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Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

****Supplementary Agenda Item****

**Thursday, 3 January 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice- Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Ellen Cargill	Labour
Councillor Lauren Cassidy	Labour
Councillor Frank Fraser	Labour
Councillor Pauline Hignett	Labour
Councillor Miriam Hodge	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh	Labour
Councillor Bill Woolfall	Labour
Miss Elizabeth Lawler	Co-optee

Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 511 8708 or e-mail michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 25 February 2013

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
7(D) ADOPTION SCORE CARD	1 - 8

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	13 December 2012
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT:	Adoption Scorecard
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report sets out Halton's position in relation to the Adoption Scorecard that was published by Department for Education 30 November 2012. Each Local Authority (LA) has a scorecard within the Excel document, which covers the three year period 2009-12 and the Scorecard is attached as Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the Adoption Scorecard be received;**
- (2) Members note that Halton has met both timeliness threshold indicators sets by DfE.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 This is the second Adoption scorecard produced by the Department for Education and with the exception of one additional indicator in the related information, section, contains the same set of indicators as the previous scorecard.
- 3.2 The Scorecard is supported by a set of performance thresholds that set out the Government's expectations of LA's on two of the main timeliness indicators, the introduction of these will be staged process, as detailed below:
- Initially the threshold for overall journey (child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family) will be 21 months, moving to 14 months within four years (by 2013-16); and
 - The family finding threshold (average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family) will be set at 7 months initially, moving to four months within four years (by 2013-16).

- 3.3 Ministers do not intend to automatically take intervention action in every local authority that fails to meet the performance thresholds when the scorecards are initially published.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that where local authorities do not meet these thresholds some form of monitoring or intervention will take place.

3.5 Threshold Indicators

- 3.5.1 The graph on the scorecard shows Halton's 2008-11 and 2009-12 average performance against the thresholds set for 2010-13 for indicators.
- 3.5.2 The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted was 567 days which is better than the threshold set (639 days) and the England average (636 days). This also represents a slight improvement in performance from 2008-11 (580 days).
- 3.5.3 The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for 2009-12 was 130 days which is better performance than the threshold (213 days) and the England average (171 days). This represents a drop in performance from 2008-11, although still well below target.
- 3.5.4 This means that Halton has met the thresholds for both timeliness indicators.

3.6 Other indicators

- 3.6.1 For other indicators on the scorecard no thresholds or targets have been set.
- 3.6.2 The number and percentage of children who wait less than the 21 months between entering care and moving in their adoptive family for 2009-12 was 35 children, which equates to 67% of all children who were adopted. This shows an increase of 5% from 2008-11.
- 3.6.3 For the prospective adopters section, data will not be available until 2014.
- 3.6.4 In the related information section, the number of adoptions from care was 35 in 2009-12 which equated to 18% of all children who left care.
- 3.6.5 The figure for the number of children for whom permanence decisions changed away from adoption for 2009-12 was zero.

- 3.6.6 The adoption of children from ethnic minorities has been rounded and is listed as zero and the percentage was suppressed due to low numbers of children from ethnic minorities ceasing care.
- 3.6.7 Of the children aged 5 or above who left care, 10 children were adopted, which equated to 7%.
- 3.6.8 The average length of care proceedings locally between the application being submitted and the case being closed on CAFCASS national Case Management System (CMS) is 61 weeks. This performance has yet to be validated.
- 3.6.9 There were 8 children (rounded to 10 on the scorecard) who were awaiting adoption at 31 March 2011 and who had not yet been placed with their adopters.
- 3.6.10 The data for number of approved prospective adopters at 31 March 2011 will not be available until 2014, however, local data suggests that there were 11 prospective adopters at the end of year.
- 3.6.11 A further indicator has been added to this section since the previous Scorecard release which looks at the average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions. This is reported as 501 days for Halton which is less than the England average of 546 days.
- 3.6.12 The scorecard now also enables comparison with Halton's statistical neighbours. In relation to the threshold indicators Halton compares favourably or in line with the statistical neighbour comparators.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Government has set challenging thresholds for Local Authorities to meet and work is ongoing within the Directorate to work towards these. However, it is also worth noting that there are a low number of children in the cohorts for each three year period, which will mean that figures in the scorecard can easily be skewed.
- 4.2 If the Council fails to meet the thresholds set the DfE will take intervention action and it is anticipated that the scorecard will be a limiting judgement in relation to future Children in Care inspections, however, the guidance for this inspection framework has not been released at present.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

