

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

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

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

**SUBJECT:** Halton Family Voice Information and Update

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

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

1.1 This report is to give an overview of the role of Halton Family Voice and its latest progress and achievements.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the content of the report are noted**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Halton Family Voice is a forum which links into Halton Children's Trust to represent Halton Parents and carers 'VOICE' on a wide range of agendas and topics.

3.2 The forum was previously known as Halton Parents and Carers Forum and was established in 2005. The forum changed to Halton Family Voice in 2012, as agreed by Halton Children's Trust and parents.

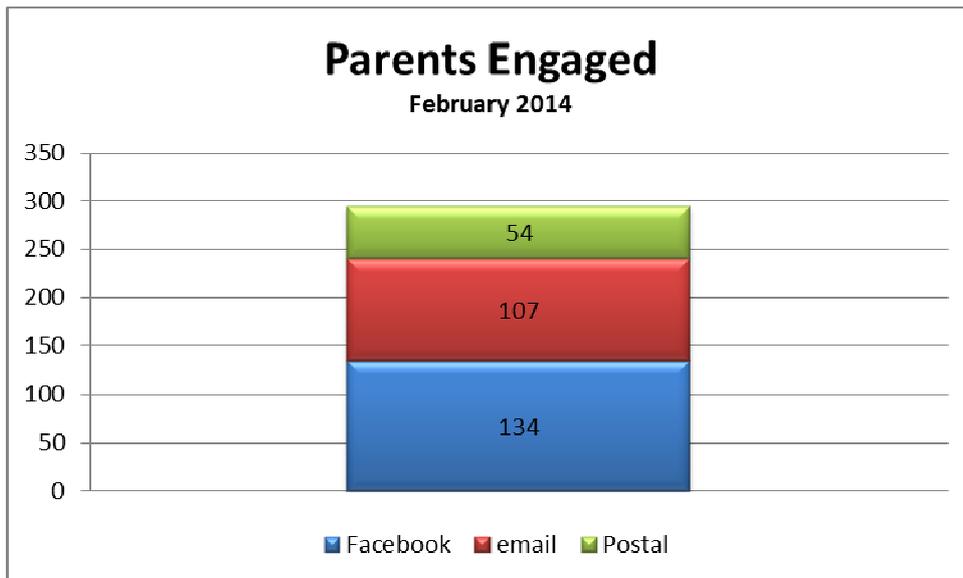
3.3 Halton Family Voice aims to INVOLVE parents and carers in the planning, development and delivery of services for children and young people and families.

3.4 Membership is open to all residents living in Halton who have a child 0 – 19 years of age.

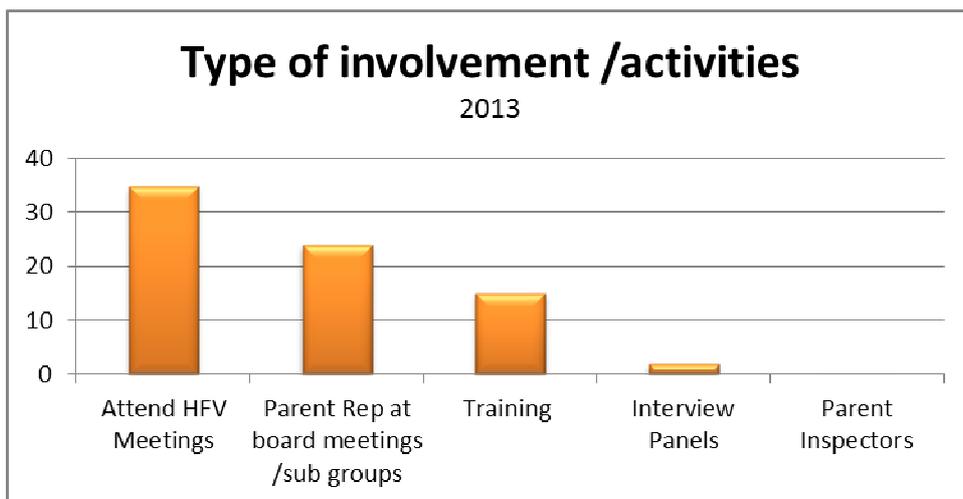
3.5 The membership consists of representatives from many of the local parent or carer groups in order to gain a true representation of Halton Parents.

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Halton Family Voice has gone strength to strength in the past 6 months with a larger number of parents engaged at a number of levels, through meetings, social media, events and training.



4.2 Parents and carers have been engaged in a number of different activities as shown. There are 12 meetings held per year. Parent representatives are supported in their role through training and mentoring and have a responsibility to represent the views of parents through the group and out in the community.



4.3 Parents have been involved in the following items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ EHAS task and finish groups</li> <li>■ Levels of need re-design</li> <li>■ CCG Governing body meetings</li> <li>■ Urgent Care review</li> <li>■ CAMHS consultation</li> <li>■ Toy Library consultation/focus group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Community Parents</li> <li>■ CCG – Have your say</li> <li>■ SEND reform</li> <li>■ CQC consultation</li> <li>■ INVOLVE (participation advisory Board)</li> <li>■ Children’s Centre OFSTED inspections</li> </ul>
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## 5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

### 6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Children, young people and families working collaboratively with professionals, will mean policies, services and provision will be more relevant, more effective and more sustainable. Halton Family Voice promotes a culture of identifying what services and facilities work well for parents and families. Where parents express concerns, issues or gaps in these services or facilities, further discussions take place around how this could be improved. The members act in the role of critical friends, thus promoting positive relationships between services, council and parents and carers. These positive relationships can provide effective solutions and deeper understanding of life in Halton for our families.

### 6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Through Halton Family Voice parent/carers are able to access training to support their role. Opportunities on employment and training are promoted within the forum.

### 6.3 A Healthy Halton

Halton Family voice offers a network to promote Health programs and initiatives to parents and families. Members of the group even initiated their own promotional workshops and events on health services and projects available in Halton named 'Our Healthy Halton'.

### 6.4 A Safer Halton

Through Halton Family Voice parent/carers are able to access information passed down from the trust such as safer Halton.

### 6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A.

## 7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Halton family Voice plays an important role in creating opportunity for engagement and involvement of parents. Opening up communication for them at a strategic level. The absence of Halton Family Voice would:

- Reduce the ability to take account of the parents and carers views in decision making
- Reduce effective and representative participation of stakeholders

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Halton Family Voice operates in an inclusive manner. Accessibility of the group and its activities are considered on a number of different levels.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.