

Children and Young People Directorate

Quarter 1, 2009-10 Overview Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the directorate for the period ending 30th June 2009.

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 The following key developments have impacted on the work of the Directorate during the quarter;
- **Delivering the 2013 Entitlement:** By 2013, every young person will have an entitlement to choose any one of the 14 new diplomas. These new qualifications will combine practical skill development with theoretical and technical understanding and knowledge. They will offer all young people different ways of learning and a route into higher education and employment. Guidance has been published for Local Authorities and Providers on meeting the 2013 entitlement. The 14-19 plan will be refreshed to ensure the recommendations are implemented. (*Universal and Learning Services Plan*)
 - **One Children's Workforce:** Every Children's Trust was required to complete a baseline position and action plan against the One Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) by 30th June. In Halton, we had excellent engagement from all areas of the Children's Workforce and the Tool enabled us to gather valuable information from a range of perspectives to inform our future workforce planning. The report submitted to CWDC on 30th June is the starting point in working towards a fully integrated and reformed children's workforce of the future to improve outcomes for children and young people in Halton. (*Business Support Commissioning Plan*)
 - **Inspection Regime:** From 1st June, all Councils will be subject to an annual unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment teams dealing with front-line social care services for children and young people. Warrington, Blackpool, Redbridge and Sandwell have had their inspection and by the nature of the inspection they have been reported as very challenging. A significant amount of preparation is underway within the Council. In addition, the Council and all parties will be subject to a 3 year unannounced inspection of Safeguarding and Children in Care. We will receive 10 working days notice of this inspection. (*Specialist Services Plan*)
 - **Targeted mental health in Schools project:** Halton was successful in bidding for a DCSF project called Targeted mental Health in Schools which is about supporting schools to support the mental wellbeing of pupils. This funding is available for 2 years and will roll out to schools in September. (*Preventative Services*)

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 The following emerging issues have been identified and will have an impact on the work of the Directorate;

- **Children in Care:** During 2008/09 there was a 12% marked increase in Children in Care. Prior to 2008/09, Halton had seen a decrease in numbers of Children in Care, against the national trend of an increase. Whilst the national figures are yet to be published, it is expected to follow the trend of the local benchmarking, showing a continued growth. (*Specialist Services Plan*)
- **Schools Organisation:** Statutory consultation will commence in June on the proposal to discontinue The Grange nursery, infant and junior school, change the age range of the Comprehensive and extend the school size. The neighbourhood nursery provision will be transferred to the Comprehensive to create All Through Provision. Executive Board will consider the outcome of the consultation at their meeting on 24th September 2009. The governing body of the school will then commence consultation on Trust Status. Pre-statutory consultation will commence in June on the proposal to expand pupil numbers at The Heath. It will be proposed that the pupil numbers increase from 210 per year group to 240 per year group in 2011. Once the building work has been completed in 2013, the numbers will increase further to 270 per year group, giving the school a total capacity of 1350 places for 11-16 year olds. (*Business Support and Commissioning Plan*)
- **“Back on Track” White Paper - Alternative provision:** The government’s white paper ‘Back on track’ dealing with Alternative provision may have a large impact. Making it a requirement for providers to be registered and inspected by OFSTED. This presents both threats and opportunities and will need to be carefully managed to avoid it having an impact on our current provision. (*Preventative Services Plan*)
- **“Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future” White Paper:** We need to consider the implications arising from the Government’s White Paper – ‘Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future’ published in June 2009. The ‘Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future’ White paper sets out statutory Pupil and Parent Guarantee, underpinned by legislation, a clear devolution of power matched by stronger accountability and an uncompromising approach to school improvement so that every child can succeed. (*Universal Learning Plan*)

4.0 Service Objectives / Milestones

4.1 The majority of service objectives within the directorate are being delivered as planned and most notably positive progress has been made in regards to;-

- Milestones in improving young people’s sexual health are progressing well with the implementation in a pilot school of quality standards at Key Stage 3 for Sex and Relationship Education. A review of curriculum in light of school feedback has taken place and resource amended accordingly. (*Service Objective PS2*)

- All milestones measuring progress on transforming the Learning Environment are on track and progressing well, with some significant deadlines being met in regard to Building Schools for the Future and the Primary School Re-organisation. (*Service Objective BSC1*)
- Six Greater Merseyside work streams have been established to facilitate the process of moving post-16 provision from the Learning and Skills Council to the Local Authority. This process is on track to meet the target of March 2010 and contribute to improving outcomes Post-16. (*Service Objective ULS5*)
- Effective Safeguarding processes are being maintained with the establishment of a multi-agency Safeguarding Unit and the implementation of new systematic approaches to use learning arising from Serious Case Reviews and increase understanding across agencies of their responsibilities with regard to the management of allegations made against adults who work with children. (*Service Objective SS3*)

Of those objectives that have not progressed as planned those of most concern at this stage are;

- Due to delays in starting the Locality pilot in relation to early intervention, an implementation strategy for Locality Working is unlikely to meet the original timescale. (*Service Objective PS1*)
- Changes in approach have been agreed in relation to workforce development. Use of findings from the workforce tool will be used to inform a review of the Integrated Workforce Strategy, and a second pilot of the population centric model will not be completed. (*Service Objective BSC3*)
- Recruitment of foster carers and developments in the roles and recruitment to fostering services are will not meet the targets set, impacting on the placement choice and quality of care for Children in Care. (*Service Objective SS2*)

5.0 Performance Indicators / Targets

5.1 The majority of performance indicators within the directorate are on target and most notably positive progress has been made in regards to;-

- NI059 Initial Assessments has seen some improvement on it's already high level during quarter one. It must be noted that should the volume of referrals remain high this may negatively impact on this indicator in the future. (*SS Plan*)
- NI088 By the end of quarter one, Halton had exceeded the target set for the proportion of schools delivering the Full Core Offer of Extended Services. (*PS Plan*)
- BPR LI16 Number of CAF's completed is on course to meet the target at the end of the year with 28% of the years target completed within the first quarter. (*BSC Plan*)
- ULS LI4 Percentage of schools involved in the CLLD project has shown an increase on the position at quarter one in 2008-09 and is on course to achieve the year end target. (*ULS Plan*)

Of those performance indicators within the directorate that are not on target those of most concern at this stage are;

- NI063 Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement whilst showing some improvement on the previous year is unlikely to meet the target set. (*SS Plan*)
- NI117 measures the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training. June 2009 performance shows that 13.77% of 16 to 18 year olds are NEET this is 453 young people. NEET has been steadily falling from April 2009, but is still unlikely to meet the target for the year. (*PS Plan*)
- ULS LI2 Percentage of Early Years settings graded good or better by OFSTED is lower than the target. Reaching the target is dependent on number of inspections as well as the inspection outcome. This is now an integral part of the Ofsted Performance Profile so performance will be important in the overall Annual Performance Rating. (*ULS Plan*)