A		Refer comment	
SCS CYP02	Proportion achieving level 4 Key Stage 2 English and Maths	83%	81%		Refer comment	

Due to the timing of this report all attainment data currently available is un-validated. A full report will be provided at the point of published data. In addition, nationally available measures have been subject to significant refresh and therefore comparison with previous years is not always relevant. The full report will cover this data and future reports will need amending to pick up the changes to the measures.

## 7.0 Financial Summaries

## CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER  
2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Employees	8,016	4,089	4,100	(11)
Premises	418	201	206	(5)
Supplies & Services	1,332	511	437	74
Transport	34	6	5	1
Agency Related Expenditure	305	147	141	6
Commissioned Services	404	157	147	10
Out of Borough Placements	1,600	871	1,287	(416)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	56	43	13
Out of Borough Fostering	414	137	110	27
In House Adoption	387	84	382	(298)
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,695	868	919	(51)
Care Leavers	316	121	100	21
Family Support	113	37	23	14
Capital Financing	11	9	9	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>15,125</b>	<b>7,294</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>(615)</b>
Fees & Charges	-113	-56	-62	6
Adoption Placements	-42	0	0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-1,726	-1,322	-1,322	0
Early Intervention Grant	0	0	0	0
Government Grant Income	0	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-222	-20	-21	1
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-2,103</b>	<b>-1,398</b>	<b>-1,405</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>13,022</b>	<b>5,896</b>	<b>6,504</b>	<b>(608)</b>
Premises Support Costs	347	174	174	0
Transport Support Costs	91	42	42	0
Central Support Service Costs	3,090	1,535	1,535	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	46	0	0	0
<b>Total Recharges</b>	<b>3,574</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>16,596</b>	<b>7,647</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>(608)</b>

**Comments**

Employee expenditure is slightly above budget. This is due to some agency workers being utilised and some areas not achieving their staff savings turnover targets. There have been a number of vacancies across the Department, which have offset some of the over spend.

Supplies and Services expenditure is below budget, due to staff across the Department reducing the demand on these budgets. This is expected to stay within budget for the year.

Expenditure relating to Out of Borough Placements is over budget, which is expected to be the trend for the year. Every effort is made to use in house services, but in some cases this is not possible. At present there is a high demand for long term placements. This is an unpredictable budget due to emergency placements or some long term placements ending earlier or continuing longer than originally anticipated.

In house Adoption is currently over budget. This is due to an increased demand, particularly around Special Guardianship. Some Special Guardianship allowances have recently been re-assessed and subsequently increased. This increase has also had to be back dated and these additional costs are reflected above.

There has been a recent increase in demand for the in house Fostering service, which has consequently meant expenditure has gone above budget.

The over achievement of income on fees and charges is due to the Community Cafes and Catering Sales Income.

In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be significantly above the overall Departmental budget by year-end, as a result of the increasing demand on Out of Borough Placements and In House Adoption.

## LEARNING &amp; ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Employees	3,870	1,436	1,374	63
Premises	10	7	7	0
Supplies & Services	982	157	61	96
Agency Related Expenditure	91	41	35	6
Commissioned Services	34	0	0	0
Independent School Fees	1,584	692	692	0
Asset Recharges	3	1	1	0
Inter Authority Recoupment	811	198	198	0
Speech Therapy	120	60	60	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>7,505</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>2,428</b>	<b>164</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Fees & Charges	-153	-27	-32	5
Government Grant Income	-77	-39	-39	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	-15	-15	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-40	-5	-6	1
Schools SLA Income	-39	-32	-32	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-887</b>	<b>-118</b>	<b>-124</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>6,618</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>170</b>
Premises Support Costs	112	56	56	0
Transport Support Costs	19	10	10	0
Central Support Service Costs	667	334	334	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	1	0	0	0
<b>Total Recharges</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>170</b>

**Comments**

There is a staffing underspend to date as there are a number of vacancies within the Department. There are 3 vacancies within the 0-19 Division. There are also vacancies within the 0-25 Inclusion Division such as Education Psychologists. These vacancies are contributing to the Department's staff turnover savings target.

There is an underspend to date due to the Inclusion Panel having limited numbers of individual case agreements in relation to Enhanced Payments. Therefore fewer cases are being brought / agreed by them and fewer payments are being made.

The underspend to date on supplies & services is linked to the graduate leader fund, only existing commitments are being expended and no new funding has been approved for graduate courses.

Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year and it is expected that spend will remain within budget to the end of the year. The department is making a conscious effort to reduce expenditure on supplies and services as various budgets have been offered up as proposed savings for 2014-15.

## CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION &amp; PROVISION DEPARTMENT

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Employees	3,602	1,658	1,609	49
Premises	438	29	29	0
Supplies & Services	1,191	524	514	10
Transport	5	1	1	0
Agency Related Expenditure	1,954	255	251	4
Commissioned Services - Youth Serv.	900	450	450	0
Commissioned Services	1,695	509	500	9
Connexions	1,123	442	363	79
Capital Financing	11	10	10	0
Nursery Education Payments	2,170	1,737	1,737	0
Schools Contingency Costs	397	0	0	0
NQT Contingency	230	0	0	0
Schools Non Delegated Support	99	3	3	0
Schools Transport	866	320	338	(18)
Special Education Needs Contingency	1,129	155	155	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>15,810</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>133</b>
Fees & Charges	-271	-22	-22	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-571	-571	-571	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-10,926	-5561	-5561	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-461	-332	-341	9
Schools SLA Income	-527	-527	-547	20
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-12,756</b>	<b>-7,013</b>	<b>-7,042</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,054</b>	<b>-920</b>	<b>-1082</b>	<b>162</b>
Premises Support Costs	167	86	86	0
Transport Support Costs	272	152	152	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,141	445	445	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	6,854	0	0	0
<b>Total Recharges</b>	<b>8,434</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>11,488</b>	<b>-237</b>	<b>-399</b>	<b>162</b>

**Comments**

Employee Expenditure is below budget to date due to vacancies within Integrated Youth Services Division, and Place Planning & Provision. Further savings have been achieved as a result of the Divisional Manager vacancy within Transforming Children's Environment and maternity leave savings across all Divisions. Savings have contributed towards the staff turnover savings target.

Supplies and Services expenditure is below budget as budget managers have restricted spend within controllable budgets in a conscious effort to achieve savings where possible

Agency Related expenditure is underspent to date due to Childcare Sustainability applications. The costs result when childcare providers fall into financial difficulty. It is anticipated that payments will be less than the budget provision set aside for these claims.

There is an underspend to date on Commissioned Services as we have received a reimbursement in relation to a contract within Integrated Youth Support Services Division.

Connexions underspend to date has been achieved due to the renegotiation of contract, and reduction in spend.

There is an overspend to date within School Transport due to increased costs in relation to the need to provide additional transport provision, resulting in increased contractual costs.

Reimbursement and Other Grant Income: Over achievement of income is as a result of additional income mainly achieved within Place Planning & Provision Divisions Technical Services Budget.




Income relates to payment for services such as training, and reimbursement of other services provided. Income has also been achieved within COP Management in relation to educational visit training.

School SLA Income: There has been an overachievement of income as extra provision has been offered and schools have bought back these additional services.

In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be below the overall Departmental budget by year-end.




## 8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

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

### Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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

### Key for Operational Director lead:

AMc – Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children’s Organisation and Provision Service (COPS)

SN – Steve Nyakatawa, Operational Director, Learning and Achievement Service (LAS)

TC – Tracey Coffey Operational Director, Children and Families Service (CFS)