

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



*Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes.
WA8 7QF*

14th July 2009

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 22 July 2009 commencing at 6.30 p.m.. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

-AGENDA-

1. CHIEF CONSTABLE OF CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY

To receive a presentation from the Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary.

2. MINUTES

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6. LEADER'S REPORT

7. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

a) 13th May 2009

b) 4th June 2009

c) 18th June 2009

8. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

a) 4th June 2009

b) 18th June 2009

9. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

10. MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL

a) The relationship between the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board and the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool (Minute No. EXB3 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) Full Council be requested to agree the appointment of two Dioceses representatives for Chester and Liverpool, as voting co-optees on the Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is given.

- b) Children and Young People's Plan - KEY DECISION (Minute No. EXB4 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the information contained in this report is noted; and
- (2) Full Council approve the CYPP

- c) Parish Issues - Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils (Minute No. EXB7 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the date of the next election for Halebank Parish Council be 3rd May 2012; and
- (2) it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 (2) of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the number of Parish Councillors on Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Council be increased to eight with effect from 3rd May 2012

- d) Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) - Capital Expenditure - (Minute No. EXB10 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted
- (2) the draft spending plan outlined in 3.7 be approved.

- e) Play Builder Project - KEY DECISION (Minute No. EXB11 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) Progress made with Playbuilder Project 2008/2009 be noted; and
- (2) approve the proposals for 2009/2010 Playbuilder projects.

- f) Mid term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy - KEY DECISION (Minute No. EXB15 refers)

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That amended Sustainable Community Strategy is adopted.

g) Appointments to Outside Bodies

To consider the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That the Council appoint representatives to the outside bodies.

h) Annual Reports of PPBs

To consider the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That the 2008-2009 Annual Reports submitted from the Policy and Performance Boards be received.

i) Annual Report from Standards Committee (Minute No. STD5 refers)

The Standards Committee considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information.

11. MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

- a) Children and Young People - cream pages
- b) Employment, Learning and Skills - yellow pages (to be circulated)
- c) Healthy Halton - blue pages
- d) Safer Halton - pink pages
- e) Urban Renewal - green pages
- f) Corporate Services - salmon pages
- g) Business Efficiency Board - white pages

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a) Development Control - pink pages
- b) Standards Committee - white pages
- c) Regulatory Committee - blue pages

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REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 4th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Young People

SUBJECT: The relationship between the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board and the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To enable a representative from the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool to be appointed to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the Executive Board and Full Council be requested to agree the appointment of two Dioceses representatives for Chester and Liverpool, as voting co-optees on the Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is given.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Under a Direction issued by the Secretary of State authorities must appoint diocesan representatives to Scrutiny Committees under s499 Education Act 1996 and DfEE Circular 19/99 all as amended. These representatives will have voting rights in relation to any decision relating to: - schools maintained by the LA, pupils who attend schools maintained by the LA or are educated by the LA in some way but not the other business of the Committee. This is to enable denominations to have a direct input to policies on education provision for pupils of school age
- The Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool are therefore entitled to nominate representatives to sit on the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board
- At present this position is vacant however a name for this position has been submitted, Joyce Dippnall
- Operating as an independent representative the views of the Dioceses will be expressed

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool fulfil their right to a representative on the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None applicable.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

Children and Young People in Halton

- 6.1 Establishing a formal relationship between the Dioceses and Children and Young People PPB will strengthen the Council's ability to monitor and review progress on priorities.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

- 6.2 None applicable.

A Healthy Halton

- 6.3 . None applicable

A Safer Halton

- 6.4 None applicable.

Halton's Urban Renewal

- 6.5 None applicable.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Failure to respond appropriately to requests for information and referrals would result in the CYP PPB contravening current legislation.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 The procedures and processes described in this report will enable a much broader range of people to contribute and influence scrutiny and commissioning decisions.

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

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

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REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Executive Board with a brief summary of the information and requirements as contained in the Children and Young People’s Plan Guidance and present Halton’s Children and Young People Plan (CYPP).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the information contained in this report is noted; and

(2) the Executive Board endorse the CYPP to be approved by Full Council

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

National guidance

3.1 In February 2009 DCSF published guidance to assist areas in compiling the CYPP. The Plan must be a document of strategic intent, which sets the context of children and young people living their lives within safe, prosperous communities where parents are enabled to work. Therefore establishing effective links between CYPP and the Sustainable Communities Strategy has been a key requirement for this plan.

3.2 The guidance is concise but expects each plan to provide a number of key elements and statements. In addition the plan must address how local areas will improve the outcomes for children and young people with specific reference to children and young people, there are also a number of additional requirements that need explanation within each plan.

3.3 The required elements for local plans fundamentally ask a range of key questions. These include:

“What are the key improvements needed in Halton and what actions will enable this?”

“What will Halton do to ensure the effective implementation of a Children’s Trust?”

The CYPP has to present Halton's view on how the partnership is improving outcomes within a joined up approach including:

- Inter agency governance, leadership and whole system change
- Integrated strategic planning and commissioning
- Integrated processes fostering professional understanding between services
- Integrated front line delivery.

“What will Halton do to ensure we take heed of legislation to promote well-being and protect children, and how are we keeping to the philosophy of early and effective prevention?”

This takes account of:

- Integration of local services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners to improve the well being of children and young people
- Arrangements made by the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Arrangements for early intervention and preventative action

“How will we best utilise our resource, and then when prioritised how will we manage improvement in performance?”

and specifically asks:

- How the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services arrangements.
- How the local authority's resources will contribute to the improvements in outcomes. This will include commissioning arrangements and how resources and planning cycles are aligned to improve service development and delivery.

Halton Children and Young People's Plan

- 3.4 The structure and content of Halton's plan takes account of these specific requirements mentioned above and the attached document is a near complete version.
- 3.5 The CYPP is not a detailed operational plan, but is expected to set the context and framework within which the Children's Trust will plan and coordinate the effective commissioning and delivery of services that will meet the needs of children and young people in the borough and improve outcomes.
- 3.6 As such we have endeavoured to make sure the CYPP demonstrates an alignment with other strategic planning bodies in addition to establishing itself as a key element within the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Therefore a key theme of this plan has been demonstrating a 'wider' ownership where this document is seen as an essential and integral part of local strategic plans.

3.8 The CYPP must also demonstrate clear links between a comprehensive needs analysis and how this analysis informs commissioning arrangements. To this end we have undertaken wide-ranging consultations with all relevant partners, children, young people and their families, we have also utilised existing consultation information in addition to the intelligence we have available across the borough and across this partnership, as part of our comprehensive needs analysis. Throughout the plan we have actively sought to show how this analysis has been used when targeting our resources effectively.

3.9 Through this activity we have identified 3 main ambitions we want to achieve for children and young people in Halton.

These being:

- Every young person is successful when they leave school.
- Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live.
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

3.10 In response to our responsibilities within the Children Act 2004 and the recent Laming Recommendations we have also ensured safeguarding maintains its high profile in Halton. We have made sure this continues to be a significant priority for all partners across professional and organisational backgrounds by identifying a fourth ambition within this plan. Therefore we have a fourth priority, this being

- Children and Young People will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities.

Local developments

3.11 The Children's Trust Executive Group endorsed the new plan being from April 2009 to March 2011. Furthermore the PCT committed to using the CYPP as their 'Commissioning Action Plan' for health issues in the borough.

3.12 The plan has utilised the Outcomes Based Accountability approach to demonstrate direction of travel and plans for the future. By using this approach in the plan we have been able to evidence how Halton is a child-focussed authority, which bases its decisions on effective consultation and participation with stakeholders and children and young people in addition to evidence of what works.

3.13 A multi agency core team has met weekly to keep to timescales and to focus on tasks. Members of staff have supported the core team in their work across partner agencies that have offered comment and feedback when regular drafts of the plan have been distributed.

3.14 The document accompanying this report is the design of the final plan. The content is based on what we know about Halton and what we know we need to do to improve outcomes for children and young people. It meets the

requirements as set out in the CYPP guidance and illustrates our commitment to listening to families and children.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 We have had much support across Council and Partners in developing this plan. It is therefore important we maintain the momentum and drive forward the commitments we have made through this plan to work better together in order to improve outcomes.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is now necessary to work closely with young people to produce a Young Persons version of the plan. Youth Cabinet have been approached to assist where they can.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This plan is the key overarching strategy document in Halton and is intrinsic to improving outcomes for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Children's Trust partnership is committed to the employment, learning and skills agenda in Halton. This plan reflects that commitment in a range of ways and by setting a priority of 'every young person is successful when they leave school', linked to a number of important indicators of success it is firmly embedding this agenda.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The aspiration of a healthy Halton is writ large throughout the plan. The PCT commitment to using the plan as it's key commissioning document coupled with a discrete health priority agreed by the Children's Trust will concentrate efforts on making a real difference in health outcomes.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The plan dovetails neatly with the Safer Halton agenda as a number of key themes are jointly owned. The 'prevent and deter' philosophy is vital to improve outcome and the plan has within it a number of key indicators to assist with this.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Links with Urban Renewal are cemented with the discussions, which have taken place regarding Halton's developing Core Strategy.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The plan must be published by the first week in June to comply with statutory guidance. We have made every effort to make sure the plan complies with statutory guidance and our ambitions for the future. We have also made every effort that the CYPP feeds into the Sustainable Communities Strategy. It is therefore anticipated the risks associated with the development and production of this plan are minimal.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 A multi agency group is now completing an Equality Impact Assessment and any amendments required as a result of this process will be carried out.

9.0 REASON (S) FOR DECISION

9.1 It is a statutory requirement that Halton Borough Council produces and publishes a Children and Young People's Plan

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 None

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 June 2009

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
CYPP Guidance 2009	Grosvenor House	Tony Crane

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Halton Children and Young People's Plan

APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2011



Forewards



Russell Jones

Member of Youth Parliament - Halton

This is an exciting time to live in Halton, as young people are finding their voice and service providers are beginning to listen. We're entering a new era of youth provision; we're entering into a relationship of mutual respect and co-operation between adults and young people.

Only a short time ago, young people would not have been consulted with about plans like this but times are quickly changing and young people are being listened to. Services which we as young people use must suit the needs of young people and that is why our services constantly need to adapt. Hopefully this plan will support young people and allow providers to deliver dynamic services.

The work of Halton Youth Cabinet has contributed a lot to young peoples lives, making it possible for young people to have a voice and to be listened to about things that affect them, recently for example youth cabinet was involved in looking at Sexual Health services provision. This allowed young people to have their opinions listened to and to have their concerns taken seriously.



Cleo Pollard

Parent/Carer Representative on Children's Trust Board

This plan sets out the priorities for children and young people in Halton, and how the Children's Trust Board will make sure that our families get the help and support that they need in

order to do well. Parents, carers and young people can positively contribute to this through involvement with the Children's Trust via the Parent Carer Forum and the Youth Cabinet. In this way, our voices can be heard and we can help shape future services so that they are meaningful and effective.



Tom McInerney

Chair Children's Trust Board

On behalf of Halton's Children's Trust I am pleased to present Halton's

Children and Young People's Plan. We have made great progress recently, but we still have much to do and this plan will set out our ambitions for our children and young people. This plan is for all our children and young people in Halton, and importantly it focuses our thoughts and actions in areas where the Children's Trust believes we need to accelerate progress. This does not mean that those areas and services not directly identified in this plan are not equally important, on the contrary, in these areas we expect it to be 'business as usual' in continuing to improve outcomes in Halton.

There may be some people who are new to the concept of a Children's Trust. The idea, generated from central government, has within it a range of key components. However when I am asked what our Children's Trust is, my response is simple. The Children's Trust in Halton will become the most effective and efficient partnership it can possibly be. As a partnership and as a council we are very clear that we do this with one aim, to ensure that all children and young people reach their full potential.



Gerald Meehan

Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate and Co-chair Children's Trust Executive Group

As Strategic Director for Children & Young People in Halton, I am personally accountable for the successful implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan. Its contents reflect both the significant progress we have made to date; along with the areas we must improve further. It is optimistic, but challenging.

The Children and Young People's Plan comes at a time when we are moving into a new phase of planning and delivery of Children's Services with our partners. We need to accelerate that progress by building on the strong foundations achieved in previous years. This means working as one 'Organisation' to deliver the Children and Young People's Plan intended outcomes. Virtual as that organisation may be, its impact must be real, substantial and enduring. Our focus is about improving outcomes for children, young people and their families. We have therefore developed and designed it with them; and is yet another example of how we can work together to common purpose. The partnership we have with the people we serve and the many services that support them is an inclusive one. I therefore have confidence that together we will meet the challenges the Children and Young People's Plan sets out for us.



“Halton’s ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy, healthy and ready to be Halton’s present and become Halton’s future.”

Our vision for children and young people in Halton



We all want Halton to be a place of opportunity for everyone who lives here and where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families. We also know that Halton has inherited more than its fair share of challenges, which in the past has sometimes clouded our ambitions for our children and young people.

This is why, in recent years we have changed our approach and made sure we become much more a ‘can do, does do’ borough which chases the future and ambitions for our children and young people, rather than focuses on the challenges and difficulties history has left behind.

[Halton’s Sustainable Community Strategy](#) is the overarching plan, which describes in detail how this change of attitude and approach is now delivering real benefits and new opportunities for the people who live and work here. The Children and Young People’s Plan is an integral part of the Sustainable Community Strategy as it sets out in greater detail how improving outcomes for children and young people is everybody’s business and needs everyone to become active in building a borough, which has hope for our children and young people.

Our Values

We know that, in order to make a real difference to our communities and the children and young people who live within them it is essential our ‘can do does do’ approach is nurtured by an agreed set of values which have been embraced across the range of Partnership arrangements in Halton. This provides the foundations for making things happen for the people that live here. These are:

- *Working together in creating a clear vision and ambition about what we want to do for our children and young people and how we are going to get there*
- *Working together to create a sense of ownership in building a borough that our children and young people can be proud of*
- *Working together to make sure we are accountable to the community by providing services and support, which reflect their lives and needs*
- *Working together with integrity to make sure all children and young people in Halton receive and have access to the best we can offer*

- *Working together to build an inclusive borough, which values diversity and works hard to promote equality of access and opportunity*
- *Working together in an honest and open manner, which appreciates different opinions and welcomes alternative perspectives on the path to finding a way forward*
- *Working together in ways that demonstrate a professional respect for everybody involved in making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Halton*

All organisations working with children and young people in Halton are committed to these values. Our Children's Trust Board has also pledged to maintain the highest standards of integrity by signing a membership agreement outlining partner's roles and responsibilities as members of the Children's Trust Board. This agreement has also been informed by the Nolan Principles for the conduct of people in public life: ([Membership Agreement](#)).

Our Vision

Halton's Children and Young People's Plan is for all children and young people who live, grow and learn in the borough. It is inclusive of all children and young people who will have unique experiences of their world and their communities. It is also a plan to explain how we are going to achieve our vision for children and young people in Halton and which will guide the activity of the Children's Trust over the coming months and years.

"Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy, healthy and ready to be Halton's present and become Halton's future."

Already we have a strong sense of what it is like to be a child or young person living in Halton today. We have drawn together the wealth of information we have available locally as a way to determine how we are going to focus our attention over the coming months and years and this will be explored in greater detail in the next section.

This plan is an overarching strategic document outlining our plans for the future.

The specific planning documents providing more detailed information are highlighted in blue throughout the document. This means they are available on the CD accompanying the hard copies of the Plan. They are also hyperlinked to the electronic version should the plan be accessed online.

All hyperlinked documents can be found on the CD that accompanies this plan or at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust

This plan has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment

Halton – The Place

Halton is a small borough with a population of 119500 people, who live either side of the Mersey estuary in the towns of Runcorn, Widnes or one of the villages surrounding these towns. The Silver Jubilee Bridge may link the towns but each centre of population retains their own identity, history and sense of community. Of these 119500 people only 2% of the population or 2390 people are from a Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community.

Halton is quite a young borough when compared to its neighbours and nationally with 27% of Halton's population being under 19 years of age. However the age of our population is changing and over the next few years we expect that the number of under 10's is due to rise slightly, meaning that there will be more younger children in the borough. Additionally the range of ages of the children and young people who live in Halton varies significantly by ward. For example there are a greater number of children who are under 5 years of age living in some of the most deprived wards including Windmill Hill, Riverside and Halton Lea.

As the birthplace of the chemical industry, many of Halton's most challenging problems are rooted in the area's industrial past. With manufacturing and chemical sectors declining, considerable effort has been successfully put into broadening the range of employment opportunities available.

Recent changes to the chemical and manufacturing industries has left a positive legacy. The knowledge and expertise, which has been developed over time in these industries, is now being used in highly specialist chemical, manufacturing and scientific and research based employers, which have located to Halton. However this change to the foundation for our workforce in Halton has also brought with it some challenges, particularly relating to the types of jobs available to local people.

Major efforts have also been made to bring the industry's legacy of derelict and contaminated land back into productive use, to help create the right physical and social environment to attract new investment. Our efforts are paying off because today, over 40% of Halton is green space and we can boast 10 Green Flag award winning parks and nature reserves. The children and young people also talk about how they like the parks and the play facilities for young children that local communities are able to use.

Additionally the investment in new Creative and Science based businesses (at Daresbury, Manor Park & The Heath) and Logistics (at 3MG) as well as the development of the Widnes Waterfront are now bringing new employment opportunities to Halton. But these require new skills, expertise and knowledge which means we need to get better at training our workforce so they are able to take up these opportunities.

Halton is a borough with individual wards identified as areas of multiple deprivation, where the families and communities within these areas are more likely to experience higher levels of unemployment, poorer health outcomes, lower educational attainment and access to poor quality housing. However our population is growing after years of decline, crime is falling, our children are leaving school with better qualifications, employment prospects are broadening and ambitious regeneration projects are changing the physical environment.

Social, economic and physical regeneration are creating opportunities for all and these improvements to the fabric of the borough has seen Halton move away from those boroughs assessed as those most deprived in the country. Moreover we are seeing the wealth of the Borough improving overall, particularly during the last 10 years. This is illustrated by rising numbers of detached houses, rising car ownership and increases in professional and managerial households in parts of the borough.

With the proposed £390 million Mersey Gateway Bridge also expected to attract an estimated 1450 jobs and provide new opportunities for investment and regeneration, it is anticipated the opportunities within and for Halton will continue to grow.

So what does this mean for children and young people living in Halton?

A member of our youth cabinet talked about being surprised at how green the borough is and how many trees there are.

For a child growing up in Halton, it is a borough of many challenges, opportunities and influences. Experience of each of these tend to be more significant depending on where the child lives in the borough, but it is a borough that is changing to make sure all children have access to the same opportunities and reduced exposure to those challenges which get in the way of the child or young person reaching their potential. Only recently we have seen our young people achieved the best results ever in 2008 with 71% gaining 5 A* - C GCSEs, this is 6% above the national average.

“I like living here because there are lots of fun things to do. I am learning to cook lots of healthy food at cooking class with my mum. I go after school. When we go home my brothers and sisters eat all the food I’ve made. Now I am big I go to school. At school I can play with my new friends. We go to High School Musical theatre when we sing and dance to the music. That’s my favourite thing. I go to Rainbows and have lots of friends who don’t go to my school, we have lots of fun and make lots of things for me to take home to mum.”

Mia aged 5 from Halton

For a child growing up in Halton they live with the knowledge that Halton is described as a deprived borough where over 50% of Halton’s children live in

the 20% most deprived wards nationally. Only 8% of children and young people live in the 20% least deprived wards nationally. ([Index of Multiple Deprivations 2008](#))

For a child growing up in Halton there are many opportunities to take part in creative initiatives such as Halton Youth Bank, which has seen children and young people help spend £300,000 on activities for children and young people. Young people have also been heavily involved in writing the bid and securing money from the Government to help build My Place – a new and exciting venue for services in Widnes.

For a child growing up in Halton, they are growing and developing in a borough where they are more likely to experience ill health as they age, or where friends and family are more likely to experience long and enduring illness. Halton is a borough where life expectancy is 2 years below the national and regional average.

For a child growing up in Halton they sense adults are fearful of young people and where perception of crime and anti social behaviour feed this fear – Youth Cabinet www.haltonyouthvoice.co.uk

For a child growing up there are many opportunities to become part of our thriving communities. From volunteering through to taking up activities across the borough that can help children and young people learn about bike maintenance to completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

“There are loads of exciting things to do after school and in the holidays now. There was nothing to do last year. We get to choose from a long list of things that we would like to do during our long school holidays. There is so much choice we can do all of the sports that we like, like football, riding our bikes and skating as well as lots of arts and crafts and making things like Robot Wars and making masks. Some of the clubs are at our schools but there are some at other schools like High School up the road. Going to the other schools helps get us ready for when we move up next year. We get to know some of the teachers who work there. We get to do things with our mum and dad so we all get to do things together. At Easter we are all going to learn about taking pictures of wildlife. This means that I can enjoy learning about the countryside with my mum and Dad and my sister.”

10 year old boy living in Halton

If Halton was a village of 100 children and young people; 2009

18 would like to get a job as soon as they leave school

21 would be obese in Year 6

60 think the information they get about sex and relationships is good enough

27 would be worried about being bullied

23 would be aged 5 to 9

22 would have seen some form of domestic abuse at home

78 think the information they get about eating healthily is good enough

51 would be boys

51 would have 2 or more decayed or missing teeth

53 would live in the Runcorn area

26 would be aged 10 to 14

49 would be girls

32 would be living with a single parent



100 would be full of potential with dreams, hopes and aspirations for the future

If Halton was a village of 100 children and young people in 2025

Our vision for Halton in 2025 is to make sure all children and young people reach their potential, make sure they are seen as important members of our communities and to make sure no group is left out of participating in activities or taking part in opportunities. We will also make sure that we continue to be aspirational and ambitious for our children and young people in Halton, and will endeavour to make sure over the coming years our 2025 vision becomes reality.

So if Halton was a village of 100 children and young people in 2025, we would expect to see the experiences, opportunities and life chances of children and young people changing significantly from today. We accept there is still much to do, which at this time of economic uncertainty will require us to be at our most creative and innovative if we are to achieve our goals. But we do believe that by setting ourselves high ambitions it will inspire us to strive to make every effort to achieve them.

This plan therefore is aspirational, it is ambitious and it is about and for the children and young people of Halton.

So if Halton was a village of 100 children in 2025, this is what they could expect to see...

No child or young person would be seriously injured or killed on our roads

There will be a focus on provision for more vulnerable groups so families will have increased flexibility to make choices that can best meet the needs of their children

People would tell young people and children what they can do to help and not what agency they work for

Economic regeneration will lead to increased opportunity and employment for young people when they leave school, college or university so children and young people have options and choices that allow them to reach their potential and achieve their ambitions

Because we will work better together we will not refer to agencies, or teams, instead we will talk about how we are going to support families and children. This will make sure children, young people and their families get the right help at the right time

There will be different expectations as communities are encouraged to make choices, enabling and empowering families to have a real say about what we do and how we do it. This means more children, young people and their families and communities will be more active in making decisions and working to build a more prosperous borough

We will have eradicated child poverty, which would mean none of our children and young people will grow and live in areas described as deprived

Safeguarding will be the foundation as well as soul of all services and supports in Halton so children and young people feel safe in their homes, communities and in school

100 would be full of potential with dreams, hopes and aspirations for the future

Getting to know our Borough better

Views of parents and carers, children and young people and the professionals working with them have been gathered to inform this plan. They have been collected in a number of ways:

- From consultation exercises and surveys that have been carried out over the past two years, involving children, young people, their families and practitioners
- From the 6 public consultation sessions held in March 2009
- From an internet survey carried out in primary schools
- From other consultation activities carried out with specific groups, including the “Parents Matter Too” event
- From views sent in by parents and young people in response to the consultation leaflet

.....
“I worked really hard to get a D in my GCSEs, but because it wasn't A*-C I feel like I've failed.”

Using all of the information from consultations, we have identified some strong themes, which will be listened to as we develop and deliver supports and services across the borough.

[\(Details of consultations via this link or on CD Rom available with hard copies.\)](#)

Consultation feedback from young people indicated that sometimes they feel as if they are treated like 'second-class citizens'. We need to show a positive attitude towards children and young people - believing in them, celebrating their achievements whatever their ability and valuing their contribution to our community.

.....
“Adults judge all young people before knowing them, and are always saying bad things about youth – Try to understand what we like, listen to us, be more involved, be more understanding.”

We need to promote good emotional health for children and young people, helping them to be confident and have good self-esteem. This will help them to reach their potential and become confident and happy adults.

.....
“There is too much pressure on children nowadays with 'targets' for everything – each child should be viewed as individual, not peg-holed’.”

We need to have good quality services across the Borough, such as health services, schools and colleges and services offering extra support to families. They need to be easy to access and available at times, which are best for children,

young people and their families. We also need to make sure that families and children know what is available in their area.

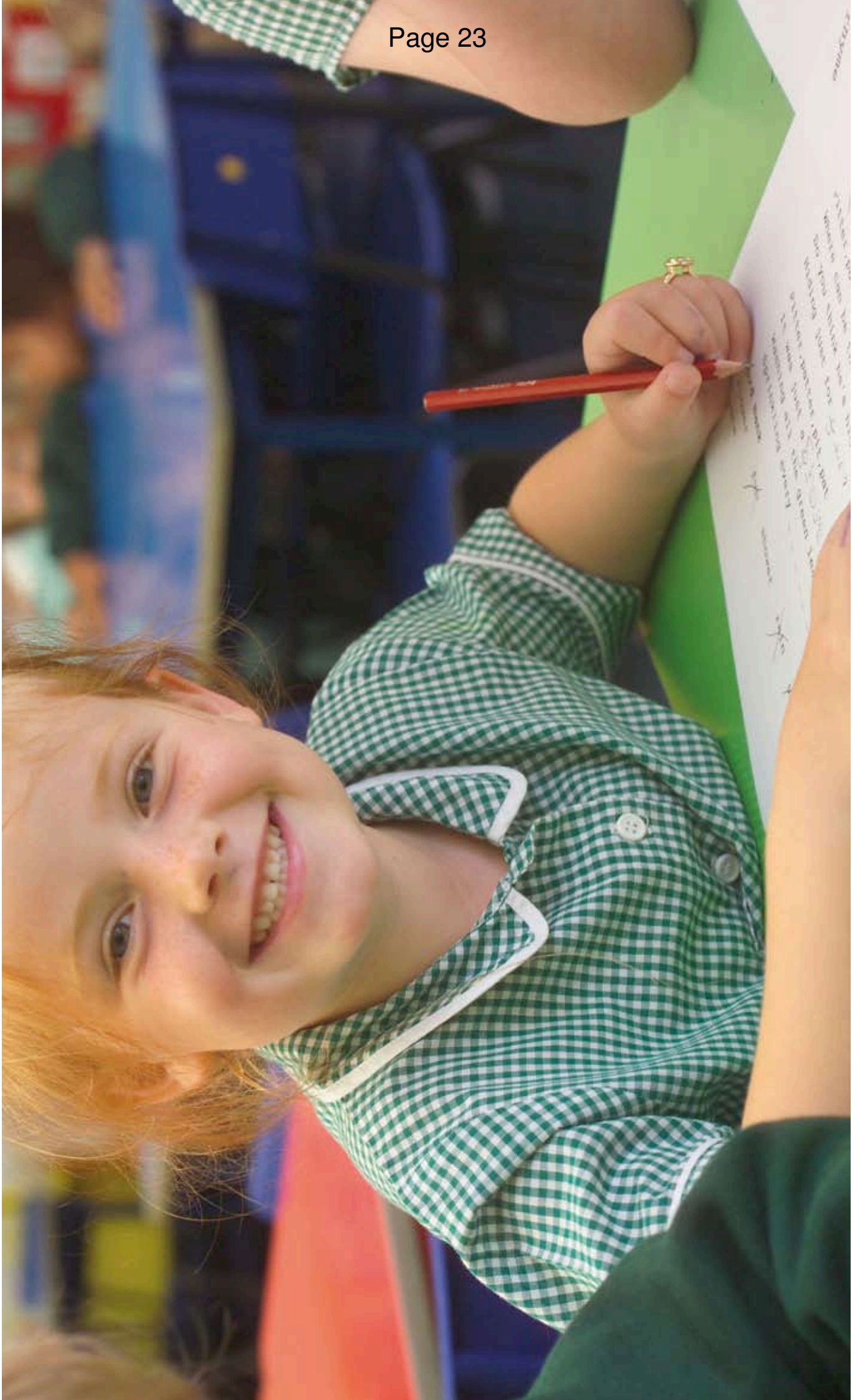
.....
“Clinics and doctors don't have enough young people's services.”