As detailed in 4.1 and 4.2 above

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Not applicable

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Not applicable

6.4 A Safer Halton

Not applicable

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Not applicable

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 As detailed 4.2 above

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no additional equality and diversity issues which have been identified in relation to Adoption as a result of the production of the Scorecard.

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

None under the meaning of the Act



2012 ADOPTION SCORECARD

Local Authority Scorecard

November 2012

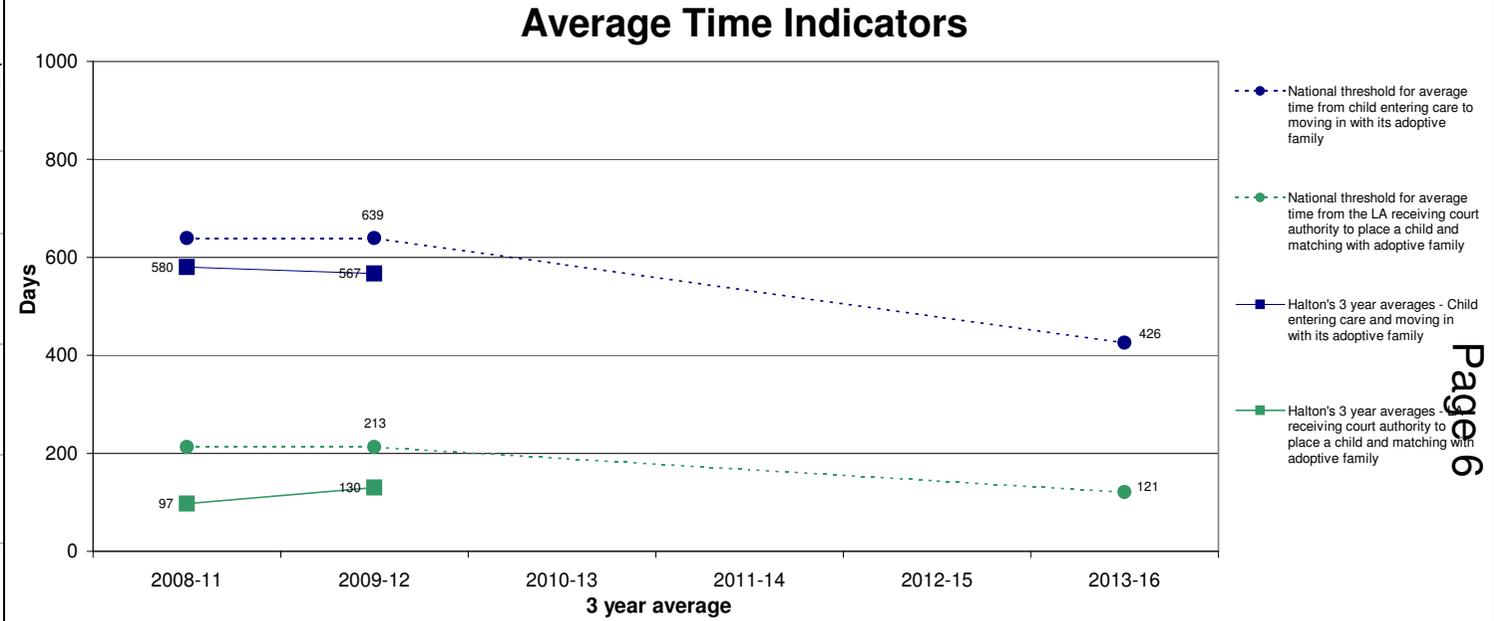
Children, Young People and Families Directorate

Adoption Scorecard

Choose Local Authority ▼

Children

	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	Children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (number and %)
LA's 3 year average (2009-12)	567	130	35 (67%)
1 year trend - Improvement from 2011 to 2012	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 year trend - Improvement from 2008-11 to 2009-12	Average time in 2009-12 was shorter than in 2008-11	Average time in 2009-12 was longer than in 2008-11	n/a
England 3 year average (2009-12)	636	195	10,180 (56%)
Distance from 2010-13 performance threshold	Threshold met	Threshold met	n/a



Prospective Adopters

Indicators to be agreed	Indicators to be agreed	Indicators to be agreed
Data not available until 2013		

Related Information

	Adoptions from care (number adopted and % leaving care who are adopted)	Number and % of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family. Where times for children who are adopted by their foster family are stopped at the date the child moved in with the foster family (days)	Adoptions of children from ethnic minority backgrounds (number adopted and % of BME children leaving care who are adopted)	Adoptions of children aged five or over (number adopted and % of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted)	Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)	Number of children awaiting adoption (as at 31 March 2012)	Number of approved prospective adopters (as at 31 March 2012)
LA's 3 year average (2009-12)	35 (18%)	0 (0%)	501	0 (x%)	10 (7%)	61	10	Data not available
England 3 year average (2009-12)	9,740 (12%)	1,360 (7%)	546	1,490 (6%)	2,520 (4%)	53	5,750	Data not available

Adoption Scorecard

Statistical Neighbour Comparisons																
		Children			Prospective Adopters <small>(Data not available until 2014)</small>			Related Information								
		Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	Children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (%)	Indicators to be agreed	Indicators to be agreed	Indicators to be agreed	Adoptions from care (% leaving care who are adopted)	% of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its foster family, for children who have been adopted by their foster parents (days)	Adoptions of children from ethnic minority backgrounds (% of BME children leaving care who are adopted)	Adoptions of children aged five or over (% of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted)	Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)	Number of children awaiting adoption (as at 31 March 2012)	Number of approved prospective adopters (as at 31 March 2012) <small>(Data not available)</small>	
876	Halton	567	130	67	-	-	-	18	0	501	x	7	61	10	-	
805	Hartlepool	Very Close	449	126	76	-	-	-	15	19	423	x	8	42	15	-
342	St Helens	Very Close	680	177	45	-	-	-	14	8	564	x	8	65	35	-
357	Tameside	Very Close	577	268	65	-	-	-	19	10	558	x	6	55	15	-
807	Redcar and Cleveland	Very Close	497	217	80	-	-	-	13	7	457	x	6	40	35	-
394	Sunderland	Very Close	694	237	54	-	-	-	22	18	680	x	12	51	45	-
808	Stockton on Tees	Very Close	674	269	56	-	-	-	11	12	589	x	5	47	30	-
841	Darlington	Very Close	489	x	80	-	-	-	11	0	309	x	x	45	0	-
812	North East Lincolnshire	Very Close	512	221	68	-	-	-	27	8	424	x	13	45	30	-
355	Salford	Very Close	704	271	61	-	-	-	14	6	557	6	8	53	30	-
393	South Tyneside	Very Close	547	53	73	-	-	-	24	x	407	x	8	59	25	-
	Statistical Neighbours		582	204	66	-	-	-	17	10	497	6	8	50	26	-
970	England		636	195	56	-	-	-	12	7	546	6	4	53	5,750	-

Notes for all indicators:

1. Percentages have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures.
2. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x).
3. Numbers in the related information section of the scorecard are rounded to the nearest 5 children.
4. The average number of days have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures and are presented rounded to the nearest day.
5. The distance from the 2010-13 performance threshold has been derived from unrounded figures and presented rounded to the nearest day. Therefore the difference between the 3 year average and the 2010-13 threshold may not be the same as the distance from the 2010-13 performance threshold.
6. Symbols used:
 - x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
 - .. Not applicable, i.e. no children in the cohort.
 - No change in the three year average
7. All figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Notes for individual indicators:

	Latest data	Data included in average	When will the next data be available?	Where can I find the numerators and denominators for percentages	Notes
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family for children who have been adopted (days)					
Indicator A1	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/sgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/index.shtml The number of children who were adopted can be found in table LAE1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption. 2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. 3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.
Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)					
Indicator A2	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption and on a placement order or freeing order immediately prior to their adoption. 2. Time is calculated between receiving court authority to adopt (granting of placement order/freeing order) and matching with adopters. A time of zero is assigned to children who were matched before court authority was received. 3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.
The number and percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family					
Indicator A3	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption and all children with a current adoption plan at 31 March 2012 (excluding those where the decision to adopt has been reversed). When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan. 2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move in with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. Children are flagged if they waited less than 21 months (measured at 639 days) between starting to be looked after and being placed for adoption or had not yet been looked after for 21 months at 31 March 2012. 3. The numerator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after and all children looked after at 31 March 2012 with a current adoption decision who were placed less than 21 months after becoming looked after or who had not yet been looked after for 21 months. 4. The denominator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first and all looked after at 31 March with a current adoption decision.
Adoptions from care (number adopted and percentage leaving care who are adopted)					
Indicator A4	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/sgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/index.shtml The number of children leaving care can be found in table LAD1 and the number of children who were adopted can be found in table LAE1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in each year has been counted. A child who ceased to be in care in more than one year will be counted more than once. 2. This indicator compares the number of children who ceased to be looked after in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 with the number of children who were adopted during that period.
The number and percentage of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption					
Indicator A5	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The denominator includes all children with an ongoing adoption decision in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012. (The adoption decision date may be prior to 1 April 2009.) The numerator includes all children with an ongoing adoption decision in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 for whom the decision was reversed in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012.
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions, for children who have been adopted (days)					
Indicator A10	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	http://www.education.gov.uk/sgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/index.shtml The number of children who were adopted can be found in table LAE1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption. 2. This indicator includes the same children as indicator A1 and the average time is calculated in the same way for children who are not adopted by their foster carers i.e. time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption (the date they move with their adoptive family). However the average time for children who are adopted by their foster carers is calculated differently to A1. Where children are adopted by their foster carer, the time is measured until the date they moved in with their foster carer. Only children with valid data are included. 3. Figures are rounded to the nearest day.
The percentage of black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted					
Indicator A6	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	2011 data: http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/b0076713/datapack	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted. 2. The numerator includes all children with a known ethnicity of Asian, Black, Chinese, Mixed or Other who were adopted in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012. The denominator includes all children within these ethnic groups who ceased to be looked after for any reason in the same time period. Numerators and denominators exclude all children where ethnicity was refused or not obtained. 3. Percentages show the proportion of all black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted. Therefore if a local authority has a low proportion of black and minority ethnic children in their care population then the denominator will reflect this low number.
The percentage of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted					
Indicator A7	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	2011 data: http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/b0076713/datapack	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted. 2. Age on leaving care. 3. The numerator includes all children who were adopted in period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 who were aged 5 or over. The denominator includes all children who were aged 5 or over when they ceased to be looked after in the same time period.
Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)					
Indicator A8	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	Figures are currently not publicly available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures are provided from the Cafcass National Case Management System (CMS). 2. The unit of measurement is a care application. An application can involve multiple children. CMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data. 3. Average care duration is calculated from date of care application to the court to date application completed on CMS in the selected time period. Averages are based on care applications completed in the period. 4. The average length of care proceedings locally includes all care proceedings which the local authority has initiated, including care proceedings which take place in courts outside of the local authority area. 5. All data updated on 25 September 2012. Changes to figures are due to late updates in information within the CMS
Number of children awaiting adoption					
Indicator A9	2012	2010 2011 2012	Data for 2013 will be available from Autumn 2013	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children with an adoption plan in year ending 31 March 2012 that were still looked after at 31 March 2012 and who had not been placed for adoption at 31 March 2012. When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan.