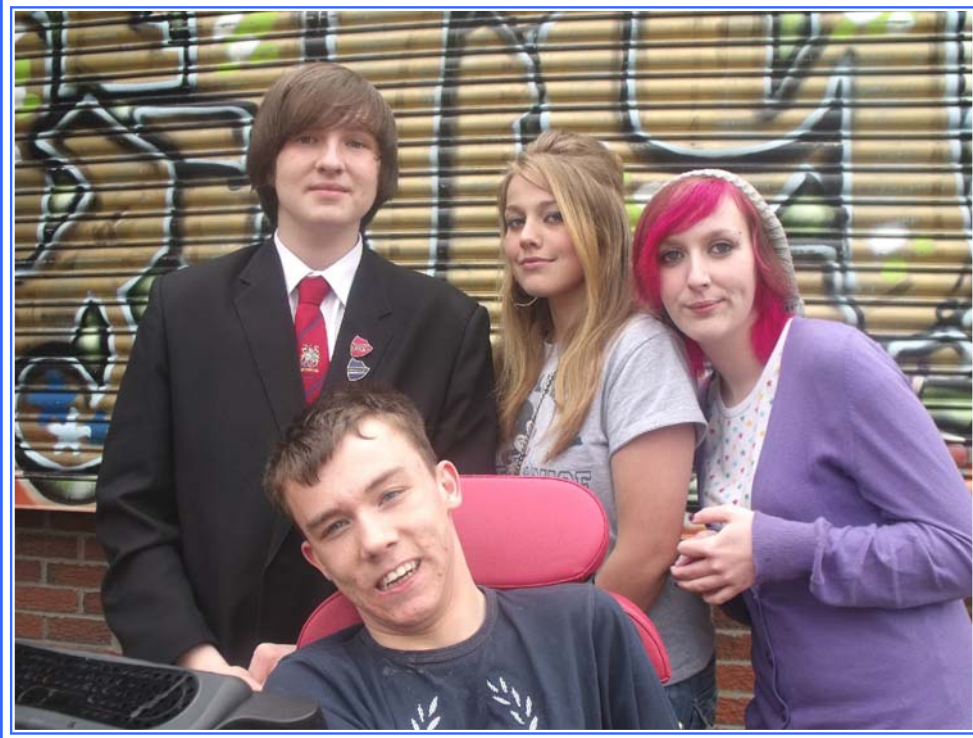


Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2009 - 2011



Annual Review of Progress 2010



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

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

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Children's Trust Partnership Arrangements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Children's Trust Priorities

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

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

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

4. Children's Trust Working Neighbourhood Fund Commissioning

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

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

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

5. Inspection Feedback

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

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

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

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

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

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

Areas that Inspectors felt needed further development included:

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

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

6. Listening to Children, Young People and their Families

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Success Stories

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

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

Barnardo's - J's Journey

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

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

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

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

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

Chrysalis

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual Health Summer Camp

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

Seasons for Growth

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

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

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

Child Safety Programme

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

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

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

LOOSE Music Group

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

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

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

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

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

Halton Democracy Camps and United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riverside College is officially good with OUTSTANDING features!

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

Prince's Trust in the local community:

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

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

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

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

The Halton Photovoice Project

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

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

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

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

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

Positive Futures Halton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nessie Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Help to get where I want to be"

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

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

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

8. Barriers to Success

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transport

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

Money

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

Places to go and things to do

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

School

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ Evidence provided from Canal Boat Adventure Project funding returns

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

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

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

Other gaps in provision include:

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

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

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

9. Performance Review against Priorities

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

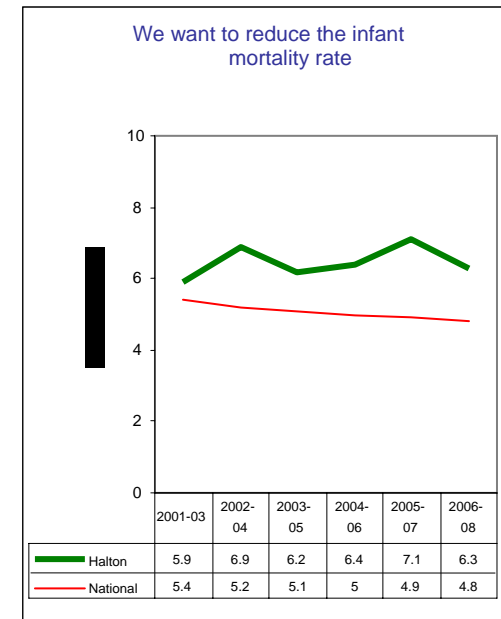
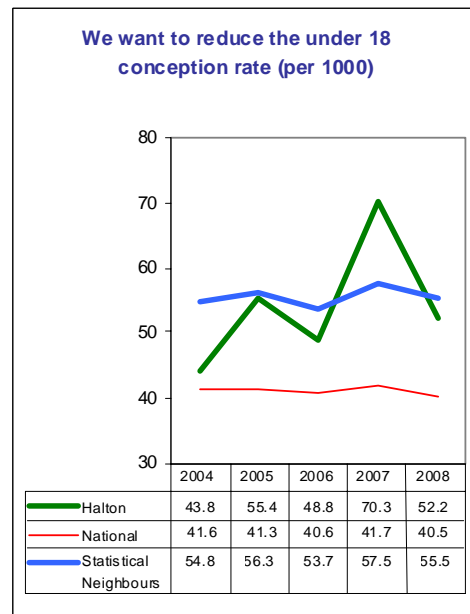
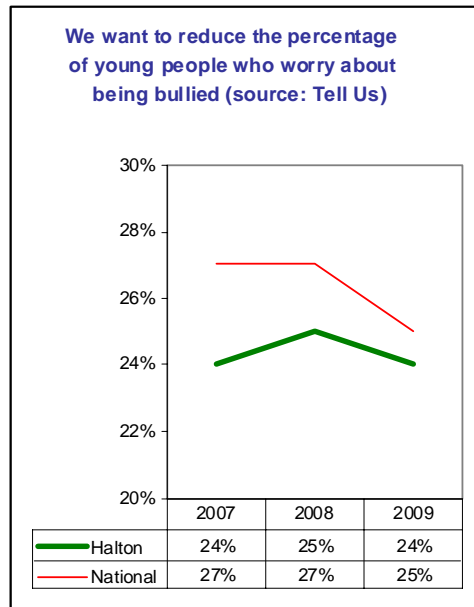
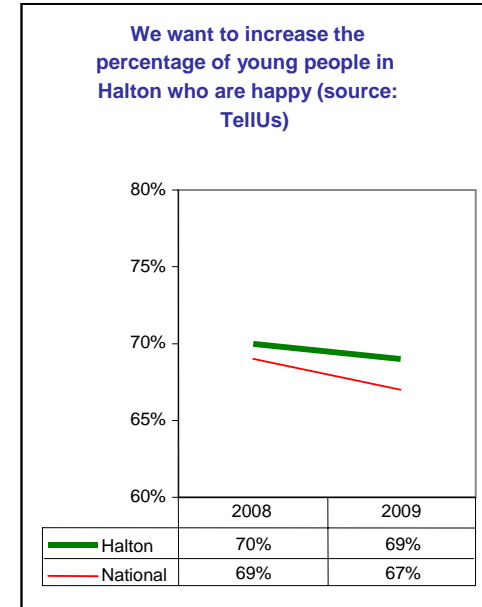
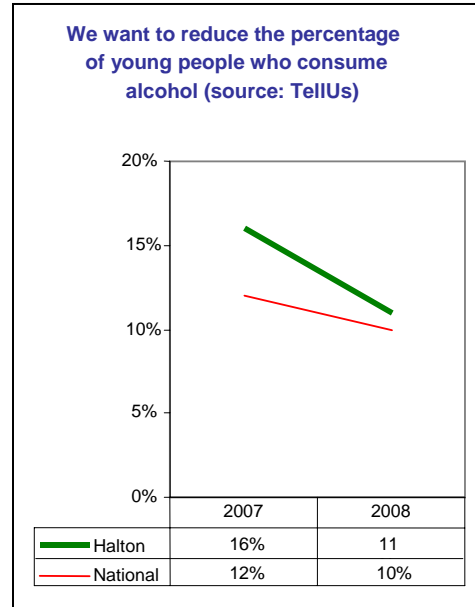
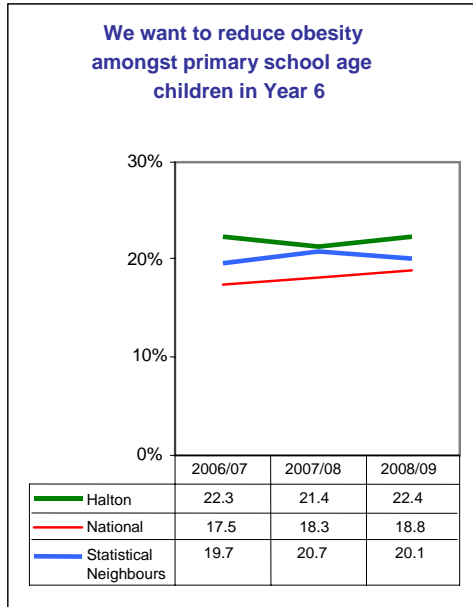
The additional data for the last 12 months shows that we have made progress collectively in some areas to make a real difference for children and young people in Halton. There are a number of examples of areas where we have made improvements, including:

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

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

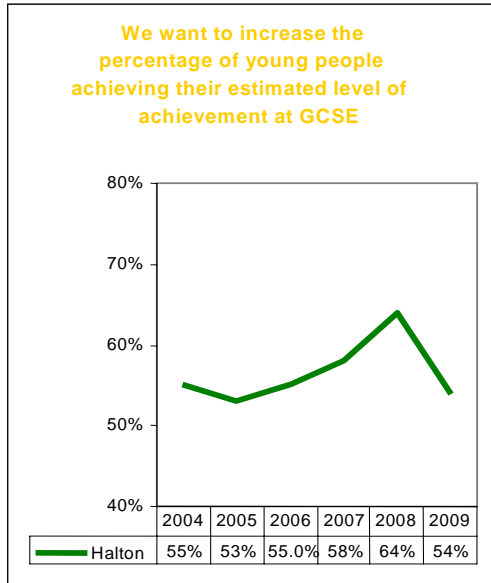
- Levels of obesity for school age children in Year 6
- The number of young people participating in positive activities
- The proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by 19
- The proportion of young people achieving their estimated level of achievement at GCSE

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

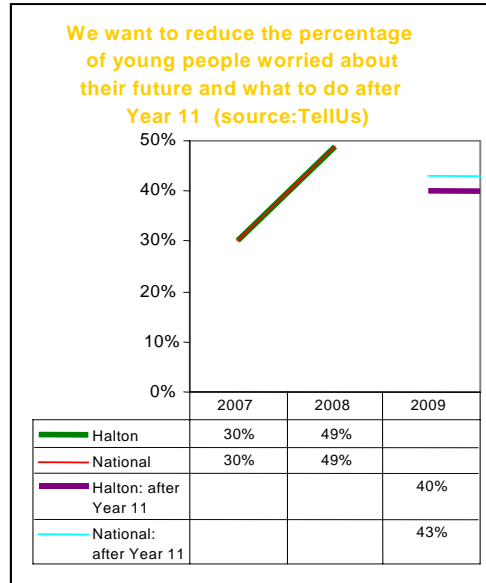


² 2009 data was not collected in the Tell Us Survey with the same wording and therefore is not comparable for reporting purposes.

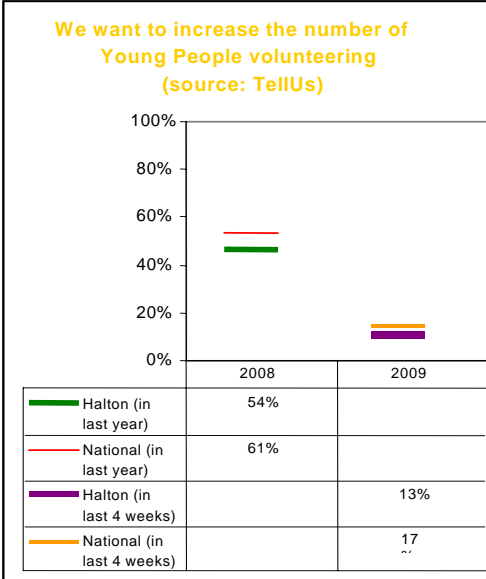
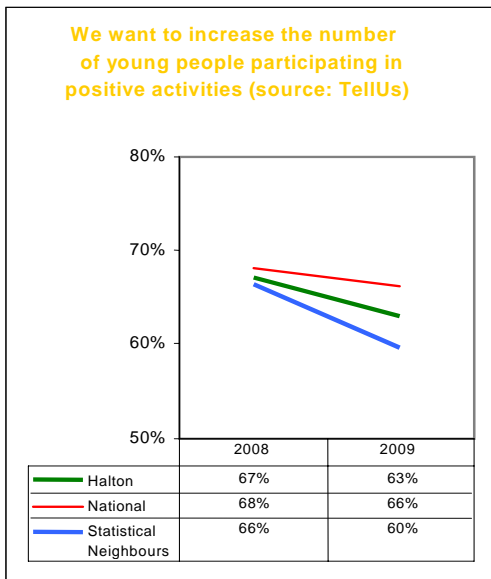
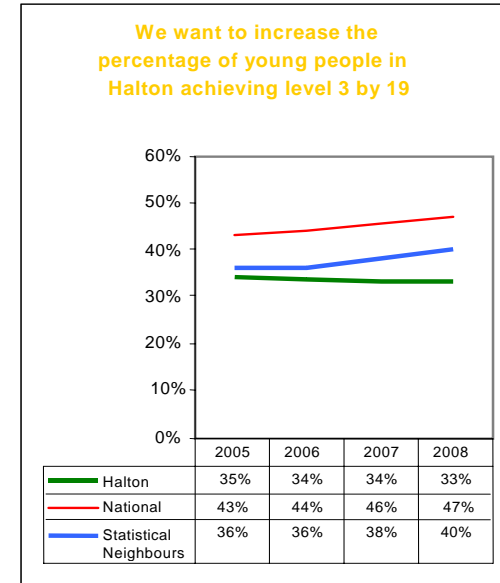
Priority 2: All young people are successful when they leave school



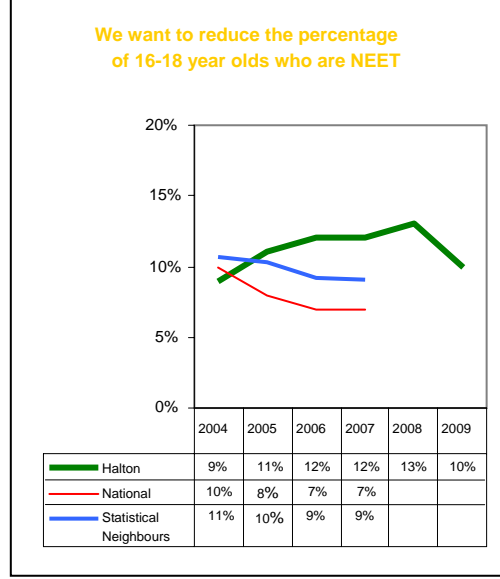
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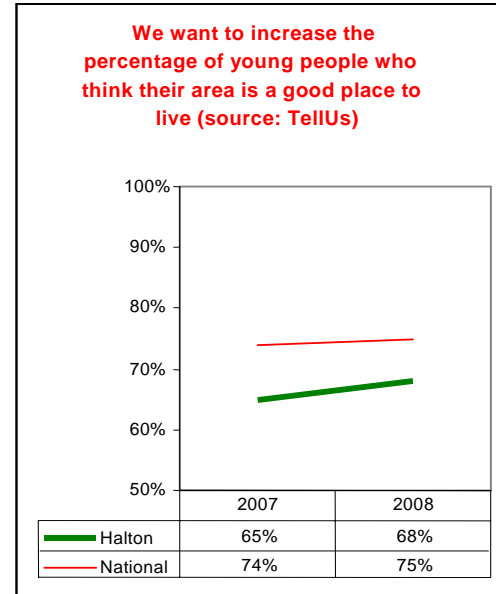
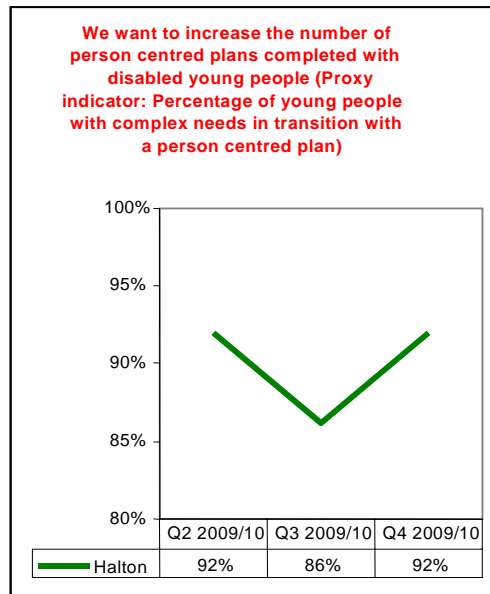
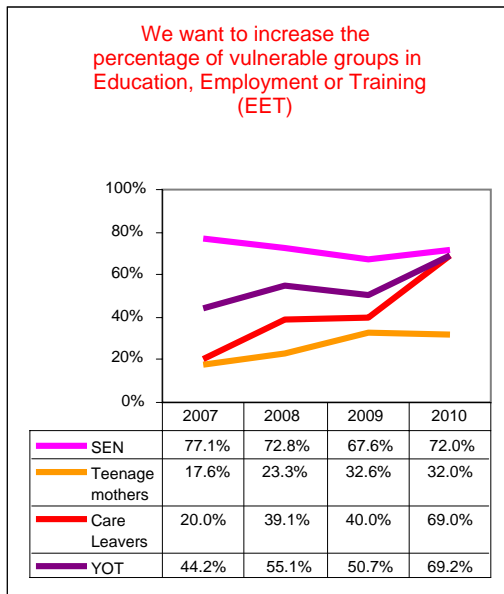
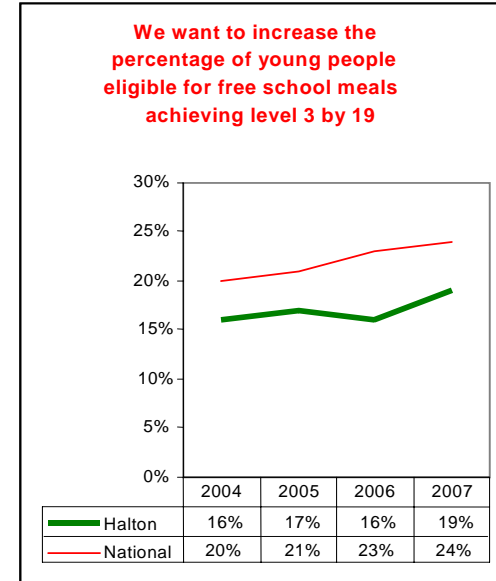
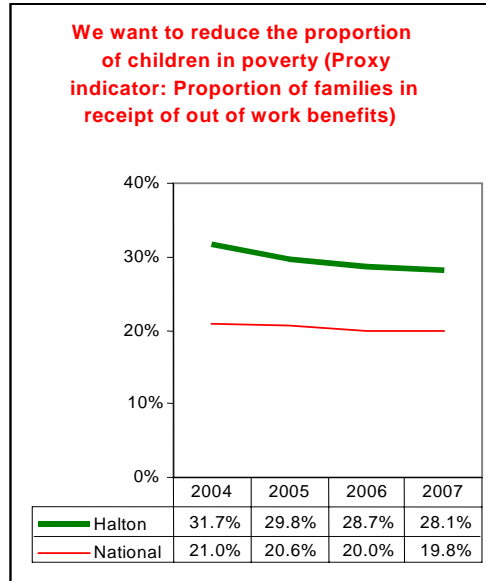
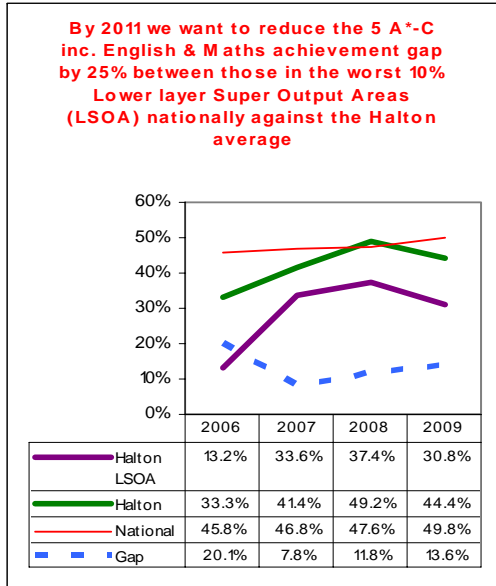
³ Local indicator – no statistical neighbour average available as the data is estimated achievement at GCSE rather than actual

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

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

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

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



⁷ Local indicator – no comparable data available

⁸ Question not asked in the Tell Us 4 Survey

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Key Report Card Findings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Priority 4: Children and young people are safeguarded

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

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

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

Children's Trust Report Card 2009-10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹³ Data not yet released, expected June 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁰ Awaiting data from PCT for Q4

11. Review of Promises and Improvement Plan 2010/11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

1.0 AIMS

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

Children's Trust and HSCB is working effectively.

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

2.0 HSCB RESPONSIBILITIES

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

3.0 CHILDREN'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

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

4.0 OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

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

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

5.0 RESOLUTION PROCESS

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

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

Appendix B - Halton Children's Trust Structure