Young people need more things to do and places to go, with positive leisure activities that are affordable and accessible to all. They also want to feel safe when they are there and have adults around who are able to supervise and act if necessary.

We need to make sure that parents, children and young people who need extra support are able to get the right help at the right time. We need to make sure that help is available to those groups of children and young people who tend to do less well than others.

.....
“Poverty means not having the chances that everybody around has.”

We need to make sure that children and young people are settled into learning pathways from an early age so they develop life skills and are ready for employment. This will help to raise their aspirations and enable them to achieve them. There needs to be closer working with potential employers, and we need to value vocational and practical skills as well as academic achievements.



We need to make sure that transport is available so that all children and young people and their families can get to where they need to.

.....
“Work experience gives us the chance to interact with adults, get to know what real life is like and start being accepted as an adult.”
.....

There is also a range of further information available to us as we attempt to ensure the needs of our children and young people and families are fully identified. For instance external scrutiny provides us with an objective qualitative assessment of our services and identifies good practice and areas for development.

.....
“Buses should have clamps for the wheel chairs to be secure. At the moment we can get on them but can’t use them as they are unsafe.”
.....

Halton was the subject of a [Joint Area Review](#) during March and April 2008. The Joint Area Review commended us across the range of services and supports we offer children and young people across the borough. The Joint Area Review offered much praise to our safeguarding arrangements. Assessed as outstanding the inspectors commented that in Halton safeguarding is seen as everybody’s business. In Halton we are very proud of this assessment as it demonstrates

our commitment to embedding safeguarding practice and therefore helping children and young people feel safe. This assessment also places us at the forefront of effective safeguarding practice, nationally and regionally. We are one of only a handful nationally that was assessed as outstanding for safeguarding, and the only authority within the North West. We are proud of our achievements so far and will work hard to avoid becoming complacent by continuing to build on these strong foundations in order to continue to embed the message that safeguarding is everybody’s business

.....
“We need more activities, sports, different sports on different nights, new opportunities and to be more involved in community decisions.”
.....

The Joint Area Review also observed that there is a strong commitment at every level and across every agency to make a difference. This commitment then promotes the very strong joint working across professionals and agencies in making a difference to children and young people.

.....
“Transport for young people needs improving; better links in the evening so we can travel safely, and help with costs would be good.”
.....

The combination of strong engagement from children and young people, a vibrant and committed voluntary and community sector with clear priority setting to improve outcomes is removing barriers to achievement locally.

Hannah is 13 and has been involved with the Positive Futures Programme for over a year. Positive Futures is about enabling young people to become active volunteers in their communities. As a result of offering over 75 hours to volunteering Hannah was nominated for a Heart of Gold Award. The nomination was made in response to Hannah’s willingness to help out and support both colleagues and other young people in their communities.

The important work of all young people who assist in these programmes were all commended because it is recognised that with genuine, honest and caring young people, like Hannah other young people are encouraged to take part in positive activities

The Joint Area Review was in many ways positive, although we are keen to continue to progress and improve our services, both in response to their observations but also in response to consultations and our own assessment of progress to date.





An [Improvement Plan](#) was developed to tackle the areas for development identified by the inspection. These were:

- *Increase the number of young people in education, employment and training*
- *Increase numbers of Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training*
- *Improve breastfeeding and obesity outcomes*
- *Increase permanent accommodation for Care Leavers*
- *Ensure children and young people with LDD have a good quality and reviewed transition plan*
- *Improve quality and consistency of annual reviews for children and young people with LDD*
- *Implement the detail of integrated youth support and development arrangements*
- *Improve and co-ordinate systems to monitor and evaluate health outcomes*

To support us making a difference to each of these elements it is important we have the best intelligence and information available to base our decisions and programmes of development. This is in part achieved through our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (JSNA) pulled together a wide range of information about the current and future health and well-being needs of Halton's population. The findings of the JSNA have been used to underpin the health related elements of our needs analysis with the key areas for Children's Services being;

- *High rates of infant mortality*
- *High rates of teenage pregnancy*
- *Obesity rate*
- *Low rates of breastfeeding*
- *Poor dental health*

A [Locality Profile](#) has been developed to help us target services at need within specific areas of the borough. The profile gives a picture of need in each of the wards in Halton and has been linked to schools to enable them to have an understanding of need within the communities they serve. The Locality Profile will be particularly useful in helping to reduce geographical inequalities in a range of outcomes.

The documents referenced, along with a range of other information in this section can be found on the CD that accompanies this plan or at www.halton.gov.uk/childrenstrust

National Autistic Review of ASD Services in Halton

We also welcome external scrutiny to specific areas of our work as a means of making sure we are doing everything we can to provide the best services, support and care available to all children and young people in Halton.

For example the National Autistic Society was asked to carry out a review of services and support provided to children and adults with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The review focussed on making sure all resources were being used effectively in responding to the needs identified in the borough. The conclusions of the report offered many opportunities for us to consider as we continue to work hard to develop services, which meet the needs of all children and young people in Halton. [National Autistic Review of ASD Services in Halton](#)

What progress have we made?

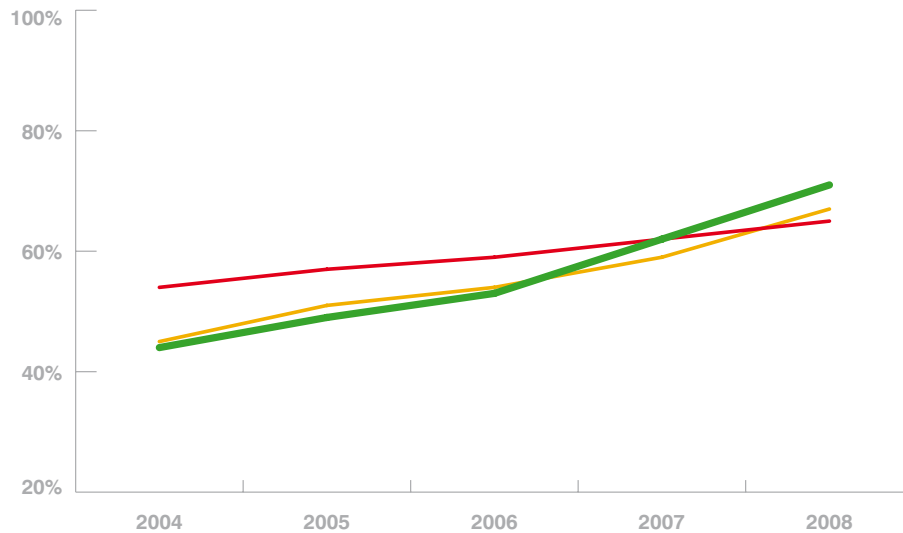
Halton has made much progress in recent years. We said in our first plan we would prioritise a number of areas across all 5 Every Child Matters Outcomes and the following give a sense of our achievements to date.



71% of young people achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSE grades in 2008 - this means a 27% rise since 2004 compared to an 11% rise across the country. Halton is now performing at 6% above the national average for 5 or more A*-C GCSE grades

Halton celebrates GCSE success

Percentage of young people in Halton achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE, compared to young people nationally and in neighbouring boroughs 2004 - 2008



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Halton	44%	49%	53%	62%	71%
National	54%	57%	59%	62%	65%
Stats Neig.	45%	51%	54%	59%	67%

The Story Behind The Curve

Overview. For the last 2 years, Halton has been in the top 5 most improved authorities in the country for children achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C.

In 2007, Halton was ranked number 1, with an improvement of 9% from 2006. Halton is now performing better than similar areas across the country.

What has made the difference. Schools, their teaching staff and the young people themselves all working together has been the most significant factor in these improvements to the attainment rates in Halton in the last 4 years. Their hard work and commitment has paid off. This has been supported by increasingly strong partnerships between secondary schools and the local authority.

We have also seen schools working more closely together in sharing information and best practice to support their goals and ambitions for their pupils.

Both the positive engagement by schools with the Secondary National Strategy and the effective, targeted and bespoke support from Local Authority School Improvement Professionals challenging and encouraging practice and management within the schools is making a real difference to the outcomes for young people in our schools

All of this activity we have undertaken in recent years is further supported by regular monitoring and review of progress towards agreed outcomes with training, advice and guidance available to support teachers and heads in their work with young people.

Safeguarding in Halton is outstanding

Source: Ofsted – July 2008

.....

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) IN ACTION (CAF is a process for identifying low level support needs for children and families)

Euan, was at risk from self-harm and thoughts about suicide because he was worried and anxious about the likely impact of family breakdown upon himself and his two siblings. Through a third sector organisation talking to Euan, it transpired that there were a number of issues for the family relating to debt, gambling and addiction, domestic violence and conflict.

His parents consented to a CAF being carried out which identified the family would benefit from a range of support from five service providers, including Youth Offending Team (YISP), Action for Children and Arch Initiatives. Euan also accessed counselling and became involved in some group work, which allowed him to express his worries and concerns about his family and their future.

This multi agency approach helped Euan to get back into school where he was identified as a gifted and talented pupil and a benefactor funded his two week summer school placement at a prestigious university. He is now on track for university and his family are still together.

This family had a range of complex needs and, without involvement and support from a range of service providers; Euan would not have achieved his full potential. He is happy that his family are still together and more able to focus on their children's needs.

Overview. Since the inception of [Halton Safeguarding Children Board](#) in 2006 we have worked hard to build an acceptance across agencies and communities of the importance of the message that safeguarding is everybody's business.

The quality and range of responsive locally based services available for families which are able to intervene early is excellent and we have consistent and prioritised allocation of social workers for children subject to child protection plans and children in the care of the local authority.

Halton has developed a Levels of Need Framework to provide clarity to parents, carers and professionals about the routes into services and support.

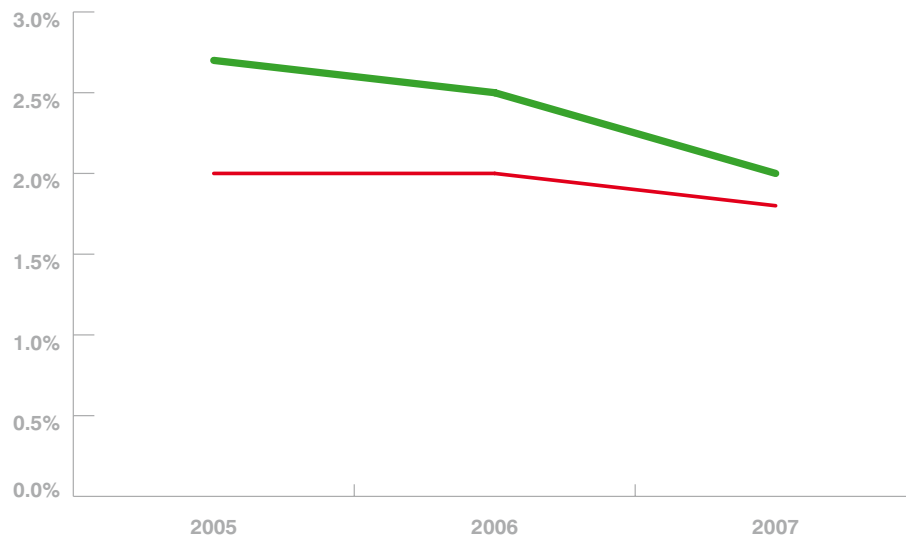
What has made the difference. Halton Safeguarding Children Board provides very effective strategic leadership, which has developed and maintained a strong framework of scrutiny, quality assurance and training which is respected and supported by both statutory and third sector agencies.

We have established a multi agency safeguarding unit as a way of making effective use of knowledge and expertise across the Children's Trust and continue to build strong relationships between Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board to ensure robust challenge and commitment to improvement is maintained across the area.

We recognise that these arrangements could not be achieved without the strong engagement across services and communities in supporting and delivering our hopes and aims for children and young people. Certainly the success in this area has been dependent on an experienced, committed, skilled and knowledgeable team of staff, carers and volunteers across every setting for children and young people. These are our most valuable asset in continuing to embed the message in Halton that safeguarding is everybody's business and will continue to be the most significant factor as we continue to build on our successes to date.

Fewer young people enter the Youth Justice System

Halton / National comparison percentage of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System 2005 - 2007



	2005	2006	2007
Halton	2.7%	2.5%	2.0%
National	2.0%	2.0%	1.8%

The Story Behind The Curve

Overview. Young people who enter the Youth Justice System tend to have poorer life chances than their peers. Issues such as education, substance misuse, mental health issues, parenting are all frequently identified as contributory factors, which can cause young people to break the law. It is therefore important to ensure that young people who offend in a minor way can be dealt with early to avoid their offending behaviour escalating.

What has made the difference. The reason for the decline in the number of young people entering the Criminal Justice System is attributable to the many services and support mechanisms coming together, rather than any individual projects working in isolation. The Strategic Director for Children's Services oversees the activity of the Youth Justice Service in Halton and chairs the local Youth Justice Board. The Board has worked hard to interrogate performance and target resources. Through this mechanism we ensure we remain committed to achieving sustained improvements to supporting the non criminalization of children and young people in Halton by maintaining pressure on performance and improving outcomes.

The introduction of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel, which seeks to support children and young people from the age of 8 and address risk factors for offending, has been extremely successful since it was launched in January 2007. Also the principles of restorative justice by Cheshire Constabulary along with the amendment of national policing targets has encouraged a more victim centered outcome driven local approach.

The development of more positive activities for young people and the improvements in educational attendance and outcomes are all contributing to the reduction in youth crime and youth nuisance being experienced in the Borough.

Halton's Youth finds its voice

Member of Youth Parliament, Members of Youth Cabinet and Council Members from Executive Board



Overview. Each area in the borough has an area youth forum and each area youth forum elects a young person as their representative on the Youth Cabinet. This takes place every November through a series of Voice events and conferences and is supported by both the Youth Service and Connexions'.

The Youth Cabinet is a young people's forum, run by young people, for young people, with 12 members. The job of the representatives is to increase their knowledge of young people's needs, and represent the views of young people in Halton at both a local and national level.

The 12 members of the Youth Cabinet undertook a leadership campaign to become the member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and Deputy member of Youth Parliament. The latest election took place in January 2009. 4864 young people in Halton voted in Russell Jones as the Member of Youth Parliament and Emily Davidson as Deputy

MYP for the Borough during the Halton UKYP Election. In total nearly 20000 votes have been cast by young people in the elections in the last 3 years.

The MYP and deputy MYP are supported by the Youth Cabinet. The main aim of Halton's Youth Cabinet and Members of Youth Parliament is to improve the lives of young people in Halton.

YouthBank has also been highly influential with young people receiving a budget with which to design and deliver services for young people across the borough. To date they have spent £300,000 on activities and opportunities identified as important to local children and young people.

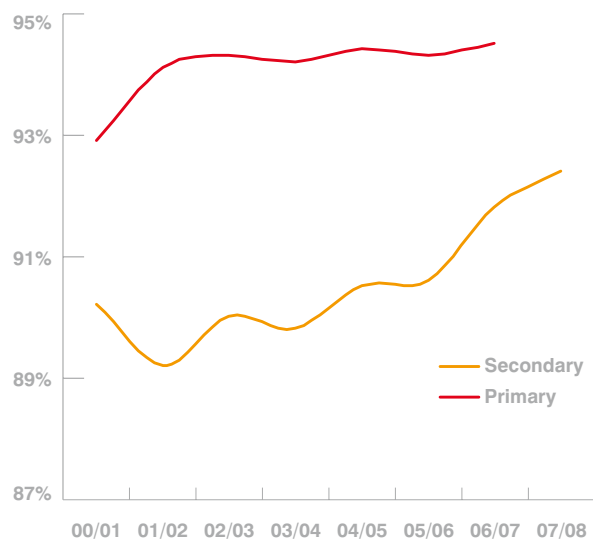
What has made the difference. Our Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament have achieved many successes from year to year from advocating on behalf of Halton young people via peer research consultations to enabling the MYP and Deputy MYP to contribute and participate in the borough's decision-making bodies. Other key successes include;

- *Improving Places to Go and Things to Do for Young People across the borough*
- *Continuation of representation of Halton Young People at high profile national and regional events i.e. Circles of Influence Conference and both National and Regional UKYP sittings*
- *Young People focused campaigns including 'Buzz Off' a national campaign to eradicate Mosquito devices situated across the borough*
- *Consistently working towards ensuring young people are consulted to improve services and make changes i.e. Young Peoples Sexual Health Services, Positive Images of Young People in the Media, Anti-Bullying Campaign, Environment issues, Transport, Safety and Equality and Diversity*
- *Encouraged volunteering for community cohesion via Youth Cabinet*



Attendance in Schools in on the up

Attendance at Secondary and Primary Schools 2000 - 2008



The Story Behind The Curve

Overview. In addition to the reduction in persistent absence the national school attendance figures for 2007/8 published by the Department of Children Schools and Families show that the improvement in school attendance in Halton has continued with Halton's Secondary Attendance now having improved consistently over the last four years. Halton's Secondary attendance now stands at 92.46% compared to 89.79% in 2003/4.

The data released 2007/8 for Primary School attendance at 94.78% represents the best primary attendance since Halton became a unitary authority and is the first time that primary attendance in Halton has been above the average for the rest of England (94.74%).

What has made the difference. We believe that attendance figures in our secondary schools are going up for a combination of reasons.

- *Schools with the help of the Local Authority have developed robust systems to detect and follow up unexplained absence in a systematic way using clear escalation processes*
- *Schools own their attendance and are much clearer about what they can do to influence attendance in their school. A plan involving the parents is put in place with every young person who is absent over the persistent absence threshold*
- *There is a strong working relationships between Schools and The Local Authorities Education Welfare Service*
- *Where parents continue to not support the school attendance of their children enforcement action is taken through the courts*

Kenzie's Story

Kenzie attended his local high school but stopped going to school shortly after the Christmas holidays. To address this non attendance Kenzie received some support through his local CAMHS team. A meeting was also arranged with Kenzie's family, the Head of Year and Learning Mentor at the High School to find a way forward and to support Kenzie's return to school.

A Support Worker and Learning Mentor worked closely with the family over the coming weeks to begin to establish a routine for Kenzie as a way of getting him back to school. It started slowly by making sure Kenzie was up, dressed and ready for school to slowly re introducing him to the classroom, his friends and then slowly to his lessons. He also continued to received support at CAMHS.

The family and Kenzie were supported at every stage of the plan, and the progress Kenzie was making was reviewed regularly and when the new academic year started in September Kenzie was back at school.



**Persistent
Absence in Halton
Secondary Schools has
fallen by 4.3% since
2006 - whereas
decreases in figures
from across the
country are
about 2%**



Our priorities

We are trying to adopt a new approach in realising our hopes for children, young people and families in Halton. For too long we have relied heavily on limited definitions of children and young people that taken on their own do not reflect the breadth and variety of a child or young person's life or circumstance. As was noted in one of our consultations we may hit the target, but we are in danger of missing the point, the point being that we must make every effort to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Adults tell us we need to get better at caring and nurturing children and young people's self esteem.

To address this issue we will be using Outcomes Based Accountability as the method behind making a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families in Halton.

Children with complex needs told us they want to be accepted.

The Outcomes Based Accountability approach widens our horizons in terms of tackling some of our more challenging issues in Halton and allows us the freedom and creativity to work with ambition and outcomes. We know certain groups within our communities can get forgotten about but we have

made sure that this approach to improving outcomes remembers that additional efforts will need to be made to reach all children and young people.

Disabled children tell us they want to spend time with their friends, they want to take part in lots of different kinds of activities and they want the type of futures their peers have access to, so a flat they can live in, a job they can enjoy and places to go that they can enjoy with their friends.

Disabled children, children in the care of the local authority, children and young people with caring responsibilities all tell us they want us to work with them to make sure any support or service we provide is what they want and need. They also tell us that working with them is not about focussing on the issue, but focussing on them as a child or a young person first.

As a parent told us at a consultation event, you keep telling us what you are going to do, so now just get on and do it!

Outcomes Based Accountability demands we listen to our communities and makes sure that what we are told becomes part of our reasons and purpose for improving services, so when a child tells us they do not want activities to be too far away from their

home, we listen and make every effort to keep their activities local to where they live and go to school.

Young people told us they want us to show that we believe in them.

We believe that Outcomes Based Accountability recognises the value of all children and young people and seeks a way to achieve ambitions in a child focussed way. This not only agrees with the sentiment and tone of the many parents, carers, professionals, children and young people who were consulted in the preparation of this plan, it also allows us to focus on the particular difficulties and issues of certain groups of children and young people in Halton.

Parents and carers need better publicity and information about what support and opportunities are available.

The Children's Trust, in response to these wide-ranging consultations across the borough and reflection on performance to date has a number of specific ambitions, which better define what we are trying to achieve for children and young people.

These are:

- Every Young Person is successful when they leave school
- Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

We believe that each of these statements are conditions of well being for all children and young people that no one single agency can achieve on their own. Rather a coherent partnership approach is vital if we are to succeed in making the necessary difference to each of these outcomes.

Young people told us they need activities and opportunities to be better advertised and publicised. They want to know what is happening in their area because they will use these activities if they get to know when they are happening.

Moreover the benefit of identifying these priority areas allows us to structure our approach and developments around the needs of the child which will address the complexities of children and young people's lives today.

Young people told us there are a lot of opportunities for them in Halton to take up, but getting to these opportunities is

really difficult because the bus is either too expensive or does not go where the activity is.

Safeguarding plays a significant role in each of our identified areas of work and will be a consistent factor as each priority is addressed but we also consider that it is essential that in order to continue embedding the message that safeguarding is everybody's business we must identify a fourth priority area. This is:

- **Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities.**

We accept that there remain important issues for the children and young people of Halton, which will be considered in addition to, as well as part of our identified priorities.

For example there are many vulnerable groups of children and young people in Halton who tell us they want to be treated as their peers, and this is what we are committed to achieving. However in certain aspects of their care and well being we must make additional efforts as a means of ensuring they experience the same level of access to the many opportunities all children and young people in Halton have access to. This is why for children in care and disabled children and young people we are committed to making good on our pledges.

Halton's Pledge to Children in Care

The pledge is a promise, to all children in care including care leavers, listing what the council will provide in terms of services, support and care. So far the children and young people have said they think the pledge should talk about:

- The amount of rules that govern their lives, there are more for them than for their friends which get in the way of them making friends and being like their friends
- They want more privacy and not so many people knowing their business
- When they leave care they want to be able to find a job and have somewhere safe, secure and permanent to live
- Family is really important, having contact with their own family, and feeling part of a family by being loved, cared for and where they feel safe, secure and know its for as long as they need it
- They want to feel like they have time for themselves, and time from us as adults so they can make decisions together

The Launch for Halton's Children in Care Pledge will be Oct 2009. Our commitment and intent to improving outcomes for children in our care can be found in:

[Children in Care Strategy](#)
[Employment Policy for Care Leavers](#)



Halton was the first authority in the North West to sign up to the Every Disabled Child Matters Pledge for Local Authorities

- Families with disabled children to have ordinary lives
- Disabled children to matter as much as all other children
- Disabled children and their families to be fully included in society
- All disabled children and their families to get the right services and support no matter where they live
- Poverty amongst disabled children and their families to be cut by 50% by 2010 and eliminated by 2020
- An education system that meets the needs of each child and enables them to reach their full potential
- Disabled children and their families to shape the way that services are planned, commissioned and delivered

The information that follows describes the progress and efforts made to date in addressing the specific concerns within each of our four ambitions. It also describes some of the plans and ideas we have to achieve our ambitions over the coming months and years. This will assist in demonstrating both the progress we are making to specific areas of the lives of children and young people. It will also describe the areas that collectively we need to address to ensure we continue to make a real difference to the lives and experiences of children and young people in Halton.

This plan sets out the range of key indicators we feel will show we have made progress. However we must also demonstrate that we have considered the detail, which is essential for us to make good on our promises. In our case this detail is in the range of plans and strategies sitting beneath the Children and Young People’s Plan. These plans and strategies will be made real by the ambition, drive and purpose of our Service Delivery Partnerships. It is these Service Delivery Partnerships with their wide ranging membership, experience and knowledge that will carry the responsibility for taking our ambitions and hopes for our children and young people and make them happen.

Children in Care Council

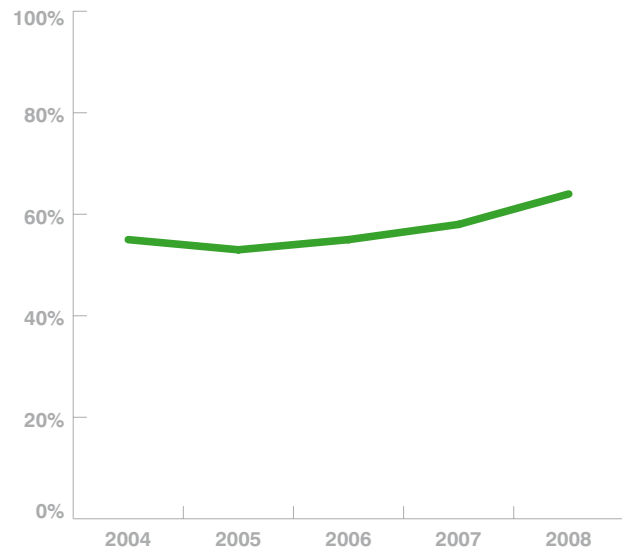
Our Children in Care Council was established in 2008. Since this time we have been working hard to encourage children and young people in our care to become involved in this new opportunity for them to have their say. So far we have had a number of meetings, which are attended by our Strategic Director Gerald Meehan and Lead Member for Children, Tom McInerney. We have also had some fun days as a way to keep children and young people encouraged and excited about becoming involved.

The next step for our council is to arrange for elections to a Children in Care Committee. This will see children and young people in our care elect a representative who will be able to share and reflect the views of all children and young people in our care.

The committee is anticipated to function in the same way as our Youth Cabinet whereby the children and young people will offer their views on current practice, aims and strategies in addition to offering challenge to their corporate parents. The views and ideas will continue to be expressed to the Strategic Director and Lead Member in addition to being fed through to the Children in Care Partnership Board and Children’s Trust.

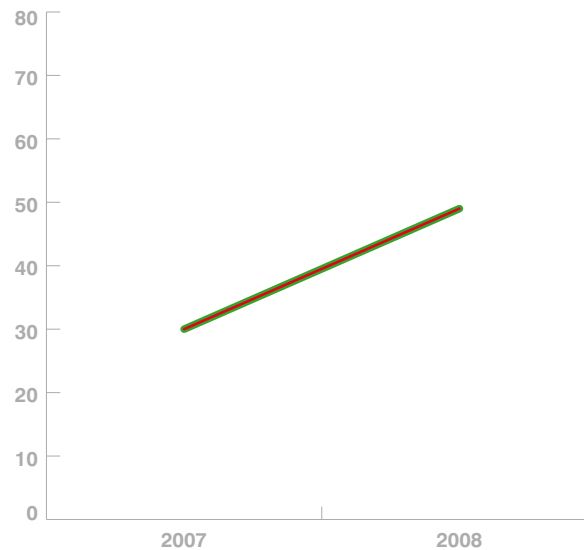
Every young person is successful when they leave school

We want to increase the percentage of Young People achieving their estimated level of achievement at GCSE



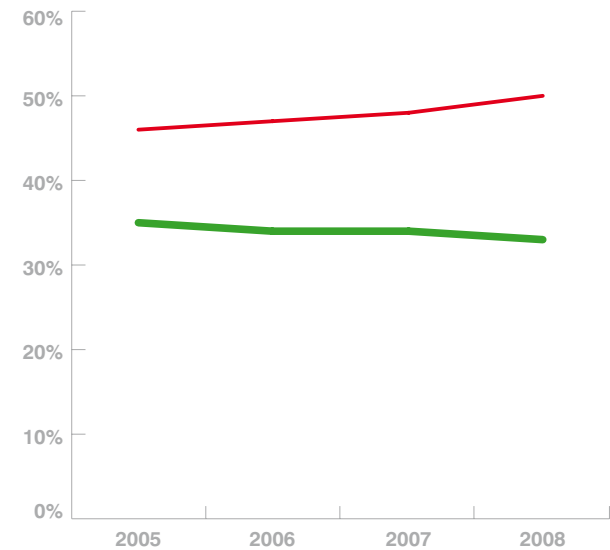
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Halton	55%	53%	55%	58%	64%

We want to reduce the number of Young People worried about their future (source: Tellus)



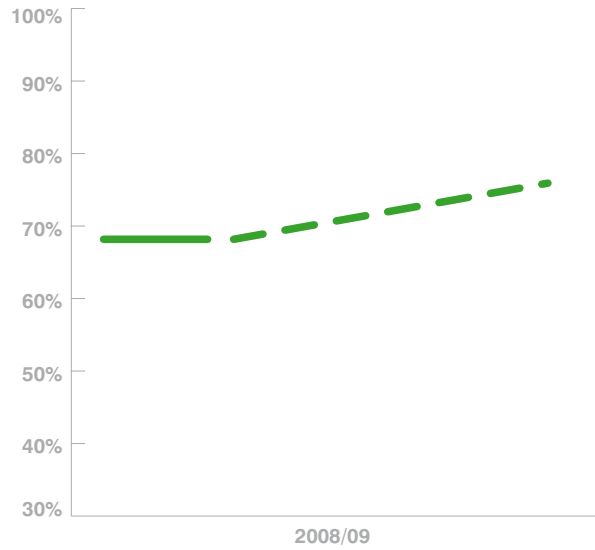
	2007	2008
Halton	30	49
National	30	49

We want to increase the percentage of Young People achieving Level 3 by 19



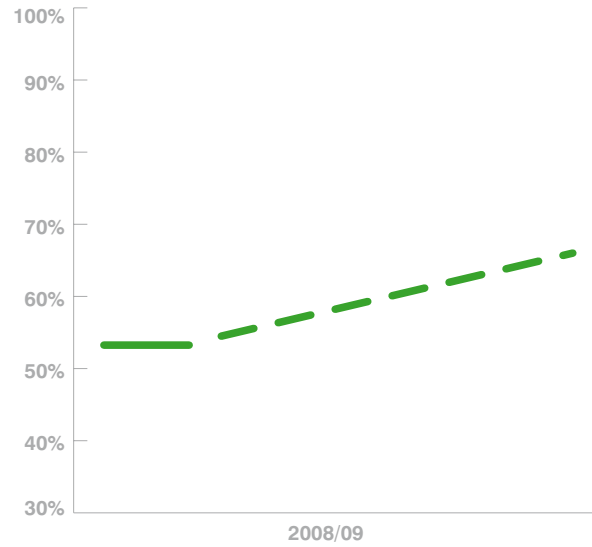
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Halton	35%	34%	34%	33%
National	46%	47%	48%	50%

We want to increase the number of Young People participating in positive activities



	2008/09
Halton	67.8%
National	69.5%

We want to increase the number of Young People volunteering (source: Tellus)



	2008/09
Halton	54%
National	61%

We want to reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are NEET



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Halton	9.1%	11.2%	11.8%	11.5%	13.4%
National	9.6%	7.7%	7.1%	6.9%	data un-available at time of print



What we plan to do to improve

A Key Message from the Chair Of The Service Delivery Partnership (SDP)

There are a number of areas we will focus on in the coming months as we make every effort to build a borough where every child can be assured that we will do all we can to support them in achieving their ambitions and goals.

We are acutely mindful of responding to the current need caused by such a severe economic downturn. Our identified key indicators capture the holistic nature of young people's lives. However it is clear that the more employability skills young people possess, both in terms of experience and achievement, the likelier they are to make a successful transition to adulthood. This is particularly relevant for some of our more vulnerable groups

The link to employers is crucial and one example of this is that we will ensure that our Education Business Partnership will work with partners to improve the diversity and quality of work experience. Also we will increase the number of employers actively working with all our schools in order to improve our learners' insight into the work of work and to boost aspirations.

We are also aware that there are a range of important accredited initiatives that young people undertake as part of their informal education. These experiences both inspire and provide young people with the opportunities to learn important life skills which significantly improve their life chances. We need to find a way of capturing this information to value and understand the breadth on offer.

We want to increase the number of vulnerable young people achieving level 3 qualifications by the age of 19. This requires we tackle the barriers facing this group of young people now and by working closely with vulnerable children, to help build the solid foundations necessary for them to reach their full potential.

We want to make sure we provide children and young people with a range of opportunities they can learn from. This means we have to provide them with the necessary advice, guidance and information to support their decision making and establishing more creative programmes to build their self esteem through the early years and into primary settings.

We will also build on the successes we have made in recent years and will reflect on the specific work that has made a difference in order to make this practice part of our everyday business. Key mechanisms to support these ambitions will be Building Schools for the Future and the 14 to 19 agenda.

Reaching this ambition is about making the big decisions necessary that support getting the little things right. We must also make sure we empower professionals to use their expertise and knowledge in working with families and children to build a borough of hope and ambition. Making a difference here for Halton will be about transforming hearts and minds.

To help us achieve our goals we have identified a range of performance measures that will assist us to monitor and review our progress. The chosen measures illustrated here are indicators of progress that we consider reflects the detail of this ambition. We accept this may not offer the whole picture and this is why, as part of the action plans accompanying the work of Service Delivery Partnerships, there will be a more detailed range of indicators to make sure we are addressing the full range of measures necessary to demonstrate we are making a difference to this particular ambition.



Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Building Schools for the Future will be a significant tool for us as making this happen as one of its goals in transforming the learning outcomes for children and young people will be to make sure the learning needs of vulnerable or under achieving groups are more effectively targeted.

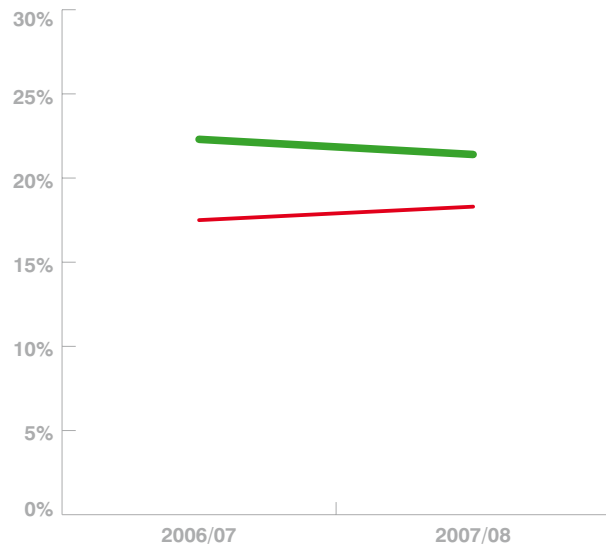
BSF will also allow us to provide space and resources to meet specific local needs and provide local children and young people access to the many opportunities which exist in their communities.

BSF will promote and enable swift and easy access to specialist provision, provide wide ranging support for parents and carers to empower them to better meet the needs of their children and young people.

BSF will allow us to re-establish schools as the heart of their communities and where children and young people's needs are met, where all children and young people are encouraged to meet their full potential so they are able to reach their potential and fulfil their ambitions
[Building Schools for the Future](#)

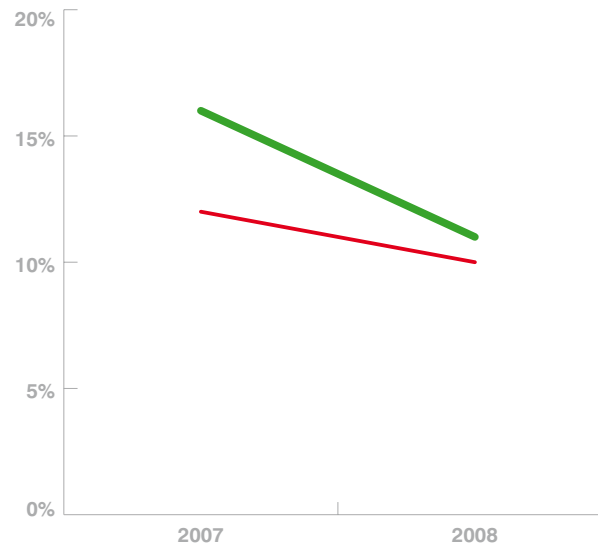
Children & young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy

We want to reduce obesity amongst primary school age children in Year 6



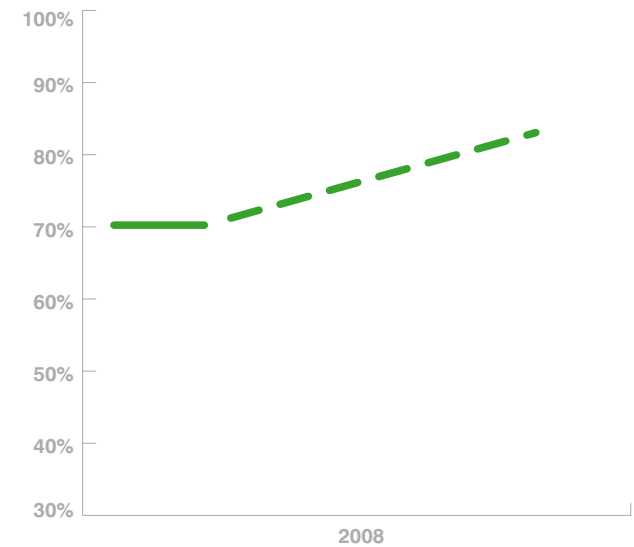
	2006/07	2007/08
Halton	22.3%	21.4%
National	17.5%	18.3%

We want to reduce the percentage of young people who consume alcohol (source: Tellus)



	2007	2008
Halton	16%	11%
National	12%	10%

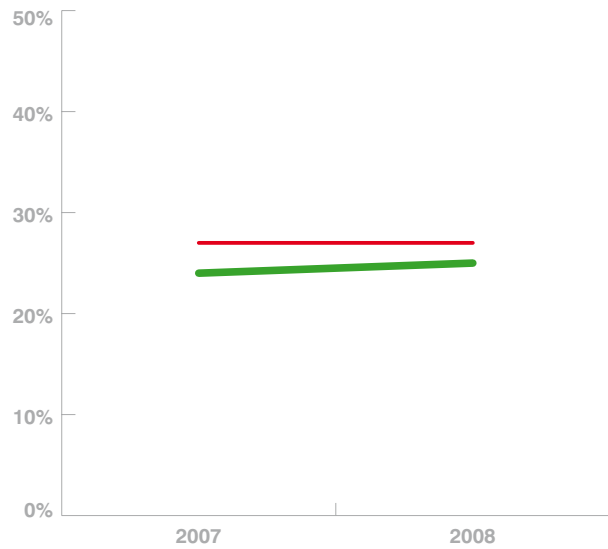
We want to increase the percentage of young people in Halton who are happy (source: Tellus)



	2008
Halton	70%

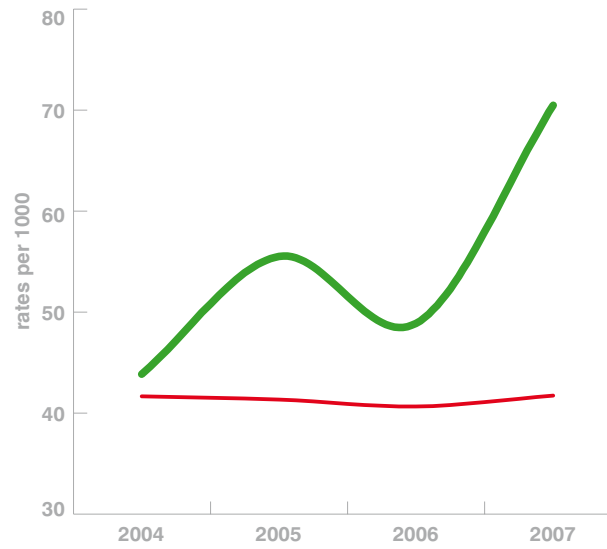


We want to reduce the percentage of Young People who worry about being bullied
(source: Tellus)



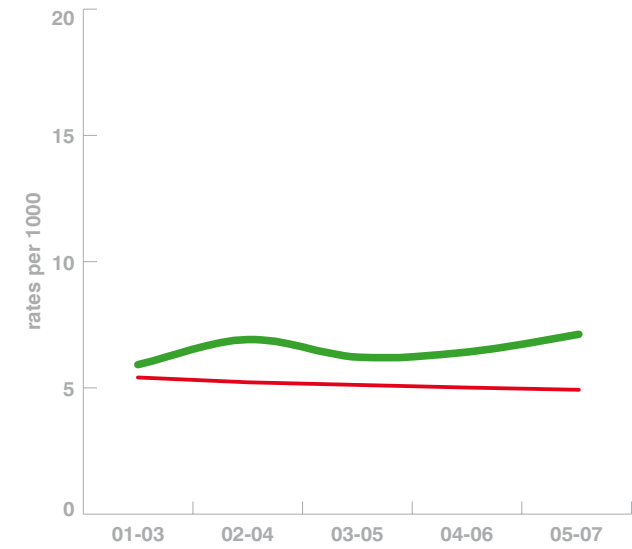
	2007	2008
Halton	24%	25%
National	27%	27%

We want to reduce the under 18 conception rate



	2004	2005	2006	2007
Halton	43.8	55.4	48.8	70.3
National	41.6	41.3	40.6	41.7

We want to reduce the infant mortality rate



	2001-03	2002-04	2003-05	2004-06	2005-07
Halton infant age under 1 year	5.9	6.9	6.2	6.4	7.1
National infant age under 1 year	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.9

What we plan to do to improve

A Key Message from the Chair Of The Service Delivery Partnership (SDP)

The health and well being of children and young people is essential because by making sure our children and young people live emotionally, physically and sexually healthy lives we provide them with strong foundations upon which they can build a happy and healthy adulthood.

A key part of this will be bringing together representatives from across the children’s and adult’s workforce to make sure we are joining up our provision in supporting the health and well being of our children and young people.

The emotional, sexual and physical health of children and young people in Halton is part of an overarching agenda which our Service Delivery Partnership will have oversight of, in addition to creating a sense of collective ownership to the specific issues and challenges our children and young people face today such as worries about the sexual health of young people, use of alcohol and levels of obesity in addition to concerns about emotional health and well being.

To help us achieve our goals we have identified a range of performance measures that will assist us to monitor and review our progress.

The chosen measures illustrated here are indicators of progress that we consider reflects the detail of this ambition. We accept this may not offer the whole picture and this is why, as part of the action plans accompanying the work of Service Delivery Partnerships (SDP), there will be a more detailed range of indicators in order to make sure we are addressing the full range of measures necessary to demonstrate we are making a difference to this particular ambition.

An example of our practice locally:

The MEND Programme (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition... Do it!) is a fun course for families with children aged 7 to 13 whose weight is above the healthy range for their age and height. It helps children and families manage their weight better and lead healthier lives.

With the support of their parents or carers, children learn how to improve their health, fitness and the way they feel about their bodies. This is a joint working initiative as Health Improvement Specialist – Healthy Schools, manages the overall programme.

Feedback so far from the children and their parents has been positive and has helped them make changes to their lifestyle.

Message from Johanna Pickering, Health Minister Youth Cabinet, Halton

Whenever you begin to think about young people’s health, many adults would instantly think of binge drinking and sexual health but the c-card scheme has increased the amount of young people practicing safe sex and both the YMCA and HITS have effective alcohol and drug tackling projects. Healthy eating is a major factor also as diet links to mental health and obesity, and again upcoming plans for a ministry of food style project is in the planning stages

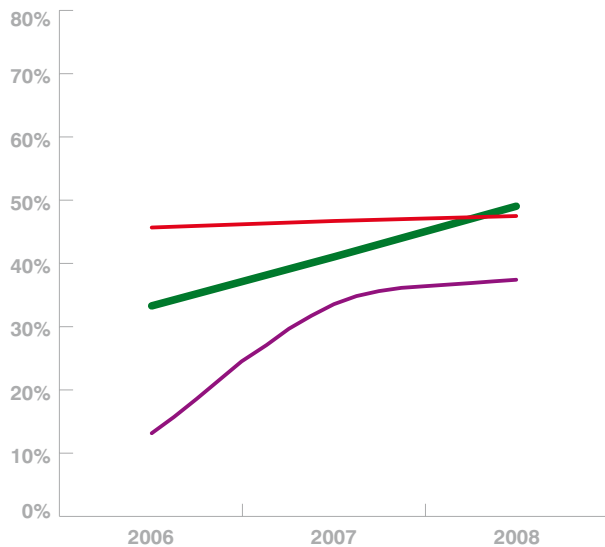
However the health of young people doesn’t seem to be improving at the extent that it should be. It is my belief that the projects to tackle these exist but that they are not getting the publicity that they need to be effective to the numbers of young people in Halton and that the successful projects should encompass all young people not just those who attend school in the borough or those who attend youth provisions.

This year, so many projects are taking place. The Ministry of Food is being planned within the next few months. The C-Card scheme is increasing in numbers as more young people learn of it. Not to mention the Splash Programme which promotes physical activities plus many other projects in the planning stages and will be ready for this summer and hopefully will be continued for years to come.



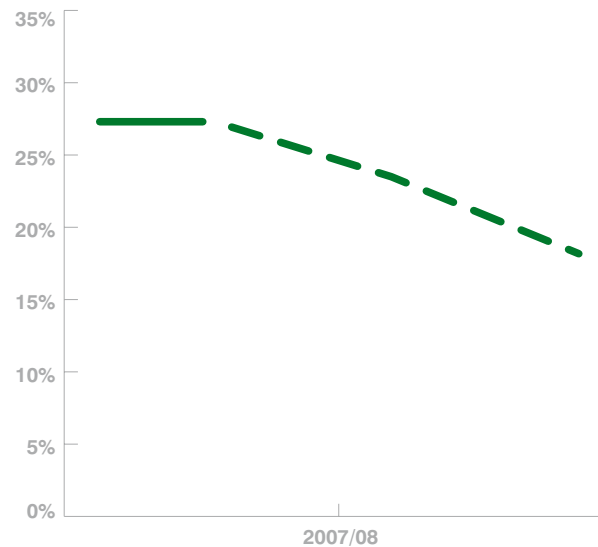
Children & young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs

By 2011 We want to reduce the 5+A*-C inc. English & Maths achievement gap by 25% between those in the worst 10% Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) nationally against the Halton average



	2006	2007	2008
Halton LSOA	13.2%	33.6%	37.4%
Halton	33.3%	41.4%	49.2%
National	45.8%	46.8%	47.6%

We want to reduce the proportion of children in poverty



	2007/08
Halton	27%

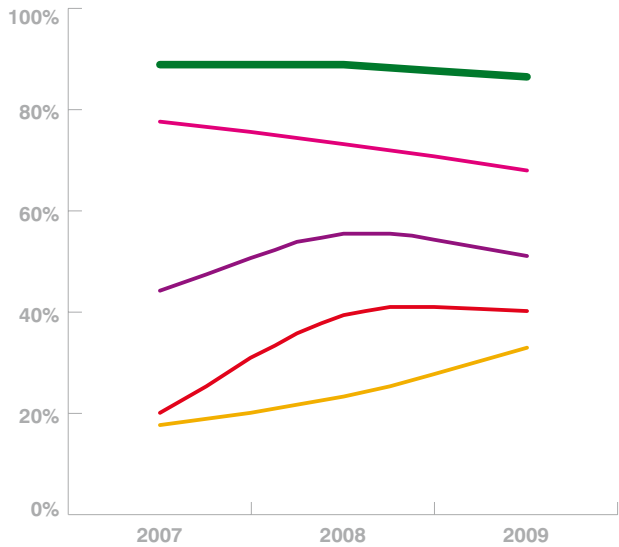
We want to increase the percentage of young people eligible for free school meals achieving Level 3 by 19



	2004	2005	2006	2007
Halton	16%	17%	16%	19%
National	20%	21%	23%	24%

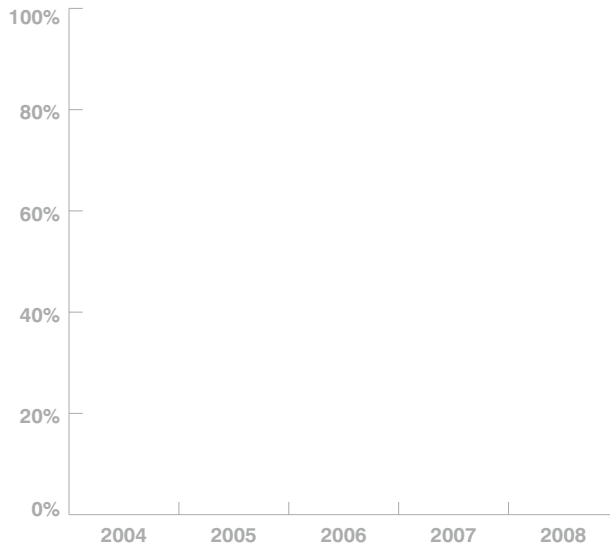


We want to increase the percentage of vulnerable groups in Education, Employment & training (EET)



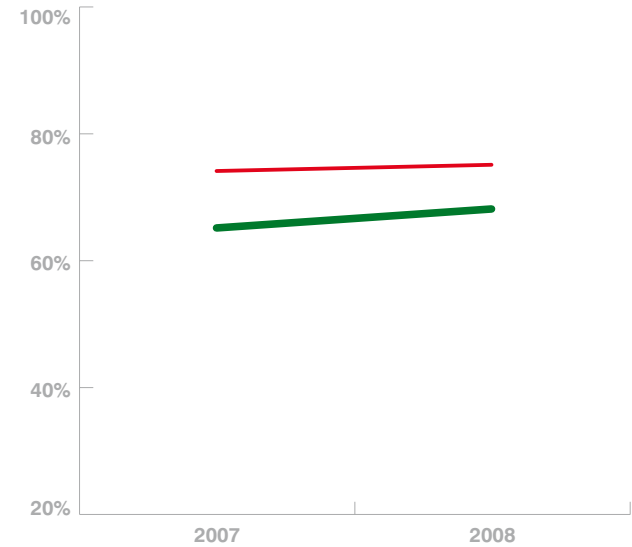
		2007	2008	2009
Halton		88.3%	88.3%	86.0%
SEN		77.1%	72.8%	67.6%
Teen Moth		17.6%	23.3%	32.6%
Care Lea.		20.0%	39.1%	40.0%
YOT		44.2%	55.1%	50.7%

We will increase the number of person centred plans completed with disabled young people



Baseline to be established

We want to increase the percentage of young people who think their area is a very good place to live (source: Tell Us)



		2007	2008
Halton		65%	68%
National		74%	75%

What we plan to do to improve

A Key Message from the Chair Of The Service Delivery Partnership (SDP)

It may well be argued that the priority of “children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs” is the toughest nut to crack. Whilst great progress has been made in general, with improving outcomes there are some children and young people whose lives and circumstances have meant they have not benefited from these general improvements. It is for these children and young people that we aim to reduce these inequalities.

There are a number of areas we will focus on in the coming months as we make every effort to build a borough where every child can be assured that we will do everything we can to make sure all children and young people have access to the same opportunities and activities in Halton, and are supported and encouraged in achieving their ambitions and goals whatever their needs are and wherever they live.

For example the development of school behaviour and attendance partnerships will facilitate even more collaborative working between schools in order to meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners.

In order to make a difference in this area we must work across professional and agency boundaries in order to bring together the agendas so we are better placed to tackle the significant challenges children and young people face today. Moreover to make a sustained difference requires we work with partners outside services for children and young people.

Part of our role as a SDP will be joining up our expertise and knowledge with colleagues working across services for adults. We will also work with organisations within our communities and with employers to build a sense of ambition and aspiration for our borough.

To help us achieve our goals we have identified a range of performance measures that will assist us to monitor and review our progress. The chosen measures illustrated here are indicators of progress that we consider reflects the detail of this ambition. We accept this may not offer the whole picture and this is why, as part of the action plans accompanying the work of Service Delivery Partnerships, there will be a more detailed range of indicators to make sure we are addressing the full range of measures necessary to demonstrate we are making a difference to this particular ambition.

14-19 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

This partnership will be essential in delivering on our ambition to make sure all children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs

The work, drive and commitment of this partnership will ensure the sustained participation of young people in education, training and employment through a creative and world class curriculum that is able to respond to the learning needs of young people and for the future needs of local employers.

It has established strong working relationships across the borough to make sure it is responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups within our communities such as disabled young people and young people in the care of the local authority.

Working in tandem with Building Schools for the Future, the Learning Skills Council and local partners, we anticipate the 14-19 Partnership will achieve all its goals and aims by 2013

[14 – 19 Strategy](#)
[14 – 19 Action Plan](#)



Section 2

We know what we need to do – so how will the partnership meet the challenge?

The purpose of Halton’s Children and Young People’s Plan is to set out clearly how we intend to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families. So far we have talked about Halton and the particular pressures and hopes children and young people have. We must now focus on how we are going to achieve our ambitions, bring to light the hopes and goals of our children and young people and discuss how we are going to tackle the issues and difficulties which can get in their way.

This section therefore will describe how we plan to organise the services and professionals to improve the outcomes of children and young people locally.

What is a Children’s Trust?

The [Children’s Plan](#) set out the Government’s aim to make this country the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. This means making sure that all children, wherever they live, whatever their background, whatever their age and whatever their needs, have access to the best health care we can provide; feel safe at home, in their communities and when they are in school; enjoy life and have fun and achieve well

at school and beyond; are able to make a positive contribution to society; and achieve economic wellbeing. It is the role of each Children’s Trust in England to turn this vision into reality.

Children’s Trusts are local partnerships, which bring together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families. They come together because of their shared commitment to improving children’s lives.

The Strategic Directors of Children’s Services and Lead Members for Children’s Services within each local authority lead Children’s Trusts. This is a statutory responsibility as outlined in the [Children Act 2004](#). This legal duty also extends to other local agencies who are named partners for each Children’s Trust. These are: Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Police Authorities, Local Probation Boards, Youth Offending Teams, Connexions Partnerships and the Learning and Skills Council. Children’s Trusts also include other important local partners like schools, colleges and third sector organisations, as well as other local authority housing services like adult social care.

The term “Children’s Trust” applies to the whole system of children’s services, covering the work

of partner agencies at every level, from the development of the overall strategy to the delivery of front-line services. But Children’s Trusts are not separate organisations in their own right. Each partner retains their own responsibilities, while working together to join up services.

Fig 1



What are Halton's Children's Trust arrangements?

Inter-agency governance and integrated strategy.

For Halton this means we ensure that our thinking and planning (strategy) are joined up and we have in place a system, which brings together all organisations to provide challenge, support and accountability (governance) to make sure we are making improvements.

Our Children's Trust brings together a number of senior representatives from a variety of agencies, organisations and professionals that work with children, young people and their families locally. [Children's Trust Members](#). Their purpose is to create a collective and innovative strategic response to meeting the needs of children locally with the explicit expectation that their decision making and drive will improve outcomes and make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Halton.

The importance of building these strong and sustainable relationships across the range of strategic planning arrangements cannot be underestimated in our continued commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people.

Therefore the impact and importance to us of this wider planning network in supporting our goals and ambitions for children and young people have to be considered and utilised.

We have reflected on the early manifestations of our Trust Board and developed this final structure, (Fig 2) as we believe it is better able to address the most presenting needs of our communities and the children and young people who are an asset to these communities.



We also believe this structure will drive the required actions necessary to build stronger and more tangible ambitions for children and young people locally.

This revised structure illustrates the important links, which exist across the range of local strategic and operational planning mechanisms, from integrated strategy through to integrated delivery. It has also been informed by the [Every Child Matters Integration Model for Children's Trusts \(Fig 2\)](#) Otherwise known as the Onion. It also illustrates better the combined responsibilities of the partners involved across our Children's Trust by making clear their responsibilities to achieving positive change.

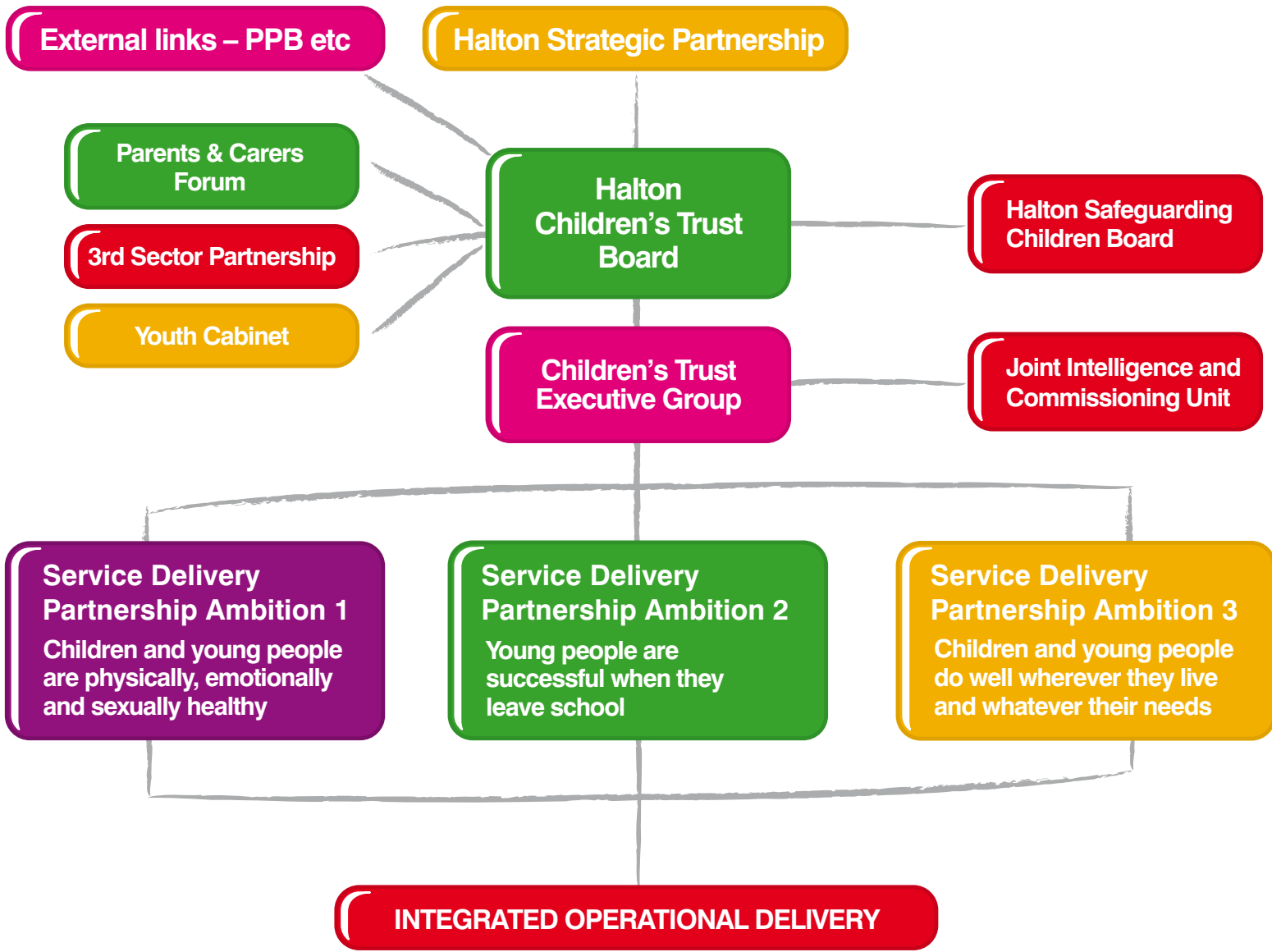
The structure of the Trust and its relationship to current planning structures which exist across the borough provide the rigour and challenge necessary to build and deliver services and support for children, young people and their families so we deliver services and supports which respond better to the needs and wishes of our children and young people and their communities.

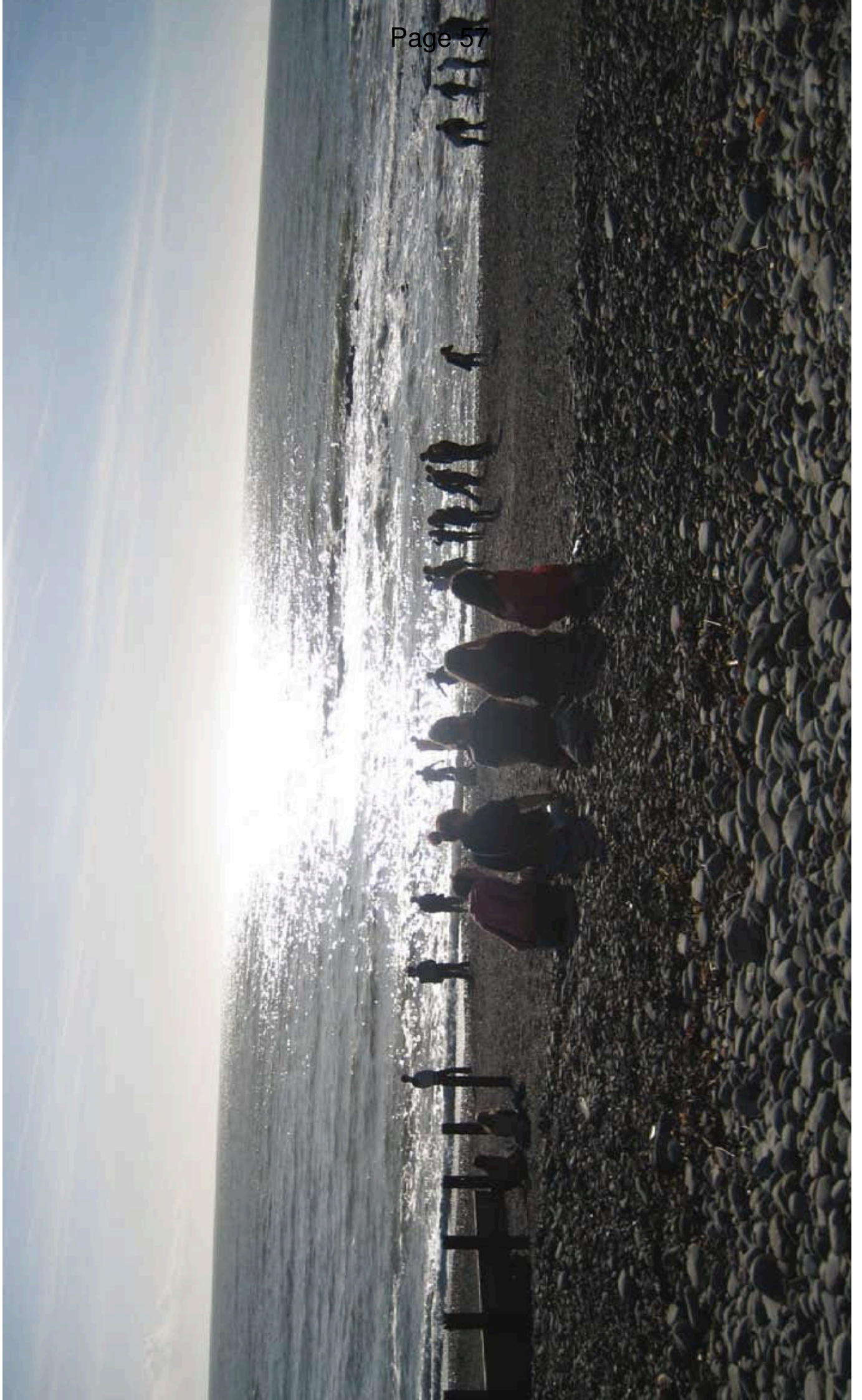
Promise

We will make sure that our actions and decisions are guided by a single set of arrangements as this will assist us in being more accountable to our communities and enable children, young people and their families to receive the support and services they need when they need it



Children's Trust Planning Arrangements (Fig 2)





Halton's Safeguarding arrangements.

Halton's Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) was formally established in February 2006 and we are proud of our achievements so far in building an acceptance across communities and partners of the importance of safeguarding and in particular disseminating the message that safeguarding is everybody's business.

As parents, carers and professionals caring and working with children and young people safeguarding is part of everything we do. Therefore throughout the plan and throughout our promises and efforts to improve outcomes for children and young people our commitment to safeguarding will be and is an essential aspect in everything we do. We will also continue to embed safeguarding as a crucial aspect to all of our relationships with children and young people.

The key to this will be the role and relationship HSCB has with the Children's Trust. It is particularly important that HSCB has the capacity and ability to challenge and scrutinise the safeguarding practice and planning decisions made with the Children's Trust in addition to making sure the operational demands associated with effective safeguarding practice are considered and acted upon appropriately by all Board and Trust members.

To ensure that there is effective joint planning and development of safeguarding and child protection processes across both Boards, the following arrangements are in place:

- *The Executive Groups of both Boards meet on a quarterly basis in order to challenge safeguarding practice*
- *By having representation from key agencies at a Senior Level on both the Children's Trust and HSCB (with some Senior Managers attending both Boards) ensures that safeguarding is strategically wired into Children Trust's safeguarding arrangements*
- *HSCB Minutes are routinely presented to Children's Trust and vice versa*
- *Shared and agreed priorities across partners to ensure a collective ownership of driving the agenda forward*

A significant responsibility of HSCB is to share learning across services, agencies and professionals as a way to continue to develop our workforce and the skills they need to carry out effective safeguarding practice. This responsibility includes delivering training and overseeing policy development that reflect up to date guidance and best practice.

A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Unit has been established which includes staff with lead

responsibility for safeguarding in Health, Education and Police. This team will strengthen multi-agency working and ownership of safeguarding by making effective use of knowledge and expertise across the Children's Trust. This integrated way of working will also ensure that the important challenge and scrutiny of practice across all professional areas will be applied in a coordinated way. It will also enable public engagement activity to be managed from a "Centre of Excellence" and enable greater efficiency of work.

The Unit will also develop and administer a formal procedure for managing conflict of opinions

HSCB provides a comprehensive training programme for all partners including the Third Sector. The quality and range of this training has been consistently praised by local agencies. The Training Programme is regularly reviewed and updated in order to comply with national guidance, any changes to safeguarding/child protection procedures or learning from serious case reviews.

For information on how to access this training and HSCB Business Plan visit:
www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk

between professionals from different services relating to the safety of a child. The Safeguarding Unit will lead the ongoing development of rigorous

auditing processes across the range of multi agency services available for children and young people in the borough. These auditing mechanisms are critical to improving safeguarding practice and in monitoring the quality of frontline service delivery. This will provide an opportunity to scrutinise specific practice issues or themes e.g. resulting from a Serious Case Review. It is also an opportunity to share good practice across agencies in Halton. The Safeguarding Unit will also report on the audit findings on a quarterly basis to the Children’s Trust and HSCB.

HSCB has also led on the development of the [Levels of Need Framework \(Fig 3\)](#) as a way of making sure all agencies and professionals have a shared understanding of their own responsibility in relation to safeguarding practice, and also to recognise when it is necessary to seek help from other agencies, whether that be through CAF or a referral into Children’s Social Care. This has been a significant development locally as we continue to embed the message that safeguarding is everybody’s business.

Promise
We will continue to prioritise safeguarding as an essential part of everything we do in order to continue to embed the values and goals of ensuring that safeguarding is everybody’s business

Levels of Need Framework (Fig 3)



Halton's Approach to Commissioning

We have implemented our [Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework](#) and continue to develop our skill in commissioning. We are also being guided by the key components highlighted in [World Class Commissioning](#), which seeks to transform the ways in which services are commissioned by health bodies.

Halton Your Space

Halton Your Space is a jointly commissioned service developed in response to young people telling us they needed a service which would take better care of their emotional well being. Young People have been heavily involved in the design process and have worked with the service providers to brand Halton Your Space.

Halton Your Space is delivered by the Kings Cross Project and the Catholic Children's Society to address the emotional health and well being needs of children and young people aged from 5 up to 19 years of age at levels 2-3a on Halton's Levels of Need.

Your Space can offer 1:1 sessions and group work to children and young people struggling to cope with change and loss and to support them in managing their feelings.

Integrated commissioning allows services to join up from the earliest stages of planning, through to reviewing the commissioned service. This then becomes the delivery mechanism of the strategic and operational planning decisions. Locally we have worked hard in getting this right, and this commitment sees Halton continuing as a regional lead in implementing our unique joint planning and commissioning framework across the range of commissioning activity, which takes place across the borough.

This offers us a solid foundation, based on agreed values and methods of building a borough that is committed to making a difference. However this is just the beginning. We believe it is important our commissioning activity is more effectively targeted against what we know about our borough and in particular our agreed priorities for children and young people.

As part of these arrangements we have seen closer working relationships develop between the Council and the Primary Care Trust. This will help us work together better by focussing efforts on improving health outcomes within Halton. In the coming months we will continue to develop ways to expand on how we can build a holistic health service, which truly reflects our determination to offer a supportive and nurturing service for the people of Halton. These developments will also be able to respond swiftly to the immediate needs of children and their families in

both a preventative and specialist sense. However the world moves on and we want to improve. By building on these firm foundations we will ensure that the process of commissioning will be used as a 'tool for improvement'. The development of our Children's Trust means that we are in a healthy position to accelerate progress.

Commissioning services to support Young Carers

.....
Evie is a young carer and talks openly about her mum. "Since the operation mum gets out of breath easily. So when she's not well, I do the dishes and the other housework.' Since last year Evie has regular visits from a project worker from our commissioned Young Carers Project at HITS. This gives Evie the chance to talk to somebody, meet with other young carers and to take time out from her caring responsibilities. Evie talks about the work this project does and the support she receives from the worker. 'She is friendly and really understands what's happening with mum. I can talk to her and it's really useful to have someone to talk to outside the family. It gives you a break and someone to talk to, which is brilliant."
.....

Promise

We will develop a
Children's Trust
Commissioning
Strategy for Halton



Partnership working has been the cornerstone to improvements in Halton. Our Joint Area Review in 2008 commented upon “the high degree of co-operation between partners and stake holders and the strong involvement of the community and voluntary sector. The vibrancy and commitment of Third Sector organisations is key to success in Halton and we will continue to build upon these strong foundations in the coming years.

The Third Sector contributes real added values in terms of bringing additional funds to Halton and has the flexibility to respond to the needs of children, young people and families particularly in times of crisis and where mainstream support is not accessed.

With these families local providers are delivering significant elements of progress that reflect real and demonstrable improvements in circumstances.

Mobile Outreach

As part of our targeted youth support activity within our Integrated Youth Support Strategy we are funding creative ways to engage our young people. For example this unique project evolved from a peer research project undertaken by the young people of Halton in response to their concerns about risk taking behaviour, substance misuse and the sexual health of their peers.

The results of the study have led to the development of a Mobile Outreach service. This service will be on board a bus that will travel to areas identified as having the most significant need in terms of substance misuse, risk taking behaviour and teenage pregnancy. The staff on the bus will work with young people out of hours and on weekends to address specific concerns and worries they might have.

The Mobile Outreach will offer a holistic service and will provide assertive outreach workers to

Locally based organisations are uniquely placed to engage families in areas of disadvantage and families who are often marginalised.

make sure all young people are able to access the services including those young people who are described as hard to reach. The bus will also provide advice and guidance, C-Card, healthy eating advice and food for young people to access.

The service will be managed between the lead service provider, Young Addaction, and the young people. Young people have also been heavily involved in the design, development and delivery of this project. They have also led on the branding of the project so the Mobile Outreach has truly been a service that has evolved through the hard work and dedication of the young people of Halton and their commitment to making the lives of young people in Halton better.

We are currently working hard with our communities who will need support to engage with the work of the bus as it travels around the borough to make sure it is promoted and accepted as a valuable community resource for our young people. The bus will be staffed by a range of Children’s Trust partners’.

Commissioning with Young Carers

We are establishing a young carers group that will help to inform both service and strategic development of young carer’s services across the borough. This group will also take some responsibility for the allocation of carers break grants so service providers can begin to develop breaks that young carers want and can benefit from.

Third Sector representation and their ability to bring a unique sense of creativity and innovation to our inclusive planning arrangements for commissioning of services demands that these organisations will continue to work with the statutory organisations in Halton to drive improvements in services and outcomes.



Promise

We will establish a
Joint Intelligence and
Commissioning Unit

Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit

We have recognised that within our partnership we have a range of systems, skills and expertise that will help us understand our business better. We have agreed to collectively pool this resource within the framework of a Joint Intelligence and Commissioning Unit (JICU). The unit will be resourced by staff from a range of agencies who will work together to ensure that:

- *We use the range of data and information available to all partners to 'intelligently' plan how we provide services.*
- *We create opportunities to pool specific funding streams and by using the agreed commissioning framework we will maximise our resources*
- *We will bring a multi agency discipline of ensuring research and evidence based models influence our developments*
- *We will ensure that the activity for workforce development is co-ordinated and driven by the unit*

Strong Third Sector Making A Difference To Young People In Halton

When Jane arrived at the Canal Boat project, she was 15 yrs old and had not attended school since her father died 18 months previously. She had caring responsibilities within her extended family and was at risk and vulnerable. Initially, she had very low self-esteem, lacked confidence and had very little hope for her own future.

Despite her lack of attainment in school, Jane accepted support from a range of services in Halton.

Jane also got involved as a young volunteer and volunteered in Ghana as a Platform2 volunteer and volunteered in Romania in a Housebuilding project.

By taking part in these projects Jane developed the confidence to take control of her own learning and went on to a NLDC basic adult learning sessions before signing up for a Youth Work Foundation course.

Despite being temporarily homeless during the past year, Jane is proud to have met Gordon Brown, Prime Minister and to have received the High Sheriff of Cheshire’s award for volunteering.

Jane has proved a strong third sector can offer young people support and opportunities to turn their own lives around and to achieve their full potential.

Children in Care Partnership Board

The partnership board is a multi agency partnership with the purpose of driving forward our ambition for children in our care.

The work of the partnership board is determined through the [Multi Agency Children in Care Strategy and Action Plan](#), which is primarily focussed on promoting and addressing our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to the children and young people in our care. This will ensure we deliver the best for the children and young people we care for, so that when we are asked the question would this care be good enough for my child, we can say wholeheartedly, yes it is.

The Children in Care Partnership Board is leading on the local implementation of the good practice noted in Care Matters and the [Children and Young Persons Act 2008](#) with the aim of making sure we do everything we can to care for children and young people who are in our care and to support them in achieving their potential.

Integrated Governance and Integrated Strategy in Action

One of the themes which came across strongly during our consultations was the need to offer a continuum of support and care throughout the life of the child, into their teenage years and as they move on into adulthood. Participants talked passionately about how early experiences will impact later on, that building a child’s self esteem is crucial to reaching their goals and finding their place in the world. So, when planning for a child’s future it is imperative we think about their past and their present.

Integrated governance and strategy allows us to effectively plan for this perspective as it allows us to join up our strategic planning mechanisms in such a way that promotes a child-focussed perspective. It also identifies clearly the areas where we need to focus our attention to make sure any support or service offered to children and their families reflects their current situation as well as their hopes for the future. The following provides the details as to how this joined up approach has enabled us to start thinking more creatively about how to build our services and supports around the needs of the child now and their futures.



Promise

The Children's Trust within its Commissioning Strategy will engage with Third Sector organisations to develop services for enterprising behaviour and entrepreneurial work and will continue to ensure Third Sector involvement in planning and delivering services.

A child's future can depend on their past, and this is why we have worked hard to build a number of Children's Centres in some of our communities that have the most significant challenges before them, where economic hardship, poor quality housing, low educational achievement and attainment and high unemployment are factors they face every day. Our Children's Centres have become part of these communities and are building both parental and child self esteem through a range of activities and programmes as a way of overcoming some of the barriers these communities face.

We value the importance of these early years for our children and this is why we have made sure our

Children's Centres offer high quality child care, with early years teaching professionals supporting the care our youngest children receive in addition to benefits and employment advice and parenting classes, services that are key in areas of great challenge to families. We have also worked hard to develop an extensive range of registered child minders and private and voluntary sector providers of childcare as a means of making sure parents and carers have a choice of arrangement for their child(ren). So far in Halton this sector employs approximately 650 people.

These services become ever more significant as we enter a period of economic instability, where jobs

become less stable and families become increasingly worried about their children and their futures.

We believe that the supports and services we have developed in these early years will start to pay increasing dividends for us as our children make the transition into primary and then onto secondary education. We have already seen significant improvements to both our attendance and achievements at primary and secondary level and we expect these improvements to continue to develop.

The transition into secondary and the many challenges young people face during this time makes this period of their lives full of choices and uncertainties.

Integrated Disabled Children's Services

We have integrated our health and social care services to disabled children in Halton through partnership arrangement between Halton Borough Council and Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust.

This is a formalised arrangement with integrated governance and has been formalised in a Health Act 1999 s31 Partnership Agreement and pooled budget arrangement.

The overall aim of the integrated service is to ensure that families receive a holistic and seamless service.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and 14-19 Strategy

BSF and the 14-19 strategy will be key tools in delivering our ambitions for children and young people in Halton. Both will provide the innovation, standards and services to offer children and young people 21st century facilities and world-class standards that will enable them to achieve their ambitions and goals.

The BSF programme and the 14-19 strategy have been determined by the needs of our local communities, and the needs of employers both now and in the future.

BSF and 14-19 strategy will be significant in reducing the inequalities we see between communities, further promote the sense of inclusion for disabled children and children with special educational needs and support efforts to promote the participation of young people in education, employment and training by providing a flexible and responsive curriculum.

In tandem with the 14-19 strategy we are working together to build learning communities where all our learners, young and old can develop a real and lasting enjoyment of learning which in turn will shape the ambition we have for our borough and its children and young people.

This is why we are building our 14-19 agenda around the needs and wishes of our children and young people while making sure it links into the needs of the borough in terms of the skills, knowledge and qualifications to build on Halton's growth in recent years.

The Halton Core Strategy represents a major mechanism for the delivery of the spatial elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy and will be the central document within the Halton Local Development

Framework, the folder of plans and strategies, which will direct and support the development of Halton.

The Core Strategy seeks to establish the development principles, which will improve the physical, social and economic environment of the borough over the coming years and is being prepared in consultation with the public, the Council's partners and other interested parties, ensuring that the views of those living and working in Halton are being taken on board.

Within the Core Strategy, planning policies give emphasis to the needs of children and young people throughout its important themes.

The themes covered are wide-ranging and relevant to many of the components of the Children and Young People's Plan. Priority will be given to ensuring everyone can live in a decent home and neighbourhood, where the accommodation needs of all individuals are met.

The aim of our [Sustainable Communities Strategy](#) is to create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth, and improves the education, skills and employment prospects of our residents and workforce so that all of Halton's population can share in the opportunities our borough affords. This again is why it is essential we continue to join up our strategic planning arrangements to make sure the children and young people of today become the talented and skilled workforce that can make the most of these opportunities in the future.

We know this will be difficult given the multiple challenges Halton's history has left us, in addition to the anticipated effects the economic recession will have on our growth as we move into the next decade of this new century. This is why we are making sure our strategic planning arrangements reach the organisations, businesses and agencies that will provide the employment opportunities for the future.

Maintaining and improving the diverse network of green spaces in Halton will provide opportunities for children and young people to access and participate in physically active, healthy lifestyles. Priority is also given to the creation of inclusive and sustainable communities, where all residents can enjoy integrated community services and facilities,

which are conveniently located near to their home, work or school. Educational establishments will be a focus for activity within our local communities, with support given to the programme of remodelling currently underway. Linking in with employment opportunities that arise in the borough, emphasis will be given to providing jobs, which local people can access, and encouraging firms to deliver initiatives which provide training for their workers.





Promise
We will produce
a Children's Trust
Equality and
Diversity Strategy

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Our [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008](#) demonstrated that in most geographical areas and age ranges there is sufficient high quality childcare. However there are some gaps, which will be filled, in the coming months. These are:

- *After school provision for children aged 5-14*
- *Provision outside the traditional 8am-6pm time period*
- *Increased amounts of consultation with employers in determining the childcare needs for employees.*

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be reviewed annually but already we are seeing progress being made in some of the areas noted above during our 2009 review.

For more information please see

<http://hbccms.halton-borough.gov.uk/content/educationandlearning/childcare/>

Primary Strategy for Change

Halton has been highly successful in achieving a significant and above national average rise in attainment at the end of the primary phase. The percentage of children attaining national averages at age 11 years has increased in English from 76% to 83% and in mathematics from 75% to 81% over the past 3 years. This has resulted in Halton being identified as the 4th most improved local authority nationally!

The good improvement in English and Mathematics has resulted in Halton meeting the 2009 target a year early. This improvement indicates a positive trajectory towards the Department for Children Schools and Families Children’s Plan target to ensure that every child is ready for secondary school with at least 90% achieving at or above the expected level in both English and mathematics by age 11.

Working in partnership with schools the ambition is to further improve to achieve excellent standards for our children, particularly in relation to addressing the attainment gap across different groups of children and young people including Children in Care, children eligible for free school meals and underachieving boys.

In Halton we see the Primary Strategy for Change (Primary Capital Programme - PCP) as a key

tool to accelerate progress by providing the opportunity to develop 21st century facilities and enable world class standards and services for children and their families to be delivered. This specifically supports those families in the most deprived areas facing the most challenging circumstances.

The vision for the PCP is aligned to the Building Schools for the Future programme as we see this as a 0-19 transformation of learning in Halton:

“To further develop learning environments which are innovative, flexible and dynamic where every learner is valued and has the opportunity to achieve and realise their individual potential”

There is a responsibility to develop the strategy with partners and to act as a commissioner of local services that both reflect the needs and develops the aspirations of the local community and contribute to the national and local priorities for Halton. This is a challenging role and will require a comprehensive evaluation and re-alignment of the primary estate to ensure that investment is targeted to areas where it will have the greatest impact.

[Primary Strategy for Change](#)

The Arts

We have a strong and vibrant Arts and Culture philosophy in Halton. This is evidenced by the fact that:

- *Halton has almost one third of the borough's schools involved in transformational school improvement programmes. This forms a potent and critical mass of school communities engaged in cultural change through national and regional partnership work an work with external 'creative agents' to transform their curriculum and offer new and exciting opportunities to engage children and young people. One of the Halton themes for new Halton Schools of Enquiry is 'The role of Parents/Carers as Co-Educators'*
- *A family, cross-age Arts and Crafts Club has successfully engaged children and young people from 3 years to 21 years on a weekly basis running from the warden's caravan on the site. Over the years, the young people have experienced a wide range of arts and cultural opportunities and regularly participated in the annual Midsummer Arts Festival at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens*

The Halton Lodge Fishing Club

Halton Lodge Children's Centre Fishing Club has been awarded an Equality Award for recognising diversity (2009). The Fishing Club received the award for the excellent work it does in bringing together the local community to take part in an activity, which brings together adults and children from a variety of backgrounds. This includes those children and young people identified as likely to become involved or are involved in risk taking behaviours.

The club is supported by a number of local agencies who have recognised that such intergenerational work breaks down barriers and promotes a sense of community and partnership across ages and backgrounds. This club has proved positive and we are now seeing similar clubs popping up all over the borough [Halton Equality and Diversity Strategy](#)

Transport

Children, young people and their families have commented throughout this plan about their concerns they have about getting around our borough safely using their own and public transport.

We will address these worries and concerns by an increasing commitment across all sectors to develop creative ways of assisting and enabling all children and young people to access activities, leisure opportunities, school, college and training.

Building on good practice established to date such as the Independent Travel Training scheme for young people with learning difficulties to support independent bus travel, new and improved bus routes and discounted travel for learners in partnership with Connexions, we are determined to provide a transport network fit for the future of our borough.

Further detail about our plans and commitments can be found in the following places.
Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pdf/pgr/inclusion/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeoplesneeds>

Promise

To set up a Young Persons Travel Forum to enable the voice of young people to be heard by those planning and providing transport for young people across Halton.



Housing

Having a safe roof over our heads is one of the fundamental issues that makes us feel secure and confident enough to access a range of opportunities on offer.

Locally we are slowly seeing significant improvements to some of our housing stock. This will continue over the coming years as we make every effort to improve the quality and type of accommodation available for families in Halton. The challenge for us will be to ensure all vulnerable groups have choices about where they live and to make sure we are able to provide any supports, which are necessary, to ensure they are able to enjoy a barrier free environment.

This is particularly true for disabled children and their families, disabled young people as they leave home and become independent and young people leaving the care of the local authority. It is imperative we get the accommodation needs of these groups right as this is the most significant factor in securing improved outcomes for these groups of young people.



Promise

We will continue to work hard across organisational and professional boundaries to make sure disabled children and young people live in barrier free environments and communities and providing transport for young people across Halton.



The Youth Crime Action Plan

The Youth Crime Action Plan sets out a comprehensive package of measures to prevent and tackle youth crime through a triple-track approach of tough enforcement, non negotiable support and prevention.

At the heart of this action plan is a recognition that the factors, which contribute to offending behaviour, also contribute to many other poor outcomes for young people. If we tackle these we will prevent youth crime and cut re-offending, but also deliver improvements in wider outcomes for children and young people. There are 7 elements Halton is required to deliver upon:

- *Operation Stay Safe*
- *Street based teams*
- *After School Patrols*
- *Reparation in leisure time*
- *YOT workers in custody suites*

- *Crime Prevention Family Intervention Project*
- *Implementation of ‘Think Family’ reforms*

There are a range of initiatives in Halton currently taking place, these include

- *Using child protection legislation to remove young people from the streets at night and take them to a safe place, building on lessons from initiatives such as Operation Staysafe*
- *Using street-based teams of workers to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder*
- *Tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder at school closing time by increasing after-school police patrols where needed*
- *Placing Youth Offending Team workers in police custody suites so that young offenders can be assessed and directed to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity*

- *Making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by expanding YOT reparation schemes during their leisure time, including on Friday and Saturday nights*
- *Developing Family Intervention Projects to work with the most vulnerable and problematic families with children at risk of offending, with non-negotiable elements and sanctions for a failure to engage*
- *Implementation of the ‘think family’ reforms to provide an integrated and appropriate service response to all families at risk by the end of the funding period*

Within Halton we will be delivering on the Youth Crime Action Plan elements in conjunction with the refresh of the action plan within the local Anti-Social Behaviour – Promoting Positive Behaviour.

[Youth Crime Action Plan](#)

Integrated processes and front line delivery

Integrated processes and front line delivery will describe how our partnership will join up the way we do business to improve how we deliver services and supports to children and young people.

This section will also offer a description of how we are going to continue to develop our workforce in ways that promote integrated working and integrated delivery, again so we can continue to make sure children and families are receiving the help and guidance in the most responsive and flexible way they need.

Integrated Workforce Strategy

We know that our local workforce is the most significant tool that will improve outcomes and assist children and young people in achieving their goals and ambitions. We are currently using innovative ways to develop our teams and the skills of our workforce around the needs of communities. Using the Organisational Development Services (ODS) model of Population Centric Workforce Planning, we are thinking beyond qualifications and professional labels and addressing how real improvements can be offered by matching skills and knowledge to the needs of our children and young people. (For more information see the [Children's Integrated Workforce Development Strategy](#)).

Developing and implementing such creative approaches to strategic and operational planning arrangements offers a significant opportunity, and the ambitions we have for our children and young people demand we tackle the challenges within our communities using the means and talents we have available to us.

Our current activity includes a wide ranging partnership approach to understanding our workforce better, so we are better prepared to develop their skills and knowledge in the future. To assist us in this task we are currently undertaking a comprehensive needs analysis as part of a research exercise developed by the Children's Workforce Development Council. It is expected this will enable us to understand those areas within our workforce, which may need further

Co Location of Staff to meet the needs of children in care

On our Permanence Team we have co located professionals from Child Adolescent Mental Health Service and Substance Misuse services as we have found these issues tend to be the most predominant concerns and worries for children and young people in our care. By locating this expertise within the Permanence team our frontline social workers are able to access the specialist support and advice that enables them to support children and young people better, and improve their overall outcomes.

development as well as focussing activity on the areas that are likely to have the greatest positive impact on both our priorities and the Every Child Matters outcomes.

Working with Transitions

The transition planning process started for Rose as she got closer to her 17th birthday. Rose has complex needs so to support her making the transition in adulthood multi agency meetings were arranged in order to provide the necessary foundations to work with Rose and develop her own transition plan, using the Person Centred Planning Framework.

By using this approach it allowed Rose and her family to work with the range of professionals to explore the options and empower the family to make positive choices and maintain those positive relationships which had been built up over Rose's childhood.

Due to the extensive planning and preparation Rose was able to move into her own supported tenancy where she was supported by staff and where her family were confident in the care and support she would receive.

[Transition Protocol](#)

[Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People with Complex Needs](#)



Promise

We will support our workforce to be the best they can be by offering opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in supporting our ambition to make a significant difference to children and young people.



Promise
We will introduce
locality working
across the borough
in April 2010

.....

The plans we have to make sure services identify and intervene as early as possible:

Halton's Children's Trust partners are fully committed to ensuring that we concentrate on preventing issues escalating rather than storing up problems for the future.

We have major plans to introduce needs led locality working. For Halton our goal is to have Children's Trust Teams based in locality areas across Halton. It is expected these teams will be able to respond quickly, sensitively and flexibly to the calls of families or professionalsto enable them to receive extra help when they need it'.

The teams will also provide professional advice and support for professionals already working within our communities.

We are currently piloting this approach in one community in Runcorn and anticipate the values, goals and approaches we have built into this pilot will not only secure its success but also allow us to roll out the new way of working across the whole of Halton.

We are still in the early stages of learning from this pilot and will continually review and assess the most appropriate methods and skills necessary to support families before their concerns or issues

escalate and require more significant measures. So far we have made sure the composition of the teams is based upon what we know about the needs and issues within each community.

Targeted Family Support (TFS)

TSF is one example of a number of initiatives currently being developed in Halton to ensure that a continuum of family support and parenting is embedded right across the levels of need. To ensure this happens the children's workforce in Halton will receive appropriate training and support to enable them to meet the needs of all children and young people in Halton.

The TSF project aims to integrate the pathways for identifying children in need to ensure the most vulnerable children receive responsive, robust, well coordinated and targeted early intervention and support, delivered through children's centre Family Support Workers.

As we roll this pilot out across the borough we expect there will be a core team of staff from a range of professional backgrounds, who will work as part of a team located together within one of our local communities. There will also be a virtual team of specialist workers who can be called to provide specific support depending on assessed need. It is this virtual team that we anticipate will differ across communities and locality teams, as this team will offer the specialist care, knowledge and support families may need in specific circumstances.



The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) will be an integral part of this work, both in terms of supporting practitioners who are undertaking CAF's and in identifying those children and young people who may benefit from a CAF.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The Common Assessment Framework has been established as part of our early intervention service for children, young people and their families. We are continuing to embed its principles and practices across service areas and these include all services working with adults in Halton.

CAF is also supporting the development of closer working relationships across services and professionals working with children and young people. This means we are able to get better at making sure families receive the care and support they need at the earliest opportunity. This is a particular focus as we make every effort to safeguard the welfare of children and young people and to build preventative services, which tackle the early indicators of harm within families.

We know that intervening early to support children and their families is a key feature that secures the long-term outcomes for children and young people. We also know that we need to balance this work with making sure those professions which are responsible for protecting children from significant harm have the skills, knowledge and capacity to carry out these responsibilities effectively and safely.

This balance is a necessary one to get right as it will make a significant difference to the lives of children and young people who may require additional

support. Already external scrutiny is recognising CAF is making a difference for example our Joint Area Review commented on our excellent progress in developing CAF in Halton.

This excellent work to date now provides us with solid foundations to take CAF forward. So in reflecting on these comments and on our progress to date we now consider it important to think how best to expand the range and purpose of CAF across the borough as a means of further embedding the importance of early intervention and identification for families across the borough as a means of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.





How will we manage performance?

The Joint Area Review recognised that we had robust performance management processes that have been identified as good practice by external agencies including the Audit Commission and Government Office. A Performance Management Framework (PMF) has been implemented to systematically report against identified priorities on a regular basis to the Children's Trust and the Children and Young People Directorate's Senior Management Team. The framework has also taken the principles of Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) to establish a model that ensures the intelligent use of performance data alongside consultation and feedback information and the knowledge and experience of front line staff.

The [Children's Trust Performance Management Framework](#) splits performance management into population accountability, which focuses on conditions of well-being and performance accountability, which relates to the impact of services. The Children's Trust has responsibility for population accountability as it is recognised that to impact on these high level outcomes a range of partners will need to be involved.

The Directorate service planning process which links to the Council's Corporate performance reporting is focused on performance accountability and the impact of our services. A major area for development in our performance management

processes has been the development of locality profiles. This has allowed the identification of need at a local level, which has then informed the commissioning and development of services within localities. An essential part of performance management in Halton is to know our communities and understand what the performance data is telling us. It is this story behind the indicators that provides the rich qualitative information that allows us to use this data to develop our services and support, to meet the needs of our children and young people.

Geographical needs analyses are also used to identify areas for development, with funding targeted to these areas. The JNA Connect web based system is utilised in all Children Centres as it holds core data on all individuals accessing services and projects. Through this system we are able to identify service take up along with any gaps, which may exist in provision. The system has already assisted in identifying the needs of differing communities, for example it showed that in some areas there is a greater need for Family Support Services than in others, therefore we have redeployed staff accordingly.

We mentioned earlier that we value the challenge and ideas that external scrutiny can bring and this is reflected in our relationship with Government Office North West. We welcome support in trying to improve and because we readily accept guidance and support we have been fortunate in securing

cross cutting support from our network of external supports across the region and nationally in order to guide our service developments for those issues that locally we are finding hard to address.

This has led to the agreement of our [Joint Improvement Support Plan for Halton](#). The specific areas for support within the JISP include

- *Specific activity in developing an Obesity Action plan*
- *Comprehensive support and challenge in reducing under 18 conception rates*
- *Support in the implementation of Serious Case Reviews*
- *Support in developing our workforce*
- *A cross field force support package which challenges our approach to tackling young people who are not in education, employment or training*

How we target our resources:

Halton Borough Council and its partners are committed to providing the resources required to deliver effective children's services and improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Children and Young People Directorate budget is over £29.4 million. We also receive the Direct

Schools Grant and other Grants we receive from Central Government. Most of these resources are already invested in existing service provision, so we have embarked on a programme of service re-design as a means of providing opportunities to re-align funding to meet priorities and ensure the best use of the resources available. For example a comprehensive review of attendance and behaviour support resulted in increased investment, which led to a significant improvement in secondary attendance. Additionally we have also re-engineered the resources available through Children's Centres to release sufficient resources to allow the authority to commission additional debt counselling services, which we have identified as important for our communities at this time of economic uncertainty.

In addition, to the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Core Funding, Halton will receive additional grant support of £12.6 million revenue to support Children's Services. Capital grant funding has also been approved to transform primary provision, a business case has been submitted to transform secondary provision and further resources have been allocated to improve early years and youth provision within the authority.

Halton and St Helen's PCT is responsible for the planning and funding of all health services across the two boroughs. The estimated PCT budget for the range of services provided for children

and young people in Halton using a population weighting to arrive at a split between St Helen's and Halton is in excess of £11.1 million.

We will continue to be review our service provision to ensure better alignment to priorities and allow resources to be targeted to need.

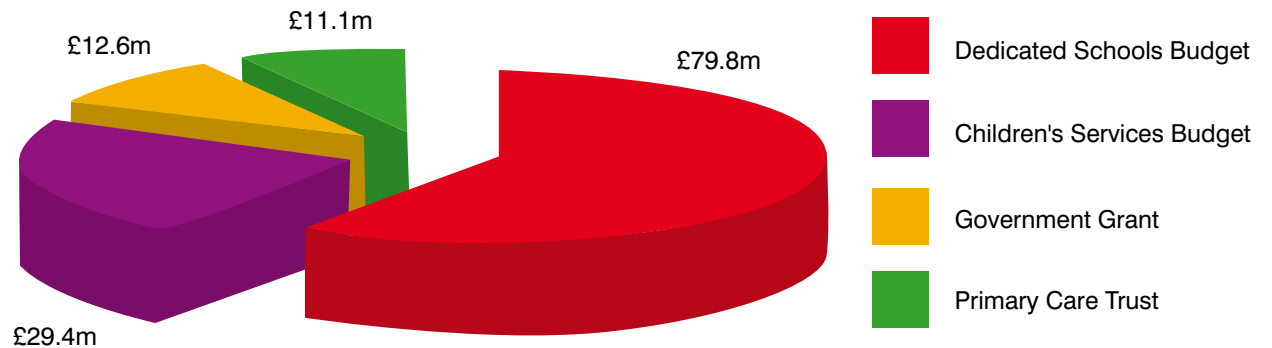
Of the funding available to support the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan £79.8 million is ring fenced to the Dedicated Schools Budget. To try and mitigate the high levels of deprivation within the authority, for the multi-year period 2008-2011 the level of funding to support the most deprived pupils in Halton has increased each year by over £2.5 million. In addition the budget available to support pupils entitled to a free meals in 2009/2010 has been increased by over £250,000.

There has been a detailed review and revision of the special educational needs provision for schools aimed at increasing inclusion, this has enabled us to re-cycle resources by enabling us to develop earlier support for pupils with special needs. In addition, March 2009 School Forum agreed to support increased funding for Education Support for Children in Care.

To ensure that funding is targeted to the greatest area of need Working Neighbourhood Funding will be used to resource and support the four key ambitions in Halton.

Joint commissioning of services and increased investment in prevention and early intervention measures will continue to be supported particularly through the development of the locality project.

Budget



The Framework to make this happen for children and young people:

The lives and worlds of children and young people are affected by a number of different factors both inside and outside the immediate walls of their homes, schools and communities. It is important to recognise and work with the range of plans and strategies currently underway in Halton. We have mentioned some of these documents throughout this plan, others also exist, and each will play either a major or a minor role in delivering better futures for our children and young people.

It is essential we join up the values, plans and aims of each of these documents to firstly make sure we are planning for our borough in a systematic, flexible and responsive way, where we avoid duplication and promote outcomes. Secondly to recognise that there are also a number of additional pressures operating outside the remit of individual plans or outside the control of agencies and professionals. Each will impact on our communities and the activities undertaken by support services so it is imperative we build a framework to make sure no stone is left unturned and that each element is considered.

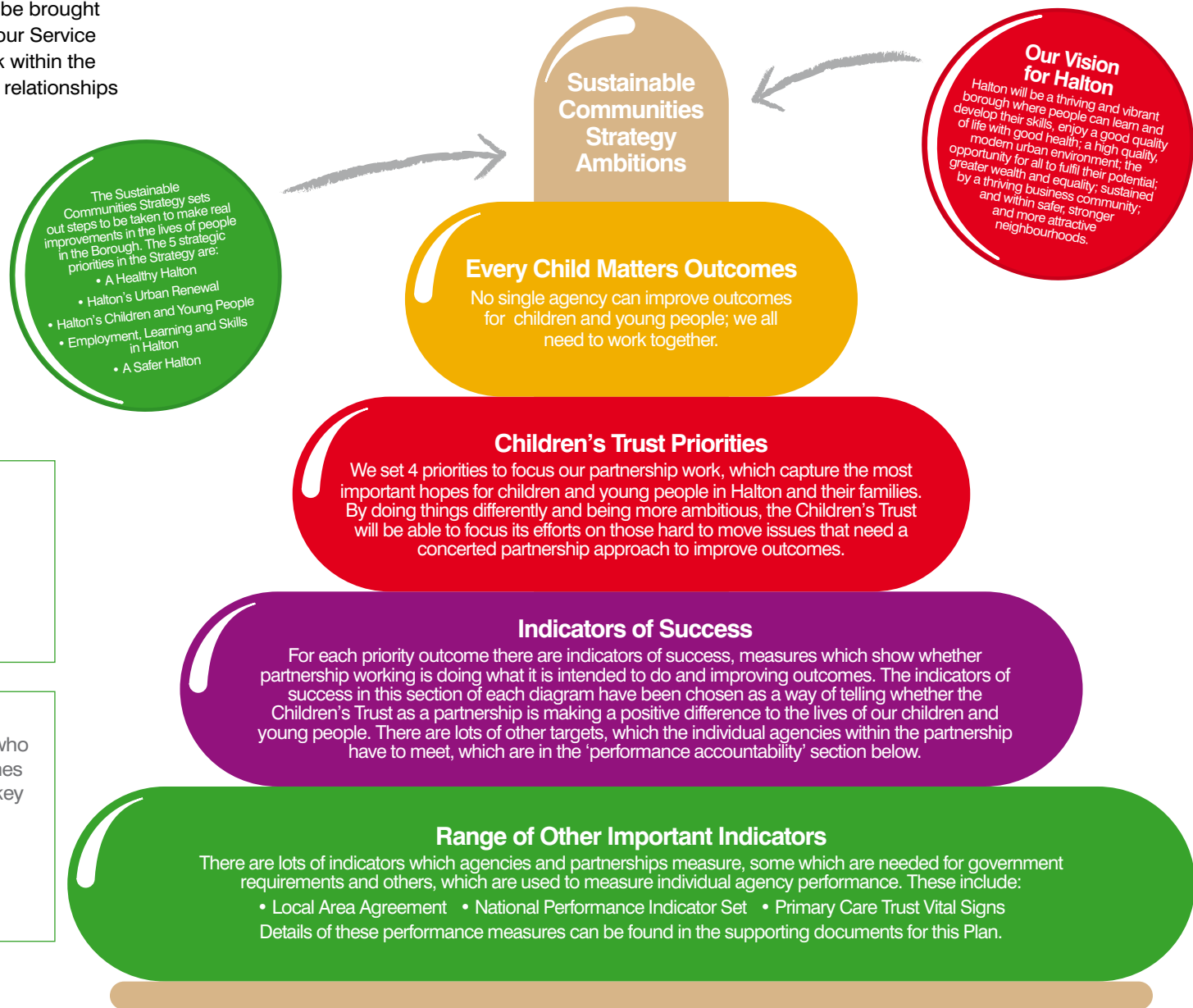
The following illustration describes how we see these processes and mechanisms coming together, where we are able to represent the unique relationships, which exist across the range of planning mechanisms to enable each professional, organisation and agency to recognise their responsibility to improving outcomes for children and young people. This responsibility may be indirect, but as we have seen throughout this plan everybody shares a responsibility to improving the outcomes and lives of children and young people in Halton.

These concerns and issues will be tackled and will not prevent us from setting our sights high and working with partners to realise our aspirations for children and young people in Halton. To assist this coordination a Children and Young People's Priorities Framework has been developed as a way to demonstrate not only the links between strategic planning arrangements but also how each aspect is interrelated and cannot be tackled in isolation. It is the purpose of the framework to illustrate this partnership approach to addressing our challenges and achieving our ambitions.



The frameworks for each of our priority areas.

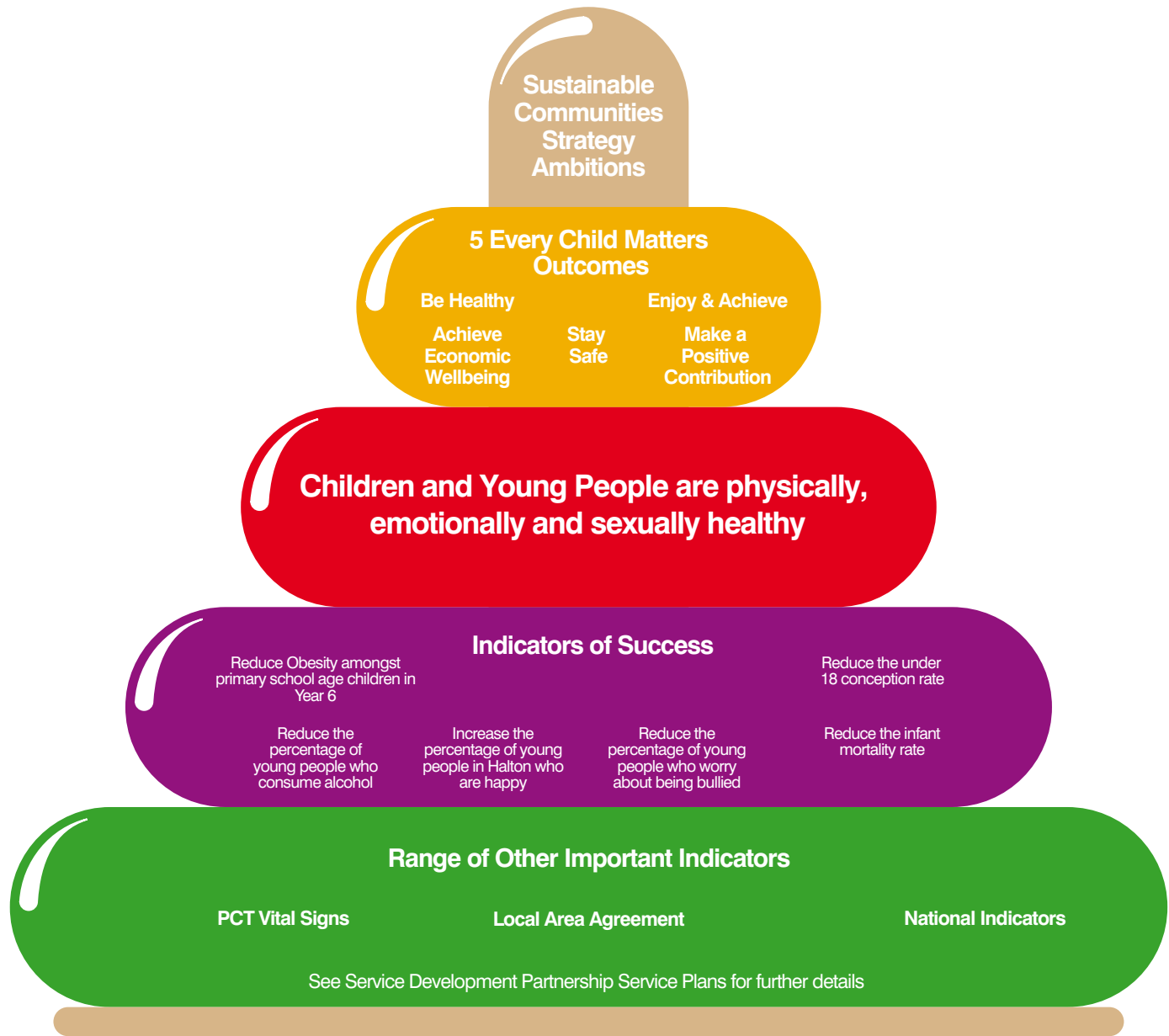
The next 3 diagrams offer more information relating to the detail of how the many requirements placed on local areas and their partners will be brought together as a means of making sure our Service Delivery Partnerships are able to work within the wider context of our priorities and the relationships our priorities have with the wider strategic planning and delivery mechanisms we have in Halton.



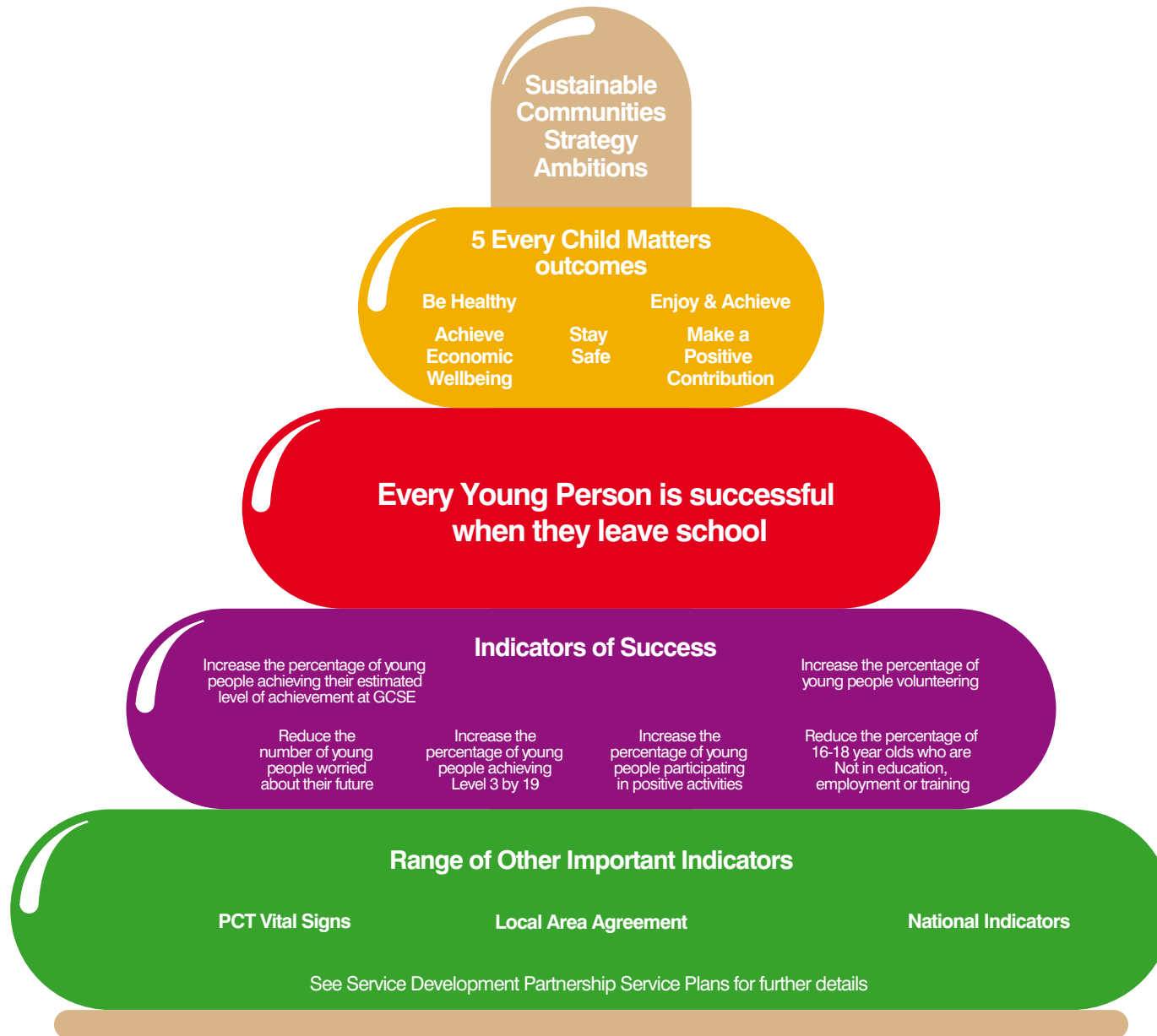
Population Accountability
Concerned with improving outcomes for whole populations at community, city or national levels. The focus is on partnership groups who have an interest in a particular outcome, eg, "we want our children to be healthy".

