

TOPIC BRIEF

Topic Title:

How we can further develop the effectiveness of the independent living skills taught to children and young people with ASD in Halton schools.

Officer Lead: Operational Director Learning and Achievement

Planned start date: Spring Term 2013

Target PPB Meeting Autumn 2013

Topic Description and scope:

- To undertake a qualitative case study to generate rich data and allow focus on the positive experiences of the staff and children and young people to identify areas of good practice in the delivery of Independent Living Skills in a variety of settings
- To work across two schools, one in Borough and one out of Borough , with participants who will attend 1:1 semi-structured interviews
- Through the use of appreciative inquiry, what factors are identified within the chosen schools as having the greatest positive impact on the acquisition of independent life skills by children and young people with ASD?
- How can Halton Borough Council further develop the effectiveness of the independent living skills taught to children and young people with ASD in its schools?

Why this topic was chosen:

- To identify schools' best attributes and encourage participants to envisage the organisational future. To focus attention on what is valued most in Independent Living Skills within the existing system and consider what the future may look like if those values and Skills develop further.
- It is hoped that by exploring positive experiences, discussion will not become entrenched in problem talk which can overwhelm participants and create barriers to change

Key outputs and outcomes sought:

- By identifying the schools and settings best attributes and encouraging participants to envisage the organisational future,
- To adopt an approach that focuses attention on what is valued most in the existing system and provoke curiosity regarding what the future may look like if those values develop further.

The topic will consider the following:

- The interrogation of available data in order to better understand the factors involved
- The development of current service provision to encompass children and young people.
- How we define and understand Independent Living Skills
- *create a vision of what has been successful by reflecting on positive experiences*
The identification identify of wishes to envisage how the acquisition of independent life skills could be improved for children and young people with social communication and Autism
- Consideration of what may improve the regional offer

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:

- **Children & Young People:**
- Developing current work in this area will support Halton's children and young people to achieve and to reach their full learning and development potential.
- Key Objective A - Improve outcomes for children and young people and develop their potential to improve social integration and attain increased Independence
- Key Objective B--- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people particularly those identified as having Social Communication needs and/or Autism by targeting services effectively.
- Key Objective C- Improve outcomes for children and young people with Social Communication and Autism

The safeguarding of Halton's children and young people is a key priority across the Trust and runs through all our work.

Nature of expected/desired PPB input:

Member-led scrutiny review of the proposals for further development of this work, which will feed into the further development of social inclusion through the development of Independent living skills.

Preferred mode of operation:

- Briefings delivered by representatives of the Group to provide an overview of the current local position and predicted trends based upon recent Halton-specific data, with recommendations for driving the agenda forward within a context of cost benefit analysis
- Meetings with relevant colleagues across Halton Children’s Trust to examine current best practice, gaps in service, skills and capacity analyses and the subsequent implications and recommendations for commissioning
- Visits to settings
- Discussions with staff and students
- Photo voice
- Out of Borough visits

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chairs

Officer

Date

Date