

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Report

DATE: 25 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Area Networks

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following a request made at the meeting of the Policy and Performance Board held on 7th January 2008 Members to receive a presentation on progress to date in developing a framework for integrated service delivery to children, young people and their families on a locality basis.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the presentation is received; and

(2) Members consider the progress towards integrating service deliver at locality level and offer feedback on developments.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In June 2006 the Children and Young People's Alliance Board supported the formation of Children and Young People Area Networks as a means of providing a framework for integrated service delivery. This was in response to the publication of Every Child Matters and the subsequent passing of the Children Act which heralded the move to integration of services to children, young people and families.

3.2 The formation of 5 Area Networks followed the launch of the inaugural Children and Young People's Plan in the Borough and the partnership driven new strategic planning framework in the form of the Children and Young People's Alliance Board

3.3. The networks were borne of the need, identified locally through consultation, for services which are:

- Needs led
- Responsive
- Accessible
- Community based

3.4 Inevitably, not all services can be targeted on a locality basis. This may be due to their very specialist nature and/or issues of economy of

scale , for example, fostering and adoption services. As a consequence it is recognised that integration at a locality level will function best within a framework that incorporates 3 levels;

- Borough wide
- Widnes/Runcorn
- Locality/Area Network

3.5 Since the formation of the networks, and as integration proceeds, further developments have occurred. These have included:

- Transforming learning via Building Schools for the Future
- Developments in working arrangements with the PCT
- Integrated and Targeted Youth Support

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Integrated service delivery is at the heart of Every Child Matters which seeks to secure the effective 'joining up' of services across the range of professionals working with children, young people and their families, in order to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable children are met, and outcomes for all are significantly improved.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Integration challenges organisations and services working with children, young people and their families to work better together, and to avoid duplication of service delivery. Inevitably the scale of system change that this signals will impact upon service and organisational structures, systems and cultures. The development of joint/integrated commissioning arrangements over time will secure a better use of the resources available.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Integrated service delivery secured through common assessment and commissioning processes and an integrated workforce development strategy will continue to result in improved outcomes for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Enjoying and Achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being are 3 of the 5 ECM outcomes. Integrated service delivery seeks to secure improvements in these outcomes locally.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Tackling health inequalities for children and young people in the Borough is a priority within the Children and Young People's Plan.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Keeping our children and young people safe is a priority within the Plan and is a focus of integration.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Urban renewal is supported through the development of children's centres and extended schools.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Integrated service delivery seeks to reduce risks to children and young people through the effective 'joining up' of services and improved information sharing protocols.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Every Child Matters, and Halton Children and Young People's Plan is inclusive of the needs of all children and young people and seeks to enhance support to the most vulnerable children and their families within the community.