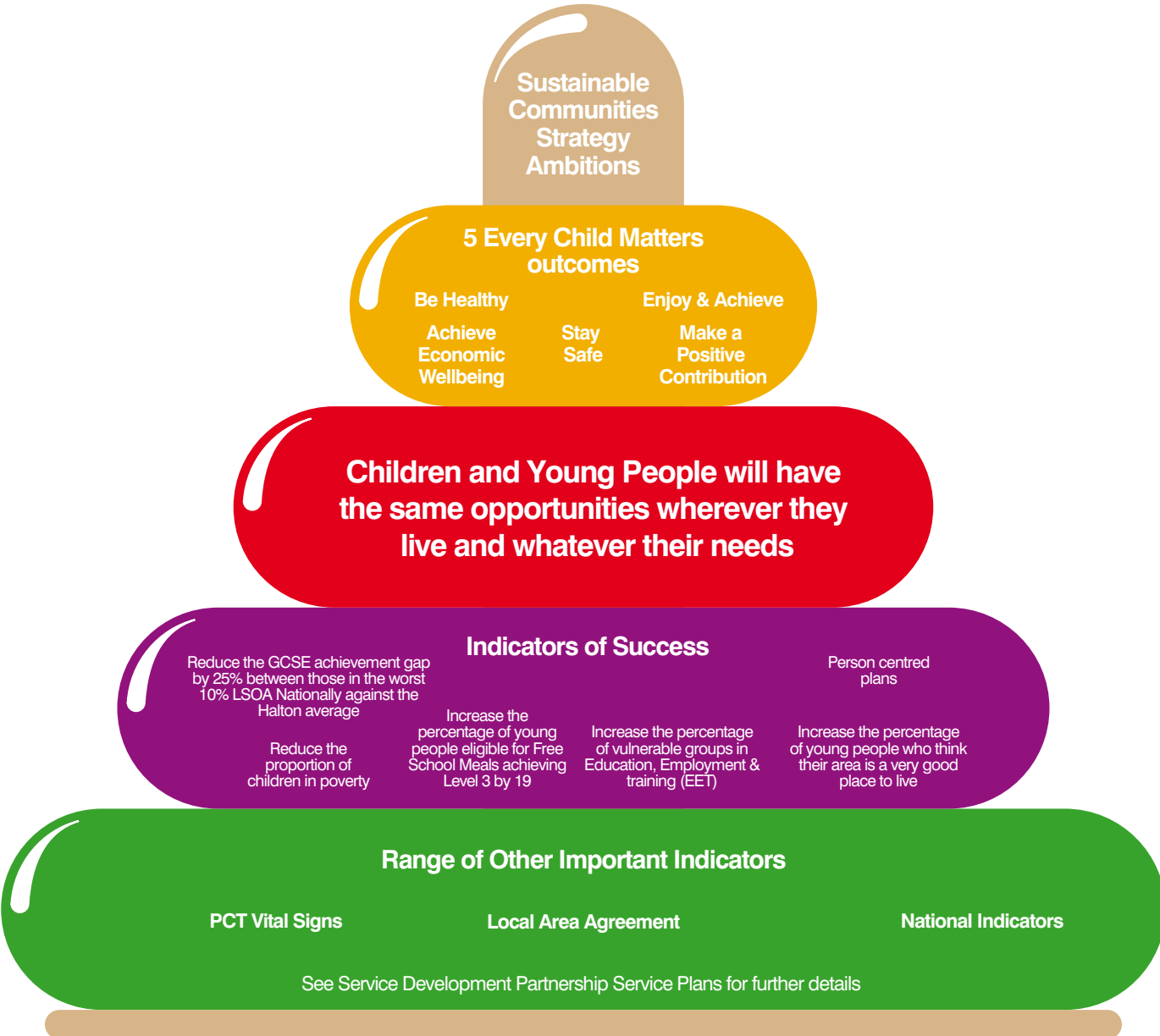
Performance Accountability
Concerned with managers and staff who are responsible for improving outcomes for service users. It focuses on three key performance measurement areas:

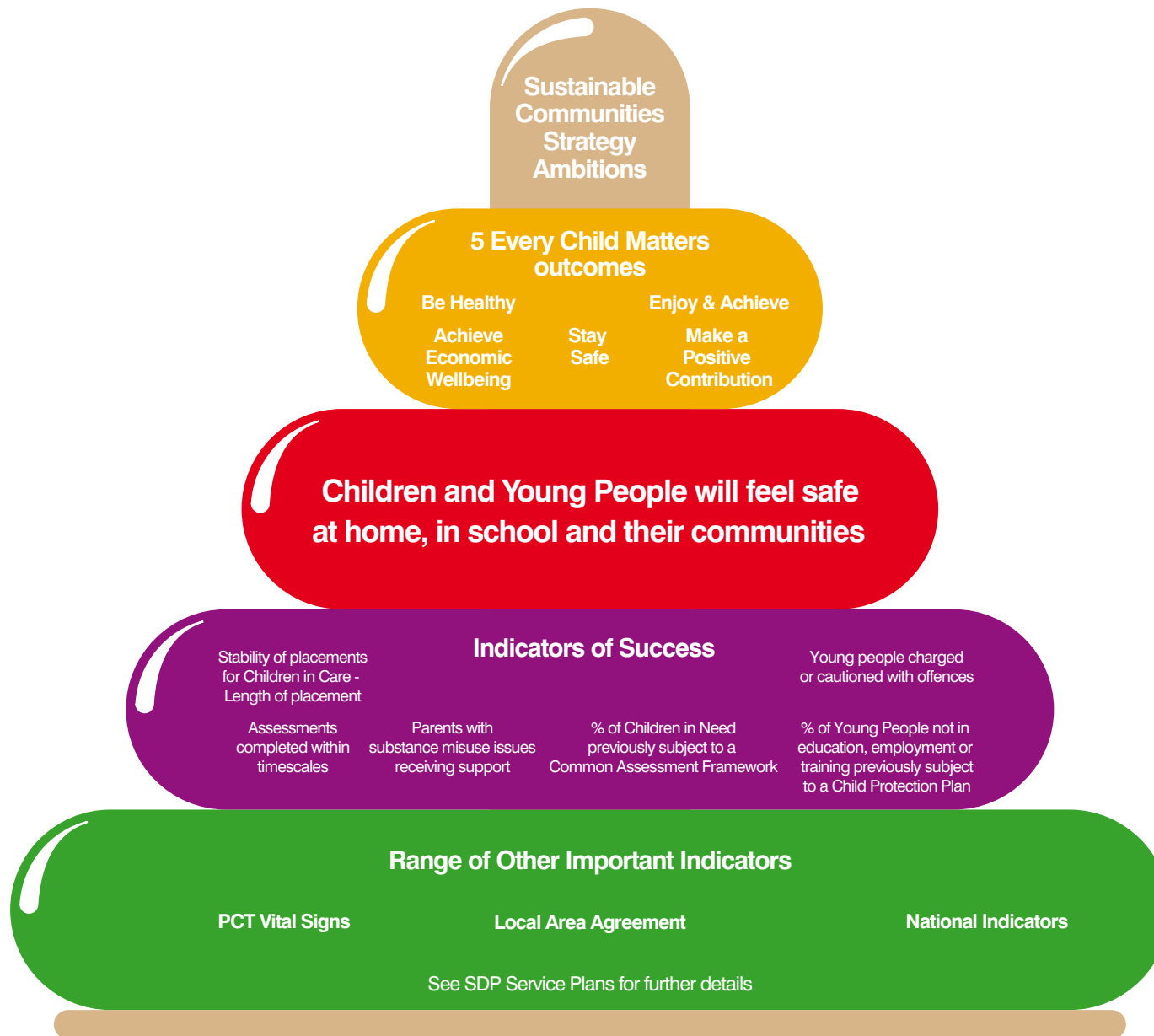
- How much did we do (quantity)
- How well did we do it (quality)
- Is anyone better off (customer outcomes)













Halton Children's Trust – Promises Template



Promises	Responsible	Relevant Strategy/ Method
1. We will make sure that our actions and decisions are guided by a single set of arrangements so we are more accountable to our communities and enable children, young people and their families to receive the support and services they need when they need it.	Children's Trust Board	Children's Trust Business Plan in place July 2009
2. We will continue to prioritise safeguarding as an essential part of everything we do in order to continue to embed the values and goals of ensuring that safeguarding is everybody's business.	Halton Safeguarding Children Board	HSCB Business Plan
3. We will develop a Children's Trust Resource Strategy.	Children's Trust Board	Children's Trust Resource Strategy in place December 2009
4. We will support our workforce to be the best they can be by offering opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in supporting our ambition to make a significant difference to children and young people.	Children's Trust Board	Halton Workforce Development Strategy
5. We will produce a Children's Trust Equality and Diversity Strategy.	Children's Trust Board	Strategy in place December 2009
6. We will develop a Children's Trust Commissioning Strategy for Halton.	Children's Trust Board	Strategy in place December 2009
7. The Children's Trust will continue the strong partnership with Third Sector organisations to develop services for enterprising behaviour and entrepreneurial work and will continue to ensure Third Sector involvement in planning and delivery services.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Children's Trust Commissioning Strategy
8. We will establish a range of secure, safe, stable and permanent accommodation, which young people leaving our care can move into, and stay for as long as they need it.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Housing Strategy



Promises	Responsible	Relevant Strategy/ Method
9. We will actively seek resolution to young people's many concerns about transport across the borough by setting up a Young Persons Travel Forum to enable the voice of young people to be heard by those planning and providing transport for young people across Halton.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Halton Local Transport Strategy
10. We will introduce locality working across the borough in April 2010.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Integrated Working Strategy
11. We will review and expand the use of CAF as a key mechanism in supporting our commitment to early intervention and prevention.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Review undertaken and recommendations implemented September 2009
12. We will work hard across organisational and professional boundaries to make sure disabled children and young people live in barrier free environments and communities.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Building Bridges Strategy
13. We will develop a Children's Trust Business Plan within which a range of protocols will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify and define the relationship between the Children's Trust Board and Halton Safeguarding Children Board • Clarify and define how conflicts between Children's Trust partners will be addressed 	Children's Trust Board	Children's Trust Business Plan in place July 2009
14. Each Service Delivery Partnership will develop and implement a business plan.	Children's Trust Executive Group	Plans in place July 2009

For further information on this plan please contact Tony Crane, Sharon Sandell or Karen Hickey, at:
Halton Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 7QF
Telephone: 0303 333 4300 **Email:** childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk.. www.halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Parish Issues – Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils

WARDS: Ditton and Daresbury

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the following requests from Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils:

1. Halebank – to increase the number of Councillors on the Parish Council from five to eight and to move the date of the next election from 2010 to 2012.
2. Sandymoor – to increase the number of Councillors on the Parish Council from five to eight.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) that it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the date of the next election for Halebank Parish Council be 3rd May 2012; and**
- (2) That it be recommended to Council that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 (2) of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the number of Parish Councillors on Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Council be increased to eight with effect from 3rd May 2012**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Requests have been received from Halebank and Sandymoor Parish Councils to increase the number of Parish Councillors from five to eight.

The Local Government and Rating Act 1997 empowers District Councils to vary the number of members on Parish and Town Councils.

Halebank Parish Council have also requested that the Council consider moving the date for the next election to 2012, making it the normal four year-cycle for a Parish Council term rather than two.

The Parish Council has advised that when it was established in 2008 there was a natural expectation, amongst electors, that the Council was being elected to fulfil a four year mandate. The Parish Council believes another election in 2010 is likely to confuse voters and undermine the transparency of the democratic system. The Council believe that there is a strong argument as to why a newly established Council should, in principle, be able to fulfil a full four-year mandate. An election in 2010 will give the Council only one year which to set its own precept and begin to establish itself within the community. An election in 2012, would give the Council, and its elected members, time to find their feet, develop their roles and establish a record, which can be properly subject to the democratic verdict of local voters.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.3 A Healthy Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton – There are no implications arising from this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal - There are no implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risk assessment implications.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity implications.

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

None

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 18 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) –
Capital Expenditure

WARD(S) Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Capital Funding Plan to support the delivery of Halton's short break programme to meet the requirements of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The Executive Board note the contents of the report**
- ii) The Executive Board recommends to Council that the draft spending plan outlined in 3.7 be approved.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme is a national initiative to enable more disabled young people to engage in social activities within their local community. The programme also aims to provide their parent/carers with a break from their caring responsibilities. In 2008/09 Halton made a successful bid for Pathfinder status, and were one of 20 nationally and 2 in the North West. During 2008/09 a number of measures were put in place to test out some new activities for children and to build partnerships with local and national providers of short break services.

3.2 There has been significant grant funding made available to local authorities by the Department of Children, Schools and Families to improve short break services for disabled children and their families. The funding stream includes revenue and capital grants. This report relates only to the capital element of the funding outlined in Section 3.7 of this report. Revenue funding is subject to a separate commissioning process.

- 3.3 Consultation with disabled children and young people and their families has been a major focus in the development of planning for short break services, including the capital spending plan. The views of disabled young people and their families were sought through the "Powerful Voices" Conference along with a consultation leaflet that was sent out to all families with a child with additional needs. The consultation established the types of activities and practical support families would want to use.
- 3.4 Families of disabled children have told us that they want more support after school, at weekends and in school holiday times, so that they can have a break when they are under the greatest amount of stress.
- 3.5 Disabled young people have told us that they want to do the same things that other young people do. They want to participate in sporting activities, primarily for pleasure but also to join in local and national competitions. For those with potential, they want to be able to compete in Paralympic events. The children also want to have somewhere where they can meet with friends that is a safe, adapted and 'home-like' space that is available during school holidays, evenings and weekends.
- 3.6 The Capital Funding attached to the programme has been made available to Local Authorities to support the delivery of the short break programme in recognition of the need for specialist provision over and above that required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Capital Funding spending plan has been developed following consultation with children and young people and their families and in accordance with the DCSF guidelines. The proposed spending plan for Halton's allocation of Capital finding is outlined in 3.7.

3.7 **Halton AHDC Capital Allocation**

2008/09 £85,600
2009/10 £199,600

Draft Spending Plan	2008/09	2009/10
Inglefield Outreach Centre adaptations	£85,600	£5,000
Outreach Centre (Widnes to be identified)		£120,000
Sporting wheelchairs		£20,000
Enhanced Toileting Resources		£15,000
Play Builder Resources		£39,600
Total	£85,600	£199,600

- 3.8 The creation of two resource bases, one in Runcorn (Inglefield Short Break Unit at Castlefields) and one in Widnes (at a location to be identified) will provide bases with the specialist equipment required, particularly for those young people with very complex needs. The bases will be available for use by individuals and groups in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays. It is envisaged that the resource could be used for overnight stays by some young people with their personal assistants. Whilst the base in Runcorn has been identified, the options for possible locations in Widnes are currently being scoped.
- 3.9 Funds will be used to purchase 10 specialist sports wheelchairs to enable young people to participate in sporting activities throughout the Borough. Some of the wheelchairs will be based in the Tennis Centre and Leisure Centres, with others available at Chesnut Lodge School to be transported to a range of venues locally and nationally to support young people who may be involved in competition events. This initiative is being developed together with Halton Sports Partnership
- 3.10 Funds will also be used to provide enhanced disabled toileting facilities and play equipment in the new play parks being developed as part of the Play Builder Programme. This will enable more disabled children to use the facilities in their local parks, together with their siblings and peers.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 These proposals will enhance compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and enhance the Council's approach to the inclusion of Disabled Children.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Aiming High for Disabled Children Capital Fund is additional funding provided by the Government specifically to support the delivery of the short breaks programme. The funds allocated for 2008/09 have been carried forward to 2009/10 with agreement from DCSF. The funds for 2009/10 must be used in this financial year and cannot be used for other projects. Any remaining funds will be reclaimed by The Treasury.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

This programme will enable more disabled children to access social and leisure opportunities similar to those of their non-disabled peers. It will support them to achieve better outcomes particularly for their health and wellbeing, enjoyment and achievement, and their

participation in local communities.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Young disabled people experience significant barriers to accessing employment and further education as their confidence, self esteem and social skills may be affected by limited opportunities for socialisation with their peers. These measures will provide them with more opportunities to enhance these skills outside of the school environment.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of more play, sports and social activities will have a positive impact upon both the physical and emotional health of young disabled people in Halton. The provision of regular breaks from their caring responsibilities will support the health of their main carers and siblings.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The proposed developments will provide environments and resources for young people to extend their personal experiences in a safe and supportive manner.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The additional adaptations to the Playbuilder Programme will further enhance the Urban Renewal of the Borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The proposals for the spending plan for the AHDC Capital funding will enable more disabled young people to access more social and leisure opportunities in Halton. This will enhance the quality of life for both them and their families.

7.2 The funding is time limited and cannot be used for other projects. The plans are in place to ensure that the projects can be delivered within the time and spending limits.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The measures outlined in this report will support the inclusion of disabled young people in community sports, play and leisure activities throughout Halton.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

To gain the formal approval of the Council for the Capital spend.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This is a Government initiative, with Halton as a Pathfinder. It must be the programme's objectives.

11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Financial Year 2009/2010.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Aiming High for Disabled Children	Woodview CDC	Margaret Chaplin

13.0 **JUSTIFICATION FOR TAKING THE ITEM IN PART II**

13.1 **Which Paragraphs apply?**

N/A

13.2 **Public Interest Test**

N/A

13.3 **Conclusion**

N/A

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REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 18th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Play Builder Project

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on progress with Playbuilder Year 1 2008-2009 and to agree proposals for Year 2 2009-2010 and outline proposals for Year 3 2010/2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 Progress made with Playbuilder Project 2008/2009 be noted
- 2.2 Council be recommended to approve the proposals for 2009/2010 Playbuilder projects.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Executive Board received a report on the 21st May 2008 informing them of the success of the Authority in achieving Playbuilder status and confirmation of the funding awarded.
- 3.2 Guidance received indicated that Halton must deliver a minimum of 6 new, transformed playgrounds in 2008/09, with a further 16 in 2009/10 and 2010/11, making a total of 22 over the 3 years.
- 3.3 Executive Board received a further report on the 25th September 2008 whereupon the Playbuilder project development process was approved, along with the six Year 1 sites.
- 3.4 Year 1 (2008/2009) - Progress to date

No.	Site/Project	Completion Date	Progress
1	Hale Park	March 2009	Operational
2	Crow Wood	1 st May 2009	Operational
3	Runcorn Town Hall	15 th May 2009	Operational
4	Spike Island	Deferred to Yr 2	(See yr 2 proposals)
5	Gorsewood, Murdishaw	Expected Completion June 2009	On site
6	Hillcrest Halton Brook	Expected Completion July 2009	On site

- 3.5 Projects 1 – 4 will be developed in house. Projects 5 – 6 are projects developed in partnership with Social Housing providers who are developing and managing the projects. They will also be responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the new playgrounds.
- 3.6 The Spike Island project has had to be deferred to 2009-2010, as it proved impossible to complete within the required timeframe.
- 3.7 Playbuilder investment in Playgrounds in Halton in 2008-2009 was £299,092. The total investment from all sources generated or pump primed by the Playbuilder input is however, nearer to £1 million (see Appendix 1).

3.8 Sites for Playbuilder Project 2009/2010 (Year 2):

- 3.8.1 The allocation for 2009-2010 is £388,469. The proposal is to allocate this money equally across 8 new target areas, resulting in funding of approximately £48,559 per area.
- 3.8.2 The proposals for Year 2 have been considered by both Halton Play Partnership and the Playbuilder Sub-Committee. Proposed projects take into account the following;
- A partnership approach in identifying areas. Partners being; Landscape Services; Culture & Leisure, Housing Associations; Aiming High for Disabled Children Project; Residents Groups and the Voluntary Sector
 - Consultation with Area Fora
 - A whole Borough approach to provision
 - The identification of major gaps in existing provision
 - Targeting resources in areas of need

3.8.3 Spike Island

Brought forward from Year 1

3.8.4 Victoria Park

The proposal is to enhance the existing facilities at this popular destination, with Playbuilder resources targeted at children with additional needs. This will be developed in partnership with the Aiming High for Disabled Children Project, which is currently investing in Parks facilities to enhance the accessibility. This investment and new equipment will complement the Park's existing provision and make Victoria Park a destination site for a range of families with children with additional needs. There is revenue in place for the existing provision.

3.8.5 Milton Avenue

The proposal is to develop a new play area to replace the existing provision. The current provision is poorly located, subject to regular vandalism and difficult to maintain. The revenue budget is in place.

3.8.6 Halton Lodge

The proposal is to develop a new play area on the “BMX area” adjacent to Woodside Primary School. The proposal has been developed in partnership with Cosmopolitan Housing Association and has included extensive consultation with local children and young people. There are currently no play facilities serving this community. The project would draw down additional capital from other funding sources and would be revenue funded by Cosmopolitan Housing.

3.8.7 Caesars Close

This proposal will be part of the regeneration of Castlefields transforming an existing area which has fallen into disuse. The project has been developed in partnership with the Neighbourhood Management Team and Dane Housing. Additional funding is currently being sought, with the playground being revenue funded by Dane Housing.

3.8.8 Hallwood Park (Rowhampton Row)

The proposal is to complement the existing youth provision, which consists of a small five a side kick about area and a multi use games area with provision for younger children. There are currently no play facilities serving this community.

The revenue Implication will be funded through Landscape Services and Halton & St Helens PCT.

3.8.9 Town Park

The proposal is to develop a new playground on a site adjacent to the Town Park Railway/Ski Slope off Stockham Lane. The new site would replace an old playground, which was poorly sited, regularly vandalised and extremely difficult to maintain.

The proposed new facility in addition to its inherent play value would also complement the existing provision and help to make Town Park a more popular visitor destination.

See Appendix 2

3.9 **Possible sites 2010/2011**

3.9.1 In addition to the above proposals, need was also identified through:

- An audit of existing provision
- Area forum feedback
- Consultation with local community groups

Arising from this, consideration was given to future provision in the following areas:

3.9.2 **Upton;**

This area has a relatively large population of young people, with limited existing provision. It is noted as a youth nuisance 'hot spot'. Playbuilder input into this area has the potential to act as a catalyst to develop a larger project looking at provision for children and young people with a range of partners. It is proposed that this is approved as a potential 2010/2011 Playbuilder project site to afford time for a wider project to be properly considered

3.9.3 The Glen, Palacefields;

The Area Forum has the ambition to develop a 'Locality Park' on the land bordered by 'Flood Brook Clough'/Hallwood Link Road/Halton Hospital site. The land was designated as open space but undeveloped. The Playbuilder Project could help pump prime this. However, other capital funding would be required, and there would be a significant revenue implication.

3.9.4 Beechwood, Farnworth, Halton Village and Windmill Hill

There is currently no play provision serving these communities. No specific sites have been identified as yet, with suitable open space for provision. This could be an issue, particularly in the Windmill Hill area.

The proposal is for Landscape Services/Playbuilder Project to identify sites and undertake design work for Beechwood, Farnworth and Halton Village, with a possibility to deliver one of these in 2009/2010, and an option to deliver the remaining sites in 2010/2011.

The Playbuilder Project will continue to explore opportunities to develop in the Windmill Hill area. Work will therefore be undertaken during 2009/2010 to identify potential development sites for 2010/2011. A further report to Executive Board will put forward options for 2010/2011.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The successful delivery of the Playbuilder project will make a significant contribution to the development of Play in the Borough.
- 4.2 "Fair Play": a consultation on the play strategy announced the Government's intention to introduce an indicator into the National Indicator Set which assess the satisfaction of children and young people with the parks and play areas where they live and go to school. This indicator is to be introduced in 2009 and every top tier local authority will have to report on their success in supporting children's enjoyment through play. (See appendix 3).
- 4.3 The successful implementation of the Playbuilder project will significantly enhance the authority's ability to achieve its targets.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Playbuilder Project funding is a capital grant. The investment of £1.1 million in new play spaces will have a long-term revenue implication in ensuring

the necessary and appropriate maintenance and management regime for this investment is in place.

5.2 The proposed projects for Year 2 (2009/2010) have been drawn up in partnership with Landscape Services. These projects have revenue resources already in place

5.3 Capital

Year 1	2008/09	299,092
Year 2	2009/10	388,469
Year 3	2010/11	437,885
	Total	1,125,446

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

Play is a fundamental part of a healthy and happy childhood and its enjoyment is recognised by Government as equally important to other outcomes for children. Because it is so fundamental, it contributes to each of the five outcomes for children specified in Every Child Matters.

The essence of play is enjoyment. When playing, children define their own goals and interests, decide what is success or failure and pursue those goals in their own way. Children’s enjoyment through play is linked to the control and choice they are able to exercise. Giving children the chance for free, uninhibited play allows them a psychologically safe space in which to try out new roles and experiences and enhances their enjoyment of life.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The continuous quality improvement of play workers and opportunities for development of skills across play and youth qualifications will be explored fully through Halton’s Workforce Development Plan.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Play is crucial to health and development throughout childhood, contributing to social, physical, intellectual, cultural, emotional and psychological development. The physical activity involved in energetic play provides children and young people with a significant amount of their regular exercise and is a key element in tackling obesity.

6.4 A Safer Halton

One of the main reasons children give for not playing outdoors more is that they and their parents are concerned for their safety. Fear of strangers, traffic and bullying by other children combine to keep children in their own homes. Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of

danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge themselves and use their initiative. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Halton Play Builder proposals will be consistent with Halton's Policies for Urban Renewal and are designed to enhance current play provision.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Play Builder programme is a three-year capital build programme with single year capital allocations/spends targets. Individual project 'risk analysis' will be carried out by each project delivered.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 A major criteria of the Play Builder programme is the requirement to 'ensure' that access and Inclusivity are a key consideration at the design stage.

The Playbuilder Project is working in partnership with the Aiming High for Disabled Children Project to ensure sites are fully accessible. Some sites (Phoenix Park, Victoria Park, Runcorn Town Hall) will have capital input from Aiming High for Disabled Children to enhance existing accessible toilet facilities.

9.0 REASON (S) FOR DECISION

9.1 To agree (8) projects to be progressed in Playbuilder Project Year 2.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 A full consultation programme has taken place where all options were considered.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 3-year capital programme with annual capital allowance. Implementation of Year 2 projects to be completed by 31st March 2010.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Play Pathfinder/Builder Application	Children & Young People Directorate	S. M. Duncan Play Services Manager
Fair Play, DCFS/DCMS	Children & Young People Directorate	S. M. Duncan Play Services Manager
Halton Play Plan 2007-2011	Children & Young People Directorate	S. M. Duncan Play Services Manager

Table Showing Value of Investment in Halton Playgrounds

Appendix 1

Playbuilder Year 1 2008/09

Site	BLF	BFL Integrated Play	Playbuilder	HBC	WREN	Other		Total
Halton Brook			50,000.00			120,000.00	*1	170,000.00
Gorsewood			40,000.00			35,000.00	*2	75,000.00
Spike Island	107,500.00	33,000.00	30,000.00	35,000.00		100,000.00	*3	305,500.00
Town Hall Park	73,400.00	33,000.00	50,000.00	33,000.00				189,400.00
Hale Park			50,000.00	15,000.00	50,000.00	30,000.00	*4	145,000.00
Crow Wood			79,092.00	25,000.00				104,092.00
Totals	180,900.00	66,000.00	299,092.00	108,000.00	50,000.00	285,000.00		988,992.00

Revenue					Total
Halton Brook	Site to be maintained for minimum of 10 yrs by Riverside Housing Trust				TBC
Gorsewood	Site to be maintained for minimum of 10 yrs by Liverpool Housing Trust				TBC
Halton /St.Helens PCT	£80K per annum for 5 yrs to support maintenance of new playgrounds				£400,000
Total					£400000 + TBC

*1 Capital Investment from Riverside Housing

*2 Capital Investment from Liverpool Housing Trust

*3 106 Planning Control input/HBC Landscape Playground Capital

*4 Heritage Lottery Fund

BLF Big Lottery Fund
 BLF Integrated Play Big Lottery Fund Integrated Play
 WREN Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd

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Possible Play Builder Sites 2009/2010

		Site Ownership	Sustainable	Design Capacity	Needs Analysis	Consultation	Delivery Capacity	Match
Site	Delivery Agent							
Runcorn Town Park	HBC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Spike Island	HBC	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Hallwood Park	HBC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Halton Lodge	Cosmopolitan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Caesars Close	Dane	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Milton Avenue	HBC	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Victoria Park	HBC	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
Beechwood	Tbc	Site to be agreed	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Halton Village	Tbc	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Upton	Tbc	Site to be agreed	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Farnworth	Tbc	Site to be agreed	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Windmill Hill	Tbc	Site to be agreed	Y	Y	Y		Y	

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The Local Play Indicators

Appendix 3

The performance indicators for play provision are defined in the table below.

Local Play Indicators

Indicator 1	Participation	Method of generation
Description	The percentage of all children and young people aged birth to 16 (i.e. from all social and ethnic groups, including those who are disabled), who play out for at least four hours each week	Household survey
Indicator 2	Access to a variety of facilities and spaces	Method of generation
Description	The percentage of children and young people aged birth to 16 that have access to at least three different types (type A, type B, type C) of space or facility, at least one of which is a dedicated place for play and informal recreation, which are all within easy walking or cycling distance as defined below	Open space and play strategy audits GIS mapping
Indicator 3	Quality of facilities and spaces	Method of generation
Description	The proportion of facilities and spaces that have been assessed using the Quality Assessment tool and where improvement plans are being implemented as a result of unsatisfactory assessments	Quality Assessment tool
Indicator 4	Satisfaction	Method of generation
Description	The percentage of all children and young people (i.e. from all social and ethnic groups, including those who are disabled), who think that the range and quality of play facilities and spaces they are able to access in their local neighbourhood is good/very good.	School Survey

In the near future detailed guidance will be available from Play England on data collection and analysis methods for these play indicators.

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REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 22 July 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Mid-term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present an updated Sustainable Community Strategy for adoption.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That amended Sustainable Community Strategy is adopted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Local Authorities are required to prepare and implement a Sustainable Community Strategy. We are expected to work with partners through the Local Strategic Partnership to agree priorities and to engage and involve local communities. The current Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in 2006. It contains a long-term vision with clear objectives and targets for the period 2006-2011. Since it was prepared a number of changes have taken place making it necessary to conduct a mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This is an update, not a complete revision. Recent perception surveys and the revised State of the Borough Report (2009) confirm that the underlying vision and priorities from 2006 remain relevant. Widespread engagement has therefore not been undertaken for this mid-term review. However, in 2010/11 work will commence on a full review and roll forward of the strategy with wide engagement, linking up with work being done on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

The main objectives of this mid-term review were:

- i. To explain what our existing vision statement means – what will Halton be like in 2025 if we are successful? The statutory guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires that a Sustainable Community Strategy should include a long-term vision for the area.
- ii. To review the indicators and targets for each priority. Since the current strategy was produced the National Indicator set and LAA targets have been introduced. The aim is to have a single coherent

set of indicators and targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy which encompasses both LAA targets and key local targets.

- iii. Incorporate the Housing and Homelessness Strategy (a requirement of the Statutory Guidance referred to above)
- iv. To ensure that appropriate cross-cutting targets are agreed, covering social inclusion, cohesion, equalities and closing the gap.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

The attached draft of the mid-term review has been drawn up following consultation with partners and approved by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board. It has also been considered by the Policy and Performance Boards during the current cycle. Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board recommended the addition of a local indicator relating to children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas. The recommendations of the Policy and Performance Boards were reported to Executive Board on 18 June. (with the exception of Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board which did not meet until 8 July 2009). Executive Board recommended the to Council that the strategy be adopted subject to the inclusion of the local indicator referred to above. This indicator has now been included under the Children and Young People's priority in the revised strategy appended to this report. Any further recommendations from Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board will be reported orally. In accordance with the constitution and legislation, the revised Sustainable Community Strategy has to be adopted by full Council.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The opportunities and challenges facing Halton are well-known. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the steps we need to take to bring about real improvement and how we will measure progress. The Local Area Agreement is a set of targets agreed with Government which reflects the Community Strategy. The mid-term review is an opportunity to bring these together in a single coherent document.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the primary policy document for the Council and its partners who have a statutory duty to have regard to it.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of the Strategy will require the application of resources by all the partners in Halton, and consideration of impact on priorities is already part of the Council's budget setting process.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The Community Strategy sets out our priorities for Children and Young People, Employment Learning and Skills, Healthy Halton, Safer Halton and Urban Renewal in Halton.

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The key risk to the revision of the Strategy is lack of consensus. This is mitigated by consulting partners and Policy and Performance Boards.

The risks to delivery of the Strategy are set out in the Partnership Risk Register.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Addressing inequality is a key theme in the Strategy.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

The 2006 Sustainable Community strategy needs updating to take into account changes to the National Performance Framework, including the Halton Local Area Agreement, and recent statutory guidance.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The following options were considered:

1. To leave the strategy unchanged. This would result in the need to monitor performance against two different sets of targets and would not be compliant with statutory targets
2. To conduct a full review of the strategy. This was rejected because the Strategy was only adopted on 2006 and a full review would be premature.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The strategy will take effect following its adoption by Council.

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

None.

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DRAFT V13

MAKING IT HAPPEN IN HALTON – A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE HALTON

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

A key role for local authorities and their partners is to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area. This should aim to enhance the quality of life of local communities through actions to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area and its inhabitants. They must also:

- allow local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- co-ordinate the actions of the council and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- focus and shape the existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely.

They must have four key components:

- a long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
- an action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
- a shared commitment to implementing the action plan, and proposals for doing so;
- arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan, for periodically reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy, and for reporting progress to local communities.

Sustainable community strategies will reflect local circumstances and needs. They will:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of councillors within and outside an Executive Steering Group;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been prepared in accordance with these principles. It lies as the centrepiece of a portfolio of documents which help define the task for partners in improving life in Halton. The portfolio includes:

- The State of Halton Audit
- Consulting the Communities of Halton
- Priority Baseline Reports
- A Local Development Framework
- A Community Engagement Strategy
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Health
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Community Safety
- The Halton Economic Review

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. Of particular note is the newly emerging relationship between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework. This is the replacement for the Unitary Development Plan, made up of a Core Strategy and individual planning documents for particular areas or issues. It gives a more flexible and responsive approach to planning in Halton.

Importantly, the Local Development Framework takes forward the land use elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It takes into account all of the plans and strategies which affect the quality of life in Halton (such as health, housing and education) and impact upon future development. The Sustainable Community Strategy is based on the socio-economic profile of the borough and listening to the views and aspirations of the local community. The Local Development Framework provides a vehicle through which the planning process can enable these to happen.

FOREWORD

The Halton Strategic Partnership brings together key representatives from all the major organisations that are vital to building a better future for Halton. Its role is to agree on a common purpose and a common sense of direction which is set out in this Sustainable Community Strategy. Having done so, it provides a framework through which organisations, groups and individuals can co-operate to achieve our common goals. The Partnership is committed to making life better for everyone who lives, works, invests or visits the borough.

This is a refresh of Halton's second Sustainable Community Strategy and whilst we can take pride in what has been achieved to date, there is still much more to do. This document sets out a vision of the Halton we would like to see emerge by 2025. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. Those steps concentrate on the things that matter most to most people. The Strategy is about focusing on the issues that will make the biggest difference in the long-term.

This Strategy is relatively short. However, it is based on a significant body of research and consultation. This document outlines some key goals, some headline actions, and a scorecard of key performance measures by which we will be judged. It aims to guide the development and implementation of more detailed plans and actions to be undertaken by the Council, the Police, Health Agencies and others. Everyone has a role to play in making it happen in Halton. Working together we can make a difference and build a better future for the borough.

INTRODUCTION

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues over the years, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all.

This Sustainable Community Strategy is for all the communities of Halton. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in this plan:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton. However, the strategy also recognises that Halton is not insular or isolated. Halton is an important component in the development of a thriving and successful Liverpool City Region, and more widely in a dynamic and sustainable North West region. Halton can only succeed as part of a successful and thriving North West. This Sustainable Community Strategy builds upon the wider strategic developments which are taking place in the region. Partners from Halton play a key role in shaping sub-regional and regional plans and arrangements. This connectivity – both strategically and operationally – is an important part of the Halton approach.

Halton's local strategic partnership (LSP) – the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed the Strategy. As partners we have built on existing collaboration and are fully committed to working more effectively together and with the community to help improve the quality of life for people in our borough.

This Strategy outlines key goals for the borough, some of the headline actions to be taken, and measures by which progress can be judged. It guides the development of more detailed plans and actions – to be undertaken by the Council, Health Trusts, the Police, Fire Service, community and voluntary sector, and others – whose actions are the important step that makes a difference to people on the ground. We all have a part to play in making it happen.

ABOUT THE HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board brings together representatives from all sectors in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area. Local Strategic Partnerships are promoted by the Government and designed to help ensure that action taken at local level by a whole range of groups and organisations is properly 'joined up' and meets the needs of local communities.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, and this Sustainable Community Strategy, provides a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough.

Members of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

Halton Borough Council
Cheshire Police
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust
Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council
Halton Housing Partnership
Halton Sports Partnership
Riverside College Halton
Halton Voluntary Action/Community Empowerment Network
Jobcentre Plus
North West Development Agency
Faith Community
Greater Merseyside Connexions Service
Halton Association of Secondary Heads
Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise
Government Office North West

PLANNING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HALTON

This Sustainable Community Strategy is about what is most important for Halton and about working together to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in the borough. It sets out key priorities and shows the direction we need to progress in together, and gives us challenging improvement targets to work towards. It provides an overall guide and framework for the activities of partners and other organisations in Halton. It will guide the development of more specific plans and projects working across Halton.

To make real progress we will need to pool ideas and resources, and work even more closely and effectively together. Working in partnership and concentrating on what matters most will make the difference in planning a better future for Halton. This includes:

- knowing where we are heading, focusing on the priorities and agreeing clear objectives
- working productively together, sharing understanding of the borough's problems and their root causes, and joining up and co-ordinating our efforts to tackle them
- championing Halton's cause in the wider world, lobbying at regional and national levels, and working with wider UK and European partners for mutual benefit
- learning from experience, finding out and putting into practice what works best
- checking on our achievements, monitoring progress and keeping on track

The process to develop this Strategy was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. Some of the key steps included:

- A review of our achievements since the first Sustainable Community Strategy was launched in 2002, and an honest assessment of how well partnership arrangements have worked
- Commissioning new State of Halton reports to look objectively at statistical conditions and changes and trends in social, economic and environmental conditions
- A major telephone survey of residents was carried out to seek their views on what life is like in Halton
- A review of regional and national strategies, and those of partners, was carried out to assess the likely impact of this activity in Halton

- An inclusive process of debate and discussion on the way forward took place with members, officers, officials and volunteers of all the organisations involved with the partnership
- A thematic assessment of the challenges facing the borough, and a thorough review of outcomes, outputs and targets was carried out. These helped to demonstrate how the strategy and partnership working could make a difference in the future.

This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

WHAT IS HALTON LIKE?

Halton is a largely urban area of 119,500 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool.

Since 2001 the population of Halton has increased steadily to its current estimate of 119,500 (2007) and is projected to continue to increase to 124,200 in 2016. Following national and regional trends, Halton has an ageing population, which is increasingly making up the majority of residents in the borough.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. We have been working to resolve these issues ever since the borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to bring together more wide reaching activities and has increased the resources that the Council and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 30th nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), which is third highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 10th highest in the North West, although this is an improvement on being fifth highest in 2004). Other authorities, St Helens (47th), Wirral (60th) and Sefton (83rd), are all way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 suggests that deprivation has improved in the borough, since ranking 21st in 2004 there has been a decrease in 2007 to the 30th most deprived Authority in England. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 20% of super output areas) has also decreased from 50% in 2004 to 47 % in 2007. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has improved from 20th worst in England in 2004 to 27th in 2007. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Of England's 975 'Super Output Areas', which form the top 3% most deprived areas within England, eight are situated in Halton. The most deprived neighbourhood in Halton is ranked 306th out of 32,482 and is situated in Central Runcorn. Much has been done but clearly there is still much to do. Highlights of the key successes and challenges to date are:

- Claimant unemployment in the borough had fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3% in December 2007, but this was still the 3rd highest claimant count rate in the North West. Due to the current economic climate, recent trends in unemployment have shown a sharp rise over the past twelve months, up to 4.8% in December 2008 and 5.9% in March 2009. The claimant count rate only includes those

people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for July 2007-June 2008 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 6.8% compared to an England average of 5.4%, at a time when claimant unemployment averaged 3.1%.

- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 70.4% in the 2007-2008 Annual Population Survey shows that Halton is in the bottom 12 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.5%.
- Life expectancy in the borough has improved in the past decade. Between 2001-2003 and 2004-2006 female life expectancy in the borough increased from 78.2 years to 78.4 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased over the same time period from 73.9 in 2001-2003 to 74.3 in 2004-2006. This increase in life expectancy in Halton has kept pace with other Authorities. Between 2001 and 2006 Halton has risen from a rank of 374 for females to 370 out of 376 authorities with 376 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has risen from 371 to 356. Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 2nd highest (i.e. worse) out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2006. At 127 it is 27% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the borough are improving, between 1997-2008 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*- C increased by 38.3 percentage points to 71.1%. This is now greater than the national rate of 65.3%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 2% in 2008 compared to 1.4% nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with 20% of working age people lacking any qualifications in 2007.

OUR VISION FOR HALTON

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods.

How Halton will look in 2025 depends on a variety of factors, both local and national. True, the Halton Strategic Partnership will be able to influence the outcome through how successful its joint working on cross cutting issues has been, but the over riding influence will be the state of the national economy at the time and how quickly Halton will have been able to leave the effects of the current recession behind. Recessions traditionally last 12 –18 months on average, but their effects on the economy, employment levels and wealth can take 3 – 4 years to recover their pre-recession position.

Physically, the main change in this period will be the completion of the second Mersey crossing upstream from the existing road bridge. This will help relieve the Borough's road network of the regional traffic currently using and congesting the existing bridge at peak times. The new bridge will help open up sites in the south Widnes/north Runcorn corridor for employment development that could create many hundreds of new jobs taking advantage of the improved traffic flows. 3MG will also be able to capitalise on this extra capacity to establish itself as one of the most computerised transport interchanges in the UK.

However the Borough's success in 2025 will not just be dependent on new physical facilities (not understating their importance) but also on the social, community and environmental characteristics of the time. Halton Strategic Partnership enthusiastically embraces the Government's agenda on such issues as:

- Social inclusion and community cohesion
- Closing the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the most affluent.
- Equality and diversity among the population
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Improving the health of local residents
- Improving life skills and opportunities for Halton residents

Closing the gap between the poorer and richer parts of the Borough embraces many of these issues because the spatial pattern is repeated. The worst health, the lower employment levels and lower skill levels are concentrated in the more deprived areas. Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management with the backing of the Halton Strategic Partnership are very important in tackling these issues.

Paradoxically the gap appears to widen in times of economic growth because at such times all areas improve but the more affluent areas tend to improve more, thereby widening the gap. However when times are harder, for example in the recession, then the gap is less pronounced. This emphasises the importance of intervention as market forces cannot be relied on to narrow the gap.

A Healthy Halton

Of the five priorities, poor health continues to be the one that affects most people, with 33% of Halton's population placed in the worst 4% for health deprivation in England. The cancer rates and life expectancy figures, particularly for women, are among the worst in the country.

To overcome this we envisage a focused effort by all the partners that will improve Halton's overall position by concentrating on the areas with the worst health outcomes. The target will be to reduce early deaths.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

To achieve our vision we will

- Work with partners and the local community to support The Mersey Gateway scheme to fully realise its benefits. This will be a major focus over the coming years
- Provide affordable housing for sale and rent for those who need it most.
- Upgrade and fully utilise the borough's rail, road, commercial waterways and power infrastructure in order to maximise the potential for economic development.

Children and Young People in Halton

For children and young people, three specific ambitions have been set, which better define what we are trying to achieve for children and young people.

These are that:

- Every Young Person is successful when they leave school
- Children and young people will do well whatever their needs and wherever they live
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

Work will continue on specific responsibilities or issues, which affect specific groups of children or young people. These chosen ambitions are relevant to all children and encapsulate some of the specific difficulties experienced by particular cohorts of children and young people. Each ambition is a condition of well being for all children and young people that no one single agency can

achieve on its own. Rather a coherent partnership approach is vital if we are to succeed in making the necessary difference to each of these outcomes.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - Our long-term vision

Historically, high economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, have been endemic in the local economy. Progress has been made in recent years but the current economic downturn has meant rising levels of unemployment and inactivity with worklessness rates currently standing at 17.8% in Halton, with some wards experiencing levels as high as 30.6% against a national average of 11.7%.

Our vision is the creation of a strong economy able to compete in the challenging global market. This can only be achieved by targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and creating a strong culture of entrepreneurship. Our target will be to ensure that no area of Halton has unemployment at more than 20% above the borough average and to reduce the number of adults of working age claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.

A Safer Halton - Our long-term vision

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Halton has seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

Taking the successes to date and working to improve on them, the Safer Halton Partnership aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods through coordinated enforcement and communication. Safeguarding adults is a key issue for the partnership, therefore policy and performance is scrutinised by the Safer Halton Partnership Board at every meeting. And whilst further guidance on the National review of 'No Secrets' is still awaited, work on the views of service users and carers, training and protecting adults will continue. Improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved to help shape what happens in their local area is key to the partnership. With the continued provision of Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, the Safer Halton Partnership offers opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS?

Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough.

Between 2000 and 2009, five separate State of Halton reports have been researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Their findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work. These include:

- Improving Health
- Improving the skills base in the borough
- Improving educational attainment across the borough
- Creating employment opportunities for all
- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling the low wage economy
- Improving environmental assets and how the borough looks
- Creating prosperity and equality of opportunity
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving amenities for all age groups
- Furthering economic and urban regeneration
- Tackling contaminated land
- Creating opportunities/facilities/amenities for children and young people
- Supporting an ageing population
- Minimising waste/increasing recycling/bringing efficiencies in waste disposal
- Increasing focus on community engagement
- Running services efficiently

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to these through the Sustainable Community Strategy. To do this challenges have been grouped into five key themes as set out in the vision, which are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

Each of these thematic areas has been examined more closely in a series of Baseline Reports, which identify in detail the issues where we need to concentrate our improvement efforts. The Partnership intends to focus heavily on these key issues and to focus its future investment into achieving the challenging targets in each chosen theme.

To help do this, five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) have been established. Their task is to design and deliver strategies and action plans to address priorities. Their plans are based on the information from the Baseline Reports and on the expertise of the Partnership members. Each of the five major themes is addressed in turn in the next part of this Strategy.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. Each Area Forum has dedicated resources to draw on to help deliver improvements in their area and expenditure proposals are expected to support one or more of the five priorities.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Sustainable Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.

A Healthy Halton

Our overall aim: To create a healthier community and work to promote well being and a positive experience of life with good health, not simply an absence of disease, and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

Why Health?

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country. Because of this health has been singled out as a priority in most urgent need of improvement across the borough. As previously discussed the population in Halton is ageing which could put even greater demands on health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough especially amongst the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

Key Objectives

- A. To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- B. To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by increasing community engagement in health issues and promoting autonomy.
- C. To reduce the burden of disease and preventable causes of death in Halton by reducing smoking levels, alcohol consumption and by increasing physical activity, improving diet and the early detection and treatment of disease.
- D. To respond to the needs of an ageing population by addressing the needs of older people, improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- E. To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

Background

The recent State of the Borough Report identifies Halton as one of the most deprived districts in England. In terms of health deprivation the borough currently ranks 371st out of 408 districts in the country. The Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies 53 'Super Output Areas' in Halton that fall within the top 20% of most health deprived wards nationally and that approximately 40,000 people (33% of the population) live in the top 4% most health deprived wards in England.

When compared with other areas in England, Halton is within the worst 10% of areas for life expectancy. In particular female life expectancy is the third

worst in England (78.4). Male life expectancy (74.3) is also 3 years less than the national average.

The two biggest killers in Halton are heart disease and cancer. Heart disease is still the single biggest cause of premature death in Halton, and more people have it in this borough than they do in other boroughs across the country. For those under 75, men are more likely to have heart disease than women.

In terms of cancer, Halton has the worst early death rate in the country (167.8 per 100,000 population). Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Halton. There has also been a steady increase in the number of women developing breast cancer and death rates from the disease have increased recently. Breast cancer is the second largest cause of cancer death in Halton.

Some of the reasons why Halton residents suffer disproportionately high death rates from major causes of death include poor diet, high smoking rates and inadequate levels of physical activity.

In recent years, the burden of ill health caused by alcohol consumption has also increased significantly. Recent statistics show that approximately 24% of adult residents in Halton binge drink. Whilst twice as many men as women drink above safe limits the number of women doing so has increased significantly from 6.9% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2006.

The latest Alcohol Profiles for England show that Halton is amongst some of the worst districts in the country in terms of months of life lost due to alcohol, alcohol specific and attributable mortality and hospital admissions due to alcohol.

In 2003 the Halton Health Partnership appointed a team of consultants from Lancaster University to examine the reasons for Halton's poor health record. Whilst there was much speculation around the role of Halton's industrial legacy and existing levels of pollution, the study revealed that economic, social and lifestyle factors were largely responsible for the high rates of illness and death.

When taking these factors into consideration, it becomes easier to understand why some communities suffer disproportionately from poorer health than others. Therefore, we would expect to set specific neighbourhood targets where appropriate.

During 2008 Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust produced two key documents, 'Ambition for Health' and the 'Commissioning Strategic Plan'.

Ambition for Health is a key document for Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust in terms of improving the health of the local population. The document sets out key "ambitions" that are based on understanding of the needs of the local population. These are as follows:

- To support a healthy start in life
- To reduce poor health that results from preventable causes
- To ensure that when people do fall ill from some of the major diseases, they get the best care and support
- To provide services which meet the needs of vulnerable people
- To make sure people have excellent access to services and facilities
- To play our part in strengthening disadvantaged communities

Following on from this Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust then produced the Commissioning Strategic Plan. This document turns the Ambition for Health goals into action by delivering transformational change in a number of key areas that support the strategic priorities.

The six priority areas identified in the Commissioning Strategic Plan are:

- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Early detection: Diabetes, respiratory, heart disease, cancer
- Early Detection: Depression
- Prevention: Tobacco Control
- Safety, Equality and Efficiency: Planned and Urgent Care

In addition to this, addressing the wider determinants of ill health is a key issue for Halton if it is to effectively respond to national and local targets. This will mean working across partnerships to achieve our goals. The list below highlights some of the areas where further joint working is required:

- Taking steps to reduce unemployment in areas with poor health statistics
- Improving educational attainment and increasing access to training opportunities for those living in deprived areas
- Improving the quality and provision of social housing
- Improving access to services such as social and leisure facilities, supermarkets, health services and transport.
- Understanding how knowledge and perceptions of health related issues can affect the local population
- Reducing social isolation
- Reducing crime and improving community safety
- Maximising community resources and facilitating effective community engagement and participation

Individuals also have a role to play in improving their own health and well being. Lifestyle factors such as a poor diet, smoking, and lack of exercise can all have a negative impact on an individual's health. Actions and services aimed at increasing participation in sport and leisure activities and promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle can contribute towards improving the health of local people. However, whilst agencies can work together to improve access, affordability, and quality of services, it is also important to encourage local residents to play an active role in improving their own health.

Well being is about more than health. It is about the ability to enjoy a range of activities that actually make life worth living. This is about having access and the ability to enjoy culture in all its forms - sport, arts, libraries, leisure, entertainment, hobbies, friends and family, and shopping. We aim to enhance these opportunities for people. Happy people are more likely to be healthy people and vice versa.

We therefore also need to address all of the determinants of mental health and well-being for different population groups. Children and young peoples emotional and mental well-being is addressed within Children's Trust structures.

Linkages to other priorities

Halton's Urban Renewal

A high quality built environment is an important contributory factor in determining the health and well-being of local people. Good quality, accessible buildings, served by a good quality transport infrastructure create a more vibrant community where people are proud to live and work. In turn this contributes to the health and well-being of local residents.

Children and Young People in Halton

Improving the health and well-being of children and young people is a key priority. Being healthy as a child can have an influence on long term health outcomes. The Healthy Halton Specialist Strategic Partnership works closely with the Children and Young Peoples partnership to address issues such as childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy. In addition low educational attainment is one of the key determinants of poor health outcomes and leads to many health inequalities within neighbourhoods.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Improving access to employment opportunities is a key determinant in improving the health of the local population. Being in employment increases choice and opportunity and enhances quality of life. Areas of high unemployment are shown to have higher levels of poor health therefore anything we can do to increase wealth creating factors within those communities will automatically improve health outcomes. Linked to this is the need to increase access to learning opportunities and offering people the chance to improve their skills thereby improving their chance of gaining employment.

A Safer Halton

Personal experience of crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and well-being. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods. One of the key areas for both the Health Partnership and the Safer Halton Partnership is the current issues surrounding alcohol harm. Both partnerships are working together to address these issues.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Health

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase adult participation in sport from 20.13% (2006 baseline) to 24.02%: Sport: NI 8.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 (2007/08 baseline) to 544: Drug Treatment: NI 40.
- Increase the prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth from 12.1% (Quarter 2 2008) to 23%: Breastfeeding: NI 53.
- Reduce obesity in primary school age children from 22.4% to 21.3%: Obesity NI: 56.
- Reduce the conception rate in girls under 18 by 55%, compared to 1998: Conception: NI 112.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for Males from 906 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 755: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for females from 673 (2007/08 baseline) to 574 by 2010/2011: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Increase the number of people age 16+ who have stopped smoking from 914 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 1128: Lifestyle: NI 123.
- Improve the number of people over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently from 30.4% (2008 base) to 32.8%: Independent living: NI 139
- Improve the number. of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living from a Baseline in 2007/08 of 98.17%, to a target of 99.04% in 2011: NI 142
- No. of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment – target to be set by March 2010.: Mental Health: NI150

Local targets

- Reduce the death rate in under 75s from circulatory disease by 57% from 1995-97 baseline in 2009-2011
- Reduce the death rate from Cancer (in under 75s) by 25% in 2009-11 from 1995-97 baseline
- Increase the number of people with a long term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition from 43% (07/08 baseline) to 49% (2010/2011): Managing long term conditions: NI 124

Halton's Urban Renewal

Our Overall aim: To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

Why Urban Renewal?

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough. This is why Urban Renewal is Halton Borough Council's second most important priority.

Key Objectives

- A. To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness;
- B. To promote regional employment sites at 3MG, Daresbury and the Widnes Waterfront;
- C. To secure the commencement of the construction of the Mersey Gateway bridge;
- D. To revitalise the town centres; to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors;
- E. To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet people's expectations and add to their enjoyment of life;
- F. To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces, so that opportunity and need are matched, and provide excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links;
- G. To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image.

Background

Halton helped maintain the momentum of the industrial revolution in the 19th Century and was a cradle to both invention and innovation. Reflecting this industrial and manufacturing history, Halton has a legacy of ageing infrastructure, obsolete and redundant buildings, a relatively poor built and

natural environment, an overly mature housing stock and an under-provision of modern amenities to support a far more discerning population.

Much has already been achieved to green the environment, both within the town centres and at our gateway approaches. Town centres have experienced new private sector investment, whilst small businesses have taken advantage of grant assistance to rejuvenate tired, rundown or unproductive premises. Award-winning leisure facilities have been provided around the borough and new housing and jobs are being provided because of the confidence in Halton's future.

The business environment is expanding thanks to developments on the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Daresbury, The Heath and the key infrastructure development of the Mersey Gateway river crossing:

- The Widnes Waterfront is located in South Widnes, fronting onto the River Mersey. The programme aims to regenerate 80 ha., of low quality industrial land, supported by a cocktail of funding opportunities. Work includes commercial, retail and leisure developments, together with environment, infrastructure and public realm enhancements - all of which will have been completed by 2015. This programme has been identified as a North West Strategic Site and supports the borough's Employment, Learning & Skills priority amongst others;
- 3MG (Mersey Multi-modal Gateway) in Ditton is quickly becoming a regionally and nationally significant intermodal freight park which anticipates an approximate total investment of £100m. This major scheme will create up to 5,000 new jobs and 3 million sq.ft of rail-related distribution facilities by 2015. In addition, the Stobart Group have acquired the Mersey Gateway Port at Weston in Runcorn, which will offer an integrated transport and logistics facility;
- The Mersey Gateway project will provide a landmark new bridge over the River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes. It will transform the borough of Halton, improve the lives of local people and create new opportunities for business and investment in Halton, Cheshire, the Liverpool city-region, the north west and beyond. The new bridge will cross the river 1.5km east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), be a tolled crossing, have three lanes in each direction and be linked to the major road systems in the area, keeping traffic moving and raising the profile of the borough. The Mersey Gateway bridge is due to open to the public in 2014 and will overcome one of the biggest congestion problems in the region. Modifications will be made to the existing SJB to improve facilities for local public transport, walking and cycling;
- The Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy will support and promote significant developments in both Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres, continuing regeneration programmes such as the Canal Quarter (Runcorn), Ashley Retail Park and Windmill Centre (Widnes), which are under way in both towns;

- The Daresbury Science & Innovation Centre is a state-of-the-art facility offering high quality office, workshop and laboratory space. The Innovation Centre aims to bring together science and technology-based businesses into an innovative scientific environment. The building provides facilities and specialist support critical to young businesses whether at the creation, growth or acceleration stages of their development.

Exciting new expansion developments are also anticipated at The Heath Business Park and the Halton Lea and Widnes retail areas.

Halton together with our partners in St.Helens and Warrington has been awarded Growth Point Status. This will help foster increasing partnership working across traditional boundaries, better integrating the provision of new housing and employment opportunities across the sub-region whilst promoting sustainable development and the timely provision of supporting infrastructure (including Green Infrastructure).

Two large sites for private sector-residential developments in the borough over the past decade have been at Upton Rocks, Widnes and Sandymoor, Runcorn. The focus of these developments has been a concentration on the executive end of the housing market, in order to encourage managerial and professional socio-economic groups to move to the borough. However, land remediation has cleared the way for housing development at Halebank and plans are being progressed to develop residential accommodation at the Canal Quarter in Runcorn, where leisure and retail facilities will also be delivered along the banks of the Bridgewater Canal. In addition, a £130 million major sustainable regeneration programme is taking place in Castlefields, where high quality mixed-tenure housing is replacing grim deck access flats. The existing local centre will be demolished and redeveloped to create a new community hub centred around a Village Square, offering shops, residential accommodation and health and community facilities – all amidst many and varied environmental and leisure enhancements, including the very successful Phoenix Park. Further housing renewal opportunities have been identified including areas of Runcorn New Town and West Bank, Widnes.

The creation and maintenance of high quality places and spaces that support a twenty- first century economy and lifestyles which are accessible and well connected, is a pre-requisite of Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Urban Renewal Strategy. Much of this is dependent upon the borough's extensive expertise for land reclamation, which has been developed out of need to address and overcome the borough's legacy of contamination from the chemicals industry. This is detailed in the Borough's Contaminated Land Remediation Strategy.

Land is being reclaimed at the rate of approximately 10 hectares per annum. Much of this reclamation is located on the historical chemical sites adjacent to and part of the Widnes Waterfront. For example, Moss Bank Park and further additions to the Trans Pennine trail have been completed adding valuable

amenity space within a modern industrial environment. Development of new 'Alternative Technologies' by Halton, to make safe the severe contamination on these sites, will provide the economic solution to bring forward significant industrial and intermodal developments in the borough, e.g. as in the Widnes Waterfront and the 3MG Intermodal Logistics Park.

Environmental improvements and better quality open spaces, in addition to a better quality built environment and transport offer, are vital as steps to promote Halton's assets. A positive image is a key requirement if we are to boost the confidence and aspirations of local people and business.

Linkages to Other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Providing a better, cleaner and greener built environment where employment and leisure opportunities are fostered and resident prosperity overcomes health issues associated with deprivation. Improved access to hospitals.

Children and Young People in Halton

Creating an environment that provides the basis in which our children are able to flourish

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Developing employment opportunities for all in a thriving business environment where skills meet business needs. Improved access to further education facilities

A Safer Halton

Instilling pride in our local community where residents feel safe and cherish their neighbourhoods, wishing to help eradicate violence and unsocial elements

Improvement Targets

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Urban Renewal

By 2011 we aim to:

- Assist in raising residents' overall satisfaction with the area from 70% in 2008 to 73.4% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of final places survey data): Residents' Satisfaction: NI 5.
- Reduce per capita CO2 emissions within the local authority area, from 10.1 tonnes per capita in 2007/08, (based on Defra 2005 data) to 8.98 tonnes per capita, by 2010/11 (based on Defra 2008 data): Climate Change: NI 186.
- Ensure 34% of municipal waste is recycled or composted by the local authority by 2010/11 compared to 25.1% in 2007/08: Waste: NI 192.

- Build additional homes within Halton at an annual rate of 518 between 2008/2009 and 2010/2011: Housing: NI 154.
- Improve access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Targets set for access to Whiston and Warrington Hospitals (100%) and Runcorn and Widnes comprises of Riverside College (89% and 93% respectively): Transport: NI 175.

Local Indicators

- Assist in achieving an increase in the numbers of jobs in Halton by 1% by 2011
- To bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use annually.
- Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge.

Children and Young People in Halton

Our Overall Aim: Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, and are ready to be Halton's present and Halton's future

Why Children and Young People?

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is self-evident that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed.

Key Objectives

Halton's Children's Trust has identified three entrenched areas, where a strong partnership approach is needed to improve outcomes for children and young people. These will form the foundation for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12. These areas under which the key outcomes can be clustered, are:

- A. Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
- B. Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy
- C. Young people are successful when they leave school

Background

Development in early childhood, success while at school through educational and other achievement, and the acquisition of important, employable skills, are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to access employment, the income they earn, their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life.

The Government policy, Every Child Matters: Change for Children, describes a vision of improving outcomes for all children and young people and narrowing the gap between those who do well and those who do not. In Halton, as elsewhere, this requires radical change in the whole system of children's services including:

- The improvement and integration of front line services - in early years settings, schools, the health service and play and recreation - and to raise standards of achievement for all learners

- More specialised help to promote opportunity, prevent problems and act early and effectively if and when problems arise
- The further development of services around children, young people and families through the delivery of better and more easily accessible services may involve co-location through, for example, extended schools, children's centres, and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams
- Dedicated and enterprising leadership striving for the highest standards at all levels of the system
- The development of a shared sense of responsibility across agencies for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm
- Listening to children, young people and their families when assessing and planning service provision, as well as in face-to-face delivery

To bring about improvement in the life chances and employment prospects for children and young people in Halton, we need to remove socio-economic barriers to early development, and deliver the Every Child Matters agenda through the Children's Trust, and through better joint commissioning and integrated delivery of services through the widely agreed Children's and Young People's Plan.

The key agencies that have an impact on children and young people need to build on existing cooperation. Firstly we need to develop policies based on evidence of what works most effectively that are focused on delivering the outcomes highlighted above. Then we must create a model of what measures and services to enhance life chances and employment need to be like to make the most positive impact in Halton. Finally, we should devise an action plan to make any changes needed to shift from the measures and services that exist now, to what they need to be in the future.

Linkages to other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Children's health is a key priority mainly because being healthy is the best basis from which children can go on and develop throughout their lives. Education is a key influence on health and affects health-related behaviour such as smoking, drinking, drugs and exercise. To tackle the issues such as obesity and teenage pregnancy in Halton, Children and Young People work closely with the Health Partnership to ensure there is a joined up approach.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Investment in Halton's urban fabric and infrastructure will help to make Halton a place where our children and young people will want to live as adults. Also the provision of access to quality transportation links for education and leisure opportunities is a key priority.

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training will involve close working with partners from Employment, Learning & Skills. Employment opportunities and training offers a number of key options to our young people post-16 as they look for the best pathway going forward.

A Safer Halton

The provision of pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhoods will provide children and young people with a safe environment in which to play, grow and prosper. Providing positive activities for young people are delivered through the Safer Halton Partnership to discourage crime and anti social behaviour.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Children & Young People

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase the stability of placements for looked after children from 69% in 2008 to 81.5% by 2011: Children in Care: NI 63.
- Reduce the proportion of children in poverty from 27% in 2008 to 24.2% by 2011: Children in Poverty: NI 116.
- Reduce obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 from 22.4% in 2008 to 21.3% by 2011: Child Obesity: NI 56.
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 55% by 2011 from the 1998 figure: Teenage Pregnancy: NI 112.
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 from 33.5% in 2008 to 42.2% by 2011: Level 3 Qualification: NI 80.
- Reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training from 11.5% in 2008 to 7.7% by 2011: Not in education, employment or training: NI 117.
- Reduce the number of first time entrants aged 10-17 entering the Youth Justice System from 249 in 2007/08 to 234 by 2010/11: First time entrants: NI 111.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115

Local indicator

- Reduce the gap of attainment of 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English and Maths) by 25% between those living in the worst 10% Lower Super Output Areas nationally and the Halton average by 2011
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: Road Traffic Fatality: NI 48
- Increase Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas : NI 199 (Target to be set when baseline available)

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Our overall aim: To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, enterprise and business growth, and improves the opportunities for learning and development together with the skills and employment prospects of both residents and workforce so that they are able to feel included socially and financially.

Why Employment, Learning and Skills?

A robust economy lays the foundation for any prosperous and successful place and provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. Historically, in Halton there has been a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people, low rates of entrepreneurship and high levels of welfare dependency, meaning that opportunity and need are out of balance and contributing to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector together with a renewed commitment to creating sustainable employment, and high quality learning and skills opportunities to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

Key Objectives

- A. To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity
- B. To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce
- C. To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work
- D. To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy.
- E. To maximise an individual's potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services.

Background

Despite a range of local and national initiatives, Halton is still characterised by widespread deprivation. Attainment at school, in further education and the acquisition of employable skills are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to get a job, on the income they earn, on their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life. This means that the creation of a strong economy able to compete in today's challenging global market can only be achieved by continuing targeted

investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and a strong culture of entrepreneurship.

Research shows that the skill base of the local area is relatively poor compared to Great Britain as a whole and to other surrounding local economies. Halton has a relatively low percentage of adults with further education qualifications and a high number of adults experiencing problems with numeracy and literacy. Looking to the future, estimates indicate that the majority of new jobs will require some form of recognised education qualification. Over 95% of new jobs will need qualifications of at least NVQ 2 level and over 70% at NVQ 3 and above. In addition, in an increasingly technologically developed society and in a borough where up to 30% of adults experience some form of difficulty with literacy there is a danger that a digital divide is created between those able to access and navigate jobs and services and those who cannot.

High economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, are endemic in the local economy. Halton continues to display higher than average rates of benefit dependency, whilst at the same time many people are not claiming their full entitlements which would enable them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Targeted information, advice and advocacy are crucial to allow people to access the support, whether related to work or to benefits, they need for the benefit of both themselves and local economy.

The Halton economy is heavily reliant upon a narrow range of industry sectors and, in common with the rest of the UK, is becoming susceptible to national and global pressures, which may have a negative effect upon the business sector, employment opportunities and could increase the numbers of individuals and families at risk of becoming financially and socially at risk.

Linkages to Other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Being out of work or suffering financial exclusion have been shown to be significant contributors to health inequalities, whilst being in employment has been proven to have significant benefits for an individual's physical and mental health. By providing opportunities for skills, training and employment and enabling people to move from inactive benefits to employment, the Employment, Learning and Skills priority contributes towards improving the Health and mental wellbeing of Halton's residents.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Halton residents will need a high quality, responsive skills and training infrastructure to take full advantage of the new opportunities for employment and business development being afforded through Halton's programme of Urban Renewal.

Children and Young People in Halton

In addition to the importance of attainment at school, it is vital that Children and Young People are offered a wide range of good quality learning, skills and employment opportunities in order for them to fulfil their potential to succeed and to ensure that they are not at risk of poverty or financial disadvantage.

A Safer Halton

By enabling people to become engaged in employment, learning and skills opportunities, they are encouraged to move away from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime. The Employment, Learning and Skills priority aims to ensure that positive progression routes to training and employment are available to all Halton residents to enable them to improve their life chances.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Reduce the proportion of working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 31.5% in 2007/2008 to 28.5% by 2010/2011: Benefits: NI 153.
- Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 from 60.1% in 2007/2008 to 67.5% by 2010/2011: Level 2 Qualification: NI 163.
- Maintain the VAT registration rate at 42.8% through to 2010/2011: VAT Registration: NI 171.

Local Indicators

- Reduce the proportion of adults with no qualifications by 15%.
- Increase the proportion of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%.
- Increase average household income in Halton to more than 90% of the national average.
- Increase the rate of self-employment by 20%.
- Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Area is less than 20% above the borough average.

A SAFER HALTON

Our overall aim: To ensure pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

Why a Safer Halton?

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

Key Objectives

- A.** To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- B.** To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause
- C.** To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- D.** To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms
- E.** To reduce the levels of crime that disproportionately affects some of the more deprived areas within the borough

Background

The Safer Halton Partnership has a wide-ranging remit focused on two major concerns of Halton people. Crime and the local environment have consistently been two areas the public have raised as high priorities in successive consultations over the last few years.

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Recent years have seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing

problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

At the same time, whilst general satisfaction levels with Halton as a place to live have risen, it is the condition of their local environment which is of most concern to residents. Therefore, the Strategy aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods. This is about improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved in helping to shape what happens in their local area Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, offer opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference. They also help make the police, council and others more accountable to residents, check that the priorities are right; that they respond to local concerns, and will take more effective action against the issues that most impact on their quality of life.

Tackling the causes as well as the symptoms of neighbourhood issues are a responsibility shared by all partners. Increasingly, they will look to better co-ordinate their activity through neighbourhood management arrangements to have a greater impact. This will increase the effectiveness of work that can prevent and intervene early in the conditions which lead to dissatisfaction.

Linkages to other priorities

A Healthy Halton

Personal experience of crime or anti social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and mental wellbeing. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods.

Halton's Urban Renewal

When designing and planning new buildings such as housing estates and shopping areas, it is important that we consider community safety issues and design out crime. This may be through better lighting, CCTV, removing inappropriate planting etc

Children and Young People in Halton

Providing positive activities for young people and raising their aspirations will make them less likely to commit crime or anti social behaviour. Working with young people and their families is vital if we are to change behaviour, where their behaviour has already become a problem.

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Creating employment opportunities and training for residents to access jobs is key to driving down crime. In particular those who have already committed crime, or have drug and alcohol problems are much less likely to re-offend if they can gain employment.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to a Safer Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase residents overall satisfaction with their local area from 70% in 2008 to 73% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of the final Places Survey data): Overall satisfaction: NI 5.
- Increase voluntary and community sector satisfaction from 22.2% (2007/8) to 29.7% (2010/11) by creating a strong environment in which it can thrive: Thriving third Sector: NI 7.
- Reduce acts of serious acquisitive crime from 16 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 15 per 1000 population by 2010/11: Serious acquisitive crime: NI 16.
- Reduce the perceptions of anti social behaviour from 24% in 2008 to 21% by 2010/11: Perceptions of anti social behaviour: NI 17.
- Reduce the assault with injury crime rate by 7.5% compared to 2008/09: Assault with injury: NI 20.
- Reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders by 19% each year until 2011: NI 30.
- Reduce the repeat incidents of domestic abuse from 127 in 2007/08 to 108 by 2010/11: Repeat incidents of domestic violence: NI 32.
- Reduce the number of arson incidents from 1277 in 2007/08 to 855 by 2010/11: Arson: NI 33.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 in 07/08 to 544 by 10/11: Drug users in effective treatment: NI 40.

Local Target

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: People killed or seriously injured: NI 47.
- Reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the worst 5 Lower Super Output Areas compared with the rest of the Borough from

97.88 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 83.2 per 1000 population by 2010/11 (total of 11% reduction).

Cross Cutting Issues

Introduction

The Sustainable Community Strategy is concerned with addressing local needs in order to make the 2025 vision a reality. This strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promote positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, including more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. At the same time a number of issues that cut across the key priority areas contained within this Strategy must be kept in mind as we meet the challenges faced within each priority area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership wants to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims. Our approach will be guided by the following principles:

- Anti-discrimination
- Equality of opportunity
- Independence not dependence
- Individual needs
- Accountability
- Integration
- Involvement in decision making

The people of Halton and a focus on their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. Analysing needs allows us to anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

(a) Respect and Enjoyment

The communities of Halton have a strong sense of community identity and belonging. They also tolerate and respect differences, and believe in 'live and let live'. Co-operation, collaboration and helpfulness are vital. There needs to

be plenty of things to do and places to go - culture, leisure, sport, community, shopping - for all members of the community, young and old alike. People should feel their chances in life are good and crime, drugs or anti-social behaviour does not taint their lives.

(b) Thriving Places

The local economy has to flourish and provide a range of opportunities for all Halton people for both training and work. The economic infrastructure has to be top quality with a variety of land and premises (industrial, commercial and retail) available to support economic prosperity, growth and change. In addition, we want to see a strong business sector, which feels valued locally, and is well supported to create new enterprises and new jobs which can benefit local people.

(c) Well Planned

We need to retain a clear sense of place and retain features that make Halton distinctive. We want to see buildings and open spaces that are accessible, well designed and of the highest quality. Places and spaces that are safe, valued and promote a feeling of well-being. The housing market has to be dynamic and inclusive with a range of options available that are affordable for local people.

(d) Accessibility

People make places work, and all the communities and facilities of Halton (jobs, schools, town centres, health) need to be well connected and well served by the transport network. We need appropriate levels of car parking in the right places, a well managed and maintained road network, and a properly functioning public transport network to help people get about and reduce car dependency. We need to further develop opportunities for walking and cycling, and ensure that through the implementation of the Mersey Gateway project and associated works that our connection to the outside world through motorways, railways, ports and airports is excellent. The further development of technology and digital opportunities will also enable Halton to be more accessible to the world.

(e) Well Served

People need to have good access to a range of services that are appropriate to their needs and that make their lives worthwhile. This includes good schools, further and higher education opportunities and lifelong learning, high quality health, leisure and social care facilities, including quality services for vulnerable adults, children and families. In addition a good range of information, advice and signposting is needed, and wherever possible services should be situated together to make access easier.

(f) Well Run

There has to be a sense of pride, responsibility and civic values which present themselves in a place that is well governed and managed. This includes democratic, representative and accountable governance through Halton Borough Council with community wellbeing at its heart. It also encompasses effective community engagement and enabling active participation by local

people in the decisions that affect their lives. A strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector is a sign of success along with effective partnerships that lead by example.

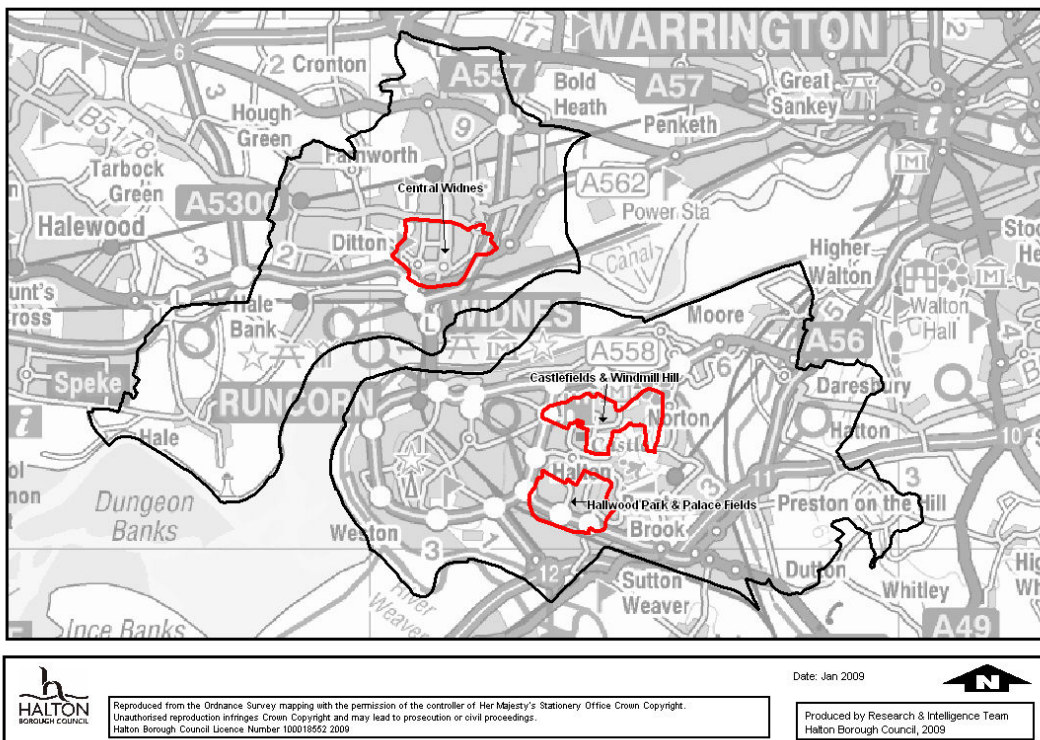
The objectives and targets outlined in this Strategy and all the improvements aspired to need to be adequately resourced in order to make happen. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the Borough.

Issues

1. Social Exclusion

This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods.

Since 2006 Halton has received ring-fenced funding from the 'neighbourhood element' part of the then Safer & Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. The money is to develop Neighbourhood Management in those areas of the Borough that fall within the 3% most deprived nationally under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2005. The funding runs until 2010. In Halton work is focused on three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which falls within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill. The map below shows the boundaries for these 3 neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood Management is designed to help close the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the rest, with regards to health, education, employment and crime. The development of neighbourhood management in Halton is being directed by a strategic partnership board that consists of many of the key local service providers and partners. This board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

One key example of this is the effort to reduce worklessness in the neighbourhood management areas. The gap between out of work benefit claimants within the neighbourhood management areas and Halton overall had reduced since 2006, but has increased slightly in the last months, probably as a result of the economic downturn.

According to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2007 Halton has again improved its overall deprivation score but it remains amongst the 30 most deprived areas of England. Halton has become less deprived overall on a national scale but the gap between the most affluent and deprived areas of the borough is growing. Serious progress must be made to increase wealth and to narrow the gap for those who are most disadvantaged if residents are to enjoy the quality of life that many others take for granted.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation have diminished in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency, which may increase in the current economic climate. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. Halton is also characterised by high levels of personal debt, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

2. Economic Climate

The adverse economic climate now has major implications for us all. The Halton Strategic Partnership has a role to put in place measures to support residents and businesses and where possible provide intervention measures to try and prevent house repossessions, loss of jobs, etc. Where they do occur we need to ensure services are there to help pick up the pieces, whether this is access to training, benefits, debt advice, target hardening against burglary, alcohol abuse support or counselling.

On top of the implications of the current economic climate on the residents of Halton, there are implications for partners in terms of meeting its Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets by March 2011. Several of Halton's LAA indicators are likely to be severely affected by the current climate, with others indirectly impacted upon.

3. Climate Change

Halton has adopted a climate change indicator, per capita CO₂ reduction, as part of its LAA. This cross cutting indicator includes CO₂ emissions from domestic housing, business and the public sector and road transport. Local, regional and national partners and organisations will work together to encourage and influence residents, businesses and other organisations to make CO₂ reductions and also to put our own house in order.

There has already been much progress around tackling climate change. Halton is committed to the Carbon Strategy and Reduction Plan and a target of reducing CO₂ by 20% by 2015. As part of the strategy, we have invested in a number of areas to reduce energy costs and consequently CO₂ emission reductions.

4. Sustainability

The goal of sustainable development – integrating and improving environmental, economic and social outcomes both now and in the future – is at the heart of the strategy. This Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of Halton through to 2025 that will contribute to the overall sustainable development across the UK.

Part of Halton's success has been its ability to change and evolve, and its resilience in the face of adversity. It has had to cope with the loss of much of the manufacturing industry it formerly depended on. The effect of this was dramatic, leading to population loss and a legacy of deprivation across the communities of Halton. However, the position has stabilised and welcome signs of an improvement can now be seen. This resilience is the key to the future. The Halton Strategic Partnership sees this as one of the strengths on which a sustainable future can be built.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

5. Equality & Diversity

Building stronger communities through community engagement must be a key outcome for the strategy. There has been much progress in this area of work since 2006. For example, an Equalities and Community Cohesion Group now meets regularly and reports to the Halton Strategic Partnership.

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are

leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment.

This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression and looks to enhance quality of life by supporting individuals and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion. Our policies apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated, valued and able to participate fully and constructively in the life of the local community. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be

carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

6. Population

Following national and regional trends, Halton's population continues to age with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population:

Younger people (0-14 year olds):

projected to grow by 2% (2006-2021).

Working age (15-64 year olds):

projected to decline by 2% (2006-2021).

Older people (65+):

projected to grow by 43% from 16,400 in 2006 to 23,500 in 2021.

The growth in older people will increase the demands for both formal and informal support. While small decreases in the working age population mean there are fewer people to provide and pay for this additional support.

7. Housing

The priorities set out within the Halton Housing Strategy 2009-11 mirror the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is recognised that many housing objectives can make a contribution to more than one of the Sustainable Community Strategy's aims and objectives. This is a summary of some of the main areas that link to the Sustainable Community Strategy. A full breakdown of these areas is set out in the table attached to the Housing Strategy.

The Government and the regional housing board have identified the "big issues" for housing for the next decade. Halton does not necessarily exhibit these problems to the same degree as other areas, so the challenge for Halton is to develop solutions and secure resources for local problems that are not reflected in national or regional policy.

Partnership working will be key to this process and we will endeavour to work with partners across local authority boundaries to seek joint solutions to common issues and to help shape sub regional policy.

There is an emerging affordability issue in the Borough, caused by the relationship between house prices and local incomes. Consequently the demand for social rented housing has increased in recent years but the number of available social rented dwellings has declined. Equally the private

rented sector cannot fully meet the demands of those unable to afford to buy or access social rented housing due to low supply and high rents.

Other housing demand issues include a mismatch between demand for private sector terraced housing and the number of terraces available (which could result in market decline in poorer areas) and the predicted demographic change in the elderly population which is likely to result in increased demand for supported housing and related services.

In terms of housing condition, the private sector is generally in good condition although there are concentrations of older terraced housing with the potential to fall into decline without investment by the owners. The condition of privately rented property is generally poorer.

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are on target to meet the 2010 target of making all homes decent, which in turn should improve energy efficiency. Although vacancy levels are generally comparable with national and regional figures the proportion of private sector dwellings vacant for more than six months is a growing cause for concern.

Overcrowding is higher in the social rented than owner occupied sectors, though there is potential to alleviate this through making better use of the housing stock.

In relation to local populations and communities, Halton has a very small Black and Minority ethnic population, although the demographics of that population are rapidly changing due to Eastern European migration.

Although homelessness remains an issue in Halton, the number of presentations has dropped considerably since the last Housing Strategy was produced. Recent prevention service developments for homeless people are proving successful and should have a positive impact on acceptances and the number of people in temporary accommodation.

Worklessness is an issue on many social housing estates across Halton and the Council is working with RSL partners to develop projects aimed at tackling worklessness on these estates.

The Council is improving provision for Gypsies and Travellers in accordance with the recommendations of the Cheshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, with the development of a 14 pitch transit site.

Supply and demand analysis for particular client groups reveals a need for increased accommodation for the elderly, particularly extra care accommodation, making better use of the existing stock of adapted dwellings and a range of accommodation for people with mental health problems offering varying levels of support.

Government expenditure on housing is set to increase nationally; however, this will be specifically targeted at housing growth and affordable housing at the expense of private sector renewal. It will also be targeted at specific interventions developed at a sub regional level.

The Council is likely to receive a reduced capital allocation over the term of the Strategy and there is uncertainty over the levels of funding available for adaptations and new supported housing schemes.

8. Community empowerment and engagement

It is now recognised that both individuals and whole communities can and should take some responsibility for improving quality of life. This requires action especially through Local Government and other public and voluntary sector services, to empower local communities so that they develop skills and can access resources to play their part effectively.

9. Cross Cutting Targets

There are many key targets that we work towards achieving in partnership, all of which are included in the improvement targets in each of the five priority areas within this document. See pages 19, 24, 28, 32 and 35 for detailed target information.

HOW WILL WE MAKE IT HAPPEN IN HALTON?

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

Money

The organisations that make up the Partnership already spend hundreds of millions of pounds of public money each year in Halton. Much of this goes to maintain essential services like health, policing, schools, transport and waste collection that we tend to take for granted. The way money is spent on these statutory services – ‘mainstream budgets’ – has to be steadily re-focused to achieve the specific objectives and improvement targets within this Strategy. The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a tool to help partners refocus their budgets.

The Strategy also provides a framework to help identify and secure additional funding for the borough from a variety of sources. It sets out shared policy objectives along with clear aims and targets across the five agreed key themes. This gives a framework in which partners can make budgetary decisions that reflect Halton's priorities.

Halton received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, which provided tremendous support (more than £30million) to the aims of the Sustainable

Community Strategy. In 2007 Halton was awarded a further £16million from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, to continue with the important projects already serving the communities needs, up until 2011.

Local Area Agreements provide a mechanism for the partners to genuinely work together to achieve the same goals and to spend the resources discussed above. They provide an opportunity to map resources and activity, streamline current processes, pool and align budgets, eliminate duplication, attract new funding and to target activity to where it is most needed to achieve the overall vision for Halton. In particular agreements will target funding at the most deprived neighbourhoods and towards specific at-risk groups.

People & Assets

Allied to cash, the efforts, skills and determination of people living and working in the borough are key to success. This applies to individuals interested or already active in helping their local community as well as to those who work in public, voluntary and other organisations serving Halton. We need to boost skills and knowledge and stimulate confidence and motivation that will strengthen the Borough's capacity to help itself. We must ensure that we are organised and co-operate in ways that are effective and deliver real benefits. Also, we need to provide better ways for people to work collaboratively and across organisational boundaries to increase their own job satisfaction and their impact on the challenges they deal with.

Most of the steps we need to take in moving Halton forward will involve some use of land, buildings, equipment and materials. Hundreds of millions of pounds are currently invested in publicly owned physical resources of various kinds within the borough. We need to make optimum use of these assets, cutting out any unnecessