

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Children & Young People
SERVICE: Preventative Services
PERIOD: Quarter 4 to year-end 31st March 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Preventative Services Department fourth quarter period up to year-end 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 6.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Teenage Pregnancy – In January the latest performance information was released by DCSF (Department for Children Schools and Families) in relation to teenage pregnancy. This revealed a significant increase in under 18 conceptions in Halton. Subsequent dialogue with GONW and Teenage Pregnancy Unit has been positive, reinforced by good partnership working and additional investment emerging from the PCT in this area.

2.2 My Place

In March the Local Authority was notified of it's successful bid to My Place for a capital grant towards the development of a world-class youth facility at the former Kingsway Medical Building. At this stage the LA is being offered 'an in-principal capital grant' of £2.5m. This funding will be confirmed on approval of a Capital Plan, Business Plan and Partnership Plan later in the year.

2.3 Early Learning and Childcare

We received notification of a funding allocation to support the provision

of free places to most disadvantaged two year olds in the LA. The funding allocation is for 77 two year olds. Steps are being taken to establish criteria to identify and target this number, and secure the provision for the children and families concerned.

2.4 Young People’s Alcohol and Drug Treatment Plan

The LA received positive endorsement from the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse of its draft plan and was commended for it’s high quality. In particular it stated, “the panel felt that your plan was of a sufficiently high quality to warrant acceptance. That it celebrates Halton’s many successes in the successful development of a fully integrated young person’s substance misuse service. It was also noteworthy that the priorities within the plan have been identified through consultation with young people”.

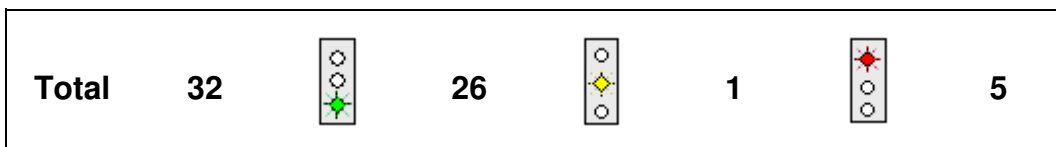
The 2007/8 school attendance figures published in February 2009 show that the improvement in school attendance over the last four years has been sustained. Attendance at primary schools in Halton last year was marginally above the national average and Secondary attendance was 0.2% short of the national average having improved significantly since 2003/4.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

Children’s Centres are not currently recognised in legislation, although the integrated services they offer to children and families have a statutory basis in the local authority duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide integrated early childhood services. Under Government proposals contained within the Bill, children’s centres will be established as a recognised part of children’s services infrastructure, and will have a statutory basis. The Government propose to use the Act to establish that all children’s centres in existence at the date of Royal Assent are captured as children’s centres for the purpose of the statutory requirements. Local Authorities, working with their statutory partners, would be required to assess the need for children’s centres in their area, and to establish and maintain sufficient children’s centres to meet that need. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide children’s centres with a statutory footing, so that their provision is not seen as the outcome of time-limited funding regime, but becomes a long term statutory commitment and part of the established landscape of early years provision.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES






Most milestones (26) have been achieved this year. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




Steps are underway to establish teen health drop – in clinics in each high school wherever possible to provide the widest range of health advice and support to young people who may not otherwise access that health support in their communities. Discussions are underway with each Headteacher to look at the provision and delivery of the clinics, which will commence in some High Schools from half term, and all from September. The clinics will signpost young people where appropriate to specialist services (ie. for substance misuse), but may provide higher levels of sexual health services such as pregnancy testing, issuing of contraceptives etc. Appropriate protocols in relation to confidentiality, safeguarding and information sharing are being developed.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	6		2		0		2
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Of the 6 key indicators for the service, 2 are on target. A further 2 indicators have been assigned an red light,. One new indicator relating to participation in positive activities is reported for the first time, but no target was set at the start of the year so a traffic light is not assigned. One indicator measuring take-up of formal childcare by low income working families is not be available to be reported. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	13		0		0		0
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For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.



Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 4




9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS






During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 5





10.0 APPENDICES






Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators
Appendix 4- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures
Appendix 5 – Progress against High Priority Equality Actions
Appendix 6 - Explanation of traffic light symbols






Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 1	To secure sufficient childcare and Early Education Places in line with Childcare Act	To develop early years services in line with Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Mar 2009		Early Years Childcare services are currently being developed and sustained in line with the Halton Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
		Establish an enhanced provision panel to support Private and Voluntary childcare providers to increase access for children with additional needs, Sep 2008		<p>The establishment of the Early Years Enhanced Provision Panel has enabled the offer for children with LDD to be broadened to all registered early years settings in the private and voluntary sector as well as maintained settings and supports parental preference /choice of setting for early years education for children with LDD.</p> <p>Early Years Enhanced provision is enabling children with LDD to access resources and their entitlement to early years education and supports the Early Years transition process.</p>




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To ensure that there is sufficient provision to deliver the free early years entitlement for 3 & 4 years olds.		Providers of the free entitlement have been surveyed to determine their ability to deliver the extended offer, to be phased-in in September 2009 with universal roll-out in September 2010. This process will be repeated to inform the review of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in April 2009. There is support available to providers through the Childcare Capital Funding.
		To develop a single funding formula across the maintained and private and voluntary sectors to ensure equity and support the sustainability of sufficient provision.		The Early Years team are working closely with finance colleagues to develop the single funding formula.
PRS 2	To increase accessibility to Children's Centres services	To have completed Children's Centre Self Evaluation Forms for submission to Children Centre Advisory Boards, Mar 2009		All Children's Centres continue to oversee the operational development of services and the completion of the Self Evaluation Forms through senior management teams, representing the full range of partner agencies, schools and parents.





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To move into phase 3 of Children Centre Planning, Sep 2008		On 9 th April 2009 Executive Board approved the proposal to use Phase 3 Children's Centre capital to enhance and maintain existing children's centre stock.
		To establish a fully operational JNA data-base for all Children's Centres, Sep 2008		The JNA database is operational: systems are in place for the collation of data concerning the accessibility and reach of children centre services.
PRS 3	To Organise Service Delivery on a Locality Basis According to Need	To establish a baseline position for local targets and ensure robust monitoring systems are in place to provide analysis by locality, Mar 2009		Is commencing at the end of April 2009.
		Implement a system to effectively commission services underpinned by a strategic needs analysis, and meeting local and national targets, Mar 2009		A strategic needs analysis has been completed including locality profiling to ensure effective commissioning of services.
		Develop the JNA database to record early identification issues, and inform locality needs, Mar 2009		Systems now in place for the further development of early identification of locality needs.


Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 4	To Reduce Health Inequalities for all Children	Local reporting system is developed to provide an accurate benchmark to monitor the joint PCT and Children's Centres targets for breastfeeding, teenage pregnancy, and childhood obesity, Mar 2009		Ongoing. Health Visitors visits project rolled out November 2008- due for assessment end of April 09. Project will focus amongst few on breastfeeding and postnatal depression. Childhood obesity information received annually; Teenage pregnancy information received on monthly basis. HBC and PCT Halton & St Helens to finalise Tier 2& 3 agreements.
		Implement effective commissioning arrangements for delivery of health services as part of the Children's Centre core offer, Mar 2009		Progress has been made with the PCT to meet the future commissioning costs of health services delivered in children's centres.
		Increase the number of new parents registering at Children's Centres during the ante-natal period and in the first year of the child's life, Mar 2009		A revised method of registration operated anti-natally is contributing to increased registration figures, systems have been developed for the regular monitoring of new registrations.
		Agree an action plan for the co-location of core health practitioners in Children's Centres, Mar 2009		Plans have been developed to locate appropriate health staff in children's centres.

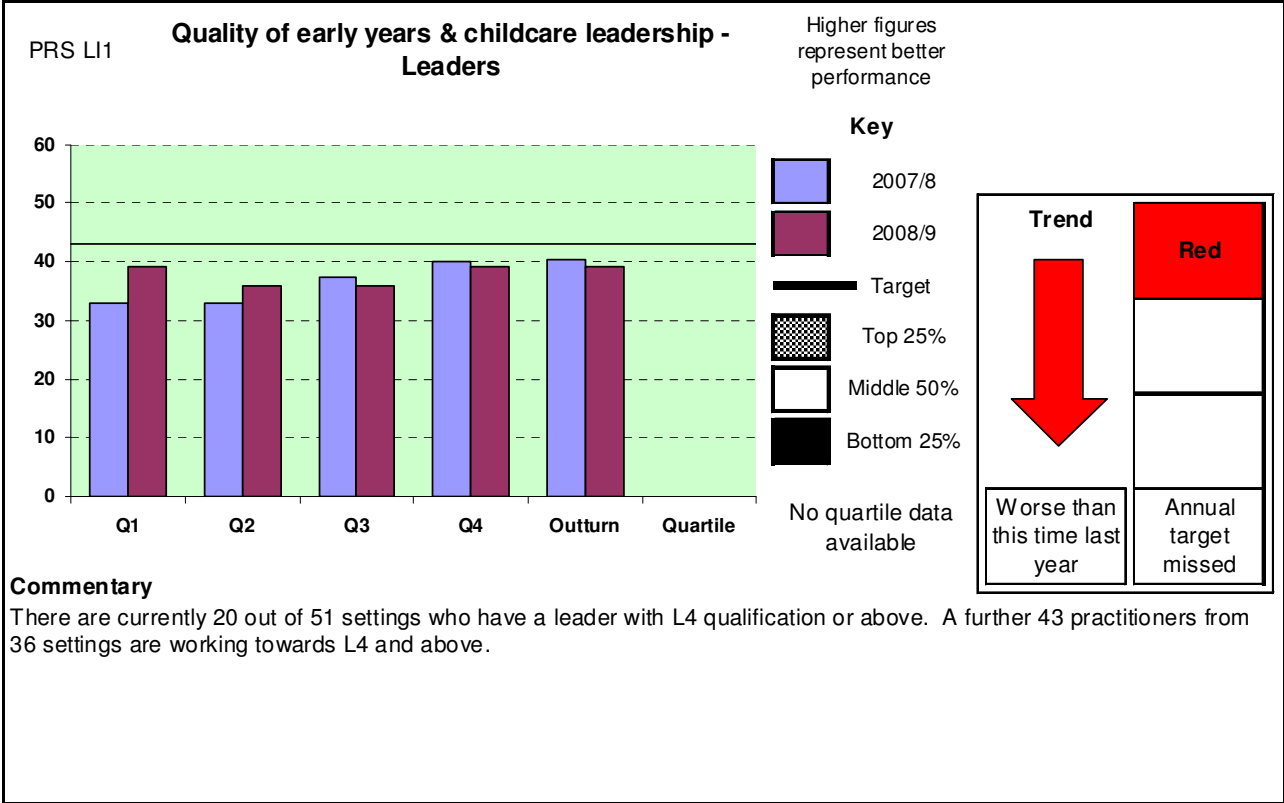
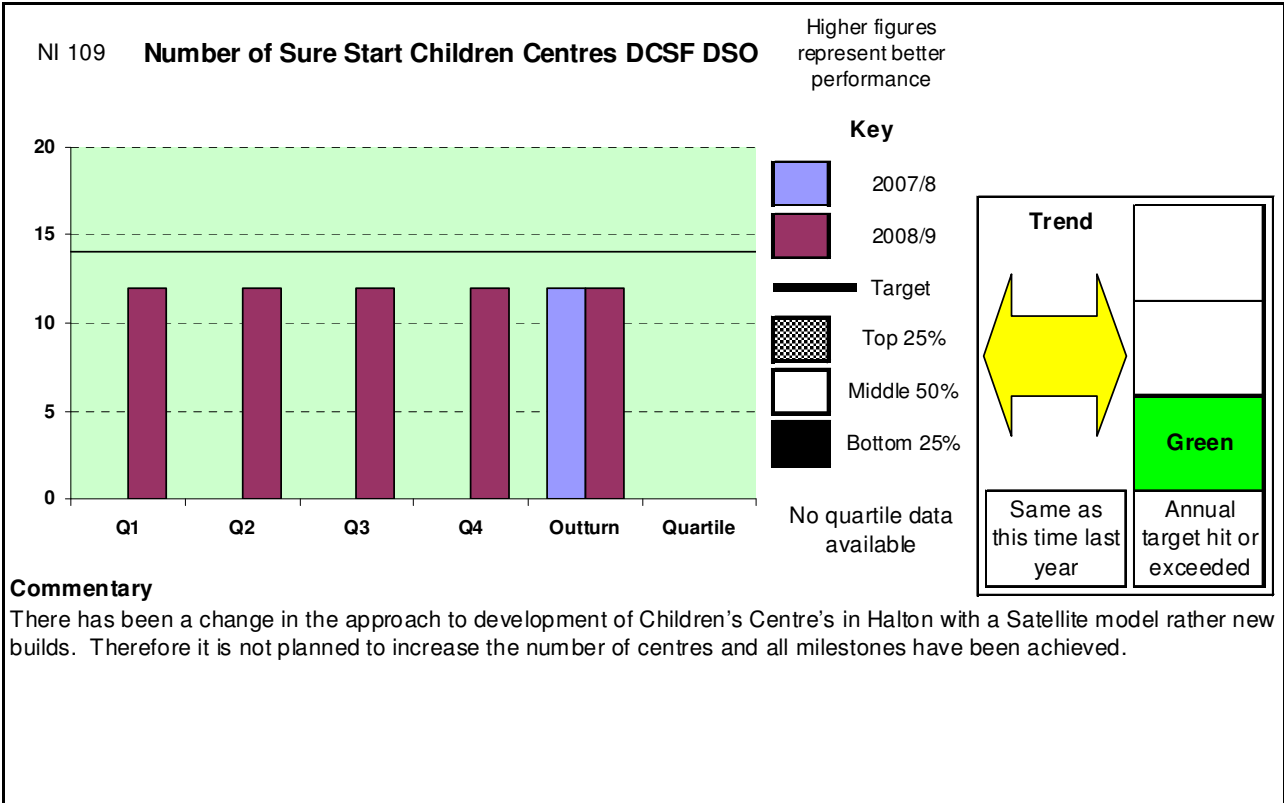
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To develop relevant and accessible information for young people on drugs and alcohol, their effects and support services across Halton, Mar 2009		A young person's interactive information tool – Youth Bytes – is to be piloted in four schools across Halton. Youth Bytes provides information and advice on a range of issues and services pertinent to young peoples needs. The IYSS interactive information CD rom continues to be promoted across schools and young people's services.
PRS 5	To Improve Levels of School Attendance for All Children	Develop joint working with health sector to reduce non attendance due to chronic health issues, Mar 2009		After an initial pilot this project has been developed to cover an increased number of primary schools with a focus on schools with high persistent absence.
		Develop multi-agency intervention plan each pupil identified in persistent absent cohort, Sep 2008		All Persistently Absent pupils have an integrated plan.
		95% of EWO agreed contacts with schools made during the year		Target met to date
PRS 6	To Behaviour in Schools for All Children	Every secondary school to be part of an Education Improvement Partnership on Behaviour, Sep 2008		Collaboration between secondary schools on behaviour issues is developing and In Year Fair Access arrangements are now up and running.

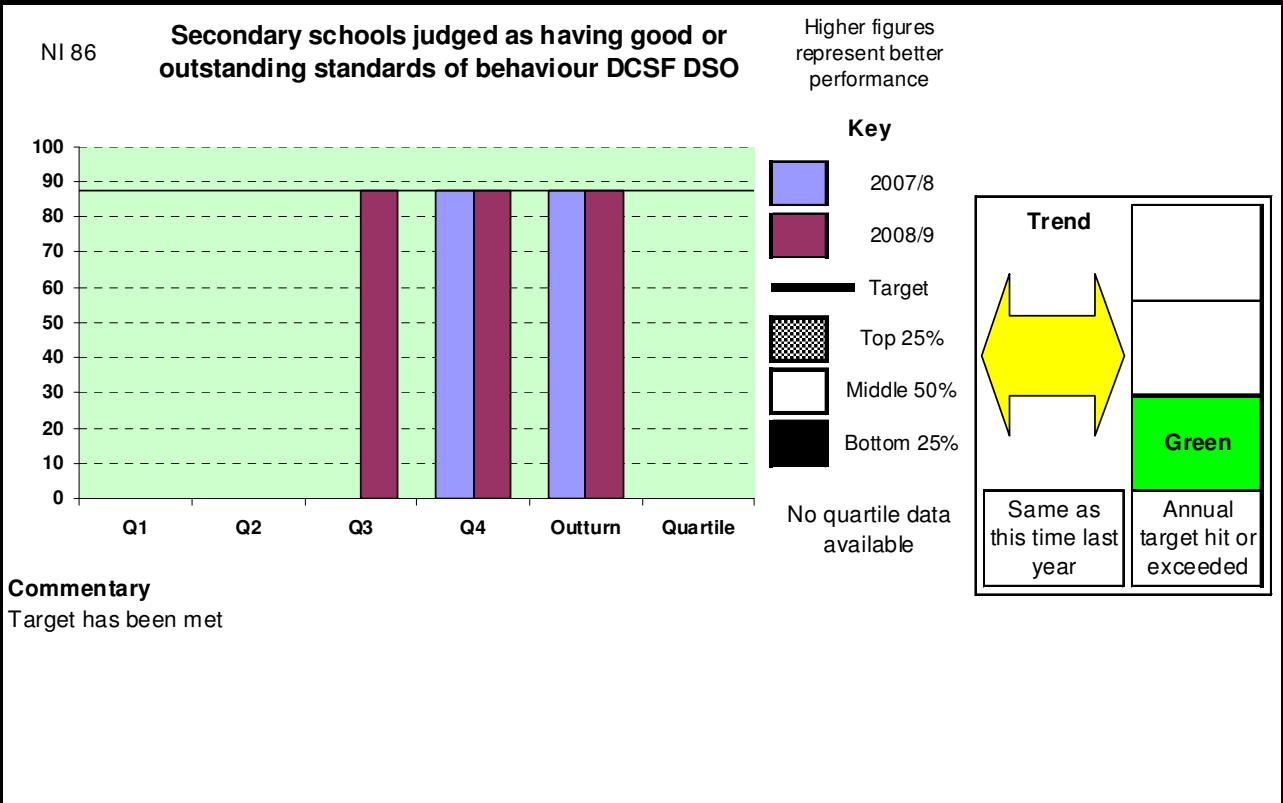
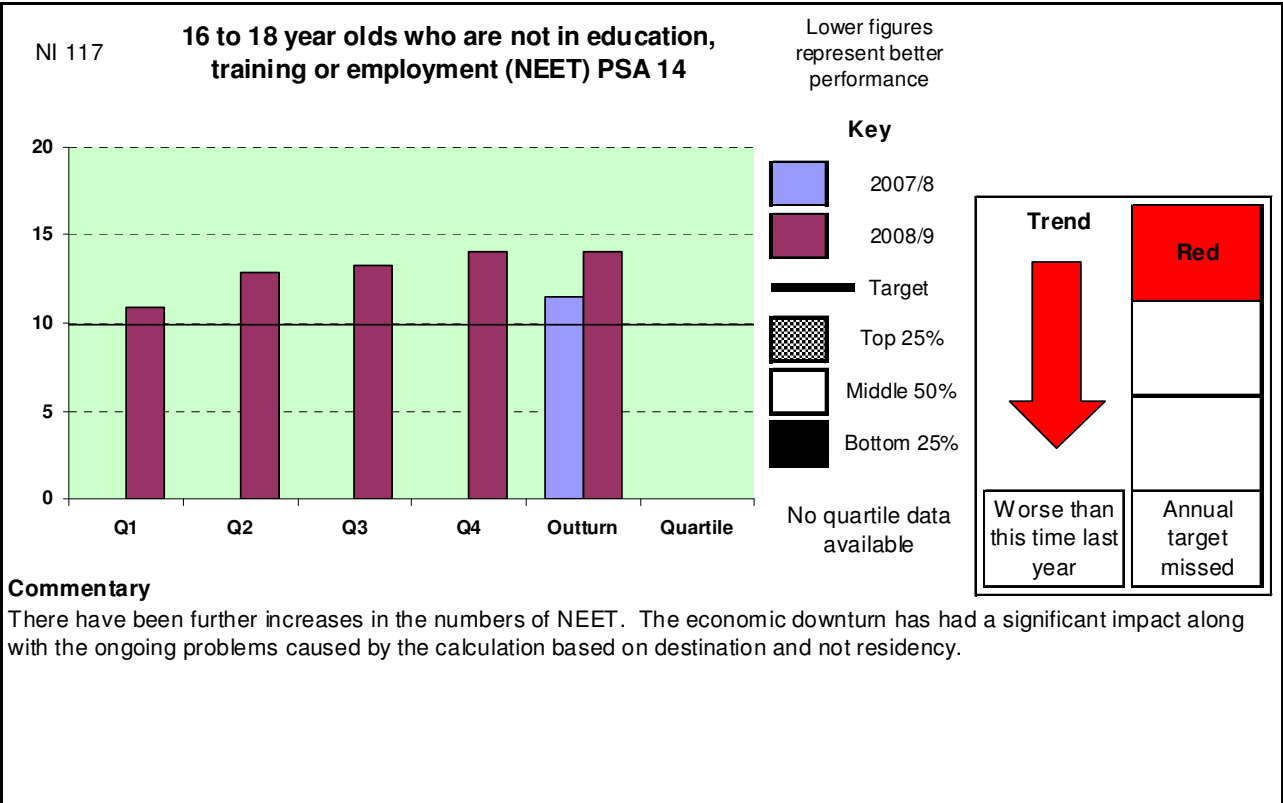
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Develop a broader, high quality alternative curriculum ensuring accredited outcomes, Sep 2008		Engagement Services now established and placing the majority of pupils placed in alternative curriculum in the borough.
		Establish alternatives to exclusion through the KS3 outreach service and KS4 gateway, Sep 2008		Outreach work from KS3 PRU operating in all secondary schools KS4 as above.
PRS 7	To Improve the Engagement of Young People	Implementation of all actions with the Hear By Rights delivery plan within agreed timescales to ensure the active involvement of children and young people in the work of the Children's Trust		Steps being taken to secure this role via GMCP. A range of the actions identified have been implemented, but there has been slippage on timescales in some areas.
		Increase engagement in the Youth Parliament by 10% or more Young People voting in the election of Halton MYP, Mar 2009		Target has been met
		Increase the number of children and young people from vulnerable groups accessing DofE awards through targeted support from the outreach support team, Mar 2009		Target 25% of all young people achieving D of E will be from vulnerable groups. Youth Workers support young people to engage in activity, which can contribute to DofE awards. By Q3 2657 young people have joined in this activity including 668 who are vulnerable due to being in care, LDD, supervised by YOS etc.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
PRS 8	To Improve Young People's Sexual Health	Develop an information sharing protocol between HBC and PCT to improve the use of local level data for teenage pregnancy, Sep 2008		A Tier 1 protocol is already in place. However, a draft Tier 2 & 3 agreement is currently being negotiated between LA & PCT. Indications suggest that sign off is imminent. In addition developments are underway to establish a teenage pregnancy / sexual health data group. The group will develop and research plans for each of the key issues identified within the TP plan.
		100% of sexual health services commissioned through Preventative Services implement the "You're Welcome" quality criteria, Mar 2009		'Your Welcome' Champion has been assigned to Denise Roberts, Children and Families Commissioning Manager. All services currently commissioned are working toward implementation of 'Hear by Rights' and 'Your Welcome'
		Review sexual health services in conjunction with the PCT, Mar 2009		Young Peoples sexual health services identified as a priority for additional funding provided for contraceptive services. Review currently being undertaken this will link to Teen Drop In's and extended services in schools.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Establish teenage drop in centres in hotspot wards addressing sexual health, alcohol misuse and emotional health & wellbeing, Mar 2009		<p>Teen Drop In services have been established in some hotspot areas to provide a holistic preventative service for young people including access to sexual health advice and contraception. The first of the drop-ins has now been established and is being delivered from the Grange Youth Hub.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with Headteachers in High Schools to secure Teen Health Drop-In Clinics on school sites.</p>
PRS 9	To secure efficient service delivery to young people through integrated and targeted youth support	Secure effective and efficient commissioning of Connexions and Youth Service, Mar 2009		Good progress is being made in the future commissioning of 'Connexions Services' across the city region. The new contract for both services will be let from 1 st October 2009.
		Establish a directory of positive activities for young people, Mar 2009		Is expected to be up and running by May 09. Young design team have now developed the sight, and preview presentation is currently being consulted with all relevant partners.
		Meet the requirements to access to targeted youth support, Dec 2008		This requirement has been met.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		To increase the number of work based placements available to young people to reduce the level of NEET, Mar 2009		Good work via ELS SSP and NEET strategy Group to develop Apprenticeship Scheme to be funded by WNF. NEET figures are still rising and given the current economic climate an increase in work-based placements offered by partners is essential. There are a number of factors and work placements are one strand of the overall strategy. At March 2009 19 young people who are NEET accessing newly launched WNF funded apprenticeship scheme.












NI 110, Young Peoples participation in positive activities. 67.8%, this is a new national indicator for the current year, and this is the first time it is being reported. Recently released TellUs3 survey data has been used to establish this baseline figure on which future targets will be based. A target was not set for the current year and no traffic light is assigned.




NI 118, Take up of formal childcare by low income working families. This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available.

Ref ¹	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
Fair Access						
NI88	Number of extended schools	65%	54%	65%		The extended schools agenda continues to develop well in Halton and has been recognised as good practice by the TDA. There is confidence in achieving the government target of all schools delivering the full core offer by 2010. Schools at risk of not meeting the target have been supported in their development of the agenda.
PS LI3	% of pupils receiving full time provision from 6th school day after exclusion	100%	100%	83.33%		There has been a drop from 100% to 83.3%. There are very small numbers involved and in real terms this equates to 1 young person from a cohort of 6.
NI116	Proportion of children in poverty	27%	26%	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator with the baseline set at 27% for 2007-08. No update is currently available
Quality						
NI 199	Children & Young People's Satisfaction with Parks and Play areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
Service Delivery						
NI53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	15.5%	18%	N/A	N/A	Information not available
NI55	Obesity among primary age children in Reception Year	11.7	N/A	9.9	N/A	There has been a reduction in number of children measured as obese in Reception



¹ Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**

Ref ¹	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI56	Obesity among primary age children in Year 6	22.4%	21.3%	21.4%		There has been a significant improvement to 21.4% just missing the targets for the year.
NI69	Children who have experienced bullying	N/A	N/A	41.5%	N/A	This is a new national indicator and the baseline has been set using the Tellus 3 survey
NI87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	7.2%	9%	6.4%		Data for school year 2007/2008
NI91	Participation of 17yr olds in education or training	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
NI112	Under 18 conception rate	+1.9	-27	+49		Rate has increased significantly during the year with the % change in rate +49 against a target of -27. A review of sexual health services will consider new ways of working to improve performance in this area.
NI113	Under 20 Chlamydia rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This is a new national indicator and data is not currently available
NI114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0.40	0.37	0.18		The rate has more than halved during the year well below the target.
NI115	Substance misuse by young people	N/A	N/A	12.6%	N/A	This is a new national indicator and the baseline has been set using the Tellus 3 survey
NI117	16-18 year olds NEET	11.5%	9.9%	14.02%		There have been further increases in the numbers of NEET. The economic downturn has had a significant impact along with the ongoing problems caused by the calculation based on destination and not residency.

Key Objective (Service Plan Ref. Only)	Risk Control Measures	Progress	Commentary
PS4	<p>Project plan established for the Health Integration project and monitored by a Steering Group.</p> <p>Integrated working training provided for staff from all agencies to increase understanding of each others roles and the integration agenda</p> <p>Increasing use of integrated process such as CAF and Lead Professional</p> <p>Information sharing protocol to be agreed to improve use of local data for planning services</p>		<p>The health integration project has led to a number of key functions being delivered on a community basis from Children's Centres. This is now being further developed through the Locality pilot which is establishing a multi-agency core team to provide preventative services. There is increasing use of CAF and it is to be further developed as the key integrated process within the locality model.</p>
PS8	<p>Use of Outcomes Based Accountability 'Turning the Curve' exercise.</p> <p>Establishing local systems for collating data to provide more update to date picture to inform planning.</p> <p>Targeting of support services at hotspot wards</p>		<p>A new performance framework for the Children's Trust based on the OBA principles. Locality profiles have been established to enable targeting of resources at identified need in hotspot wards.</p>

HIGH Priority Actions	Target (Resp. Officer)	Progress (Traffic lights)*	Commentary
Ensure staff participate in a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 2009 OD and all DM's		A programme of training has been running for more than 2 years and staff are identified for courses via the EDR process. E&D training is also included in the induction standards for new staff.
Participate in programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 2009 OD and all DM's		There have been some gaps identified in completion of EIA's. The Children's Trust Equalities group is currently developing mechanisms to ensure completion and improve quality and impact of assessments.
Embed a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation in all aspects of Service Delivery	March 2009 OD and all DM's		Stakeholder engagement and participation is being developed across all service areas however further development is still required. This will be implemented during 2009-10.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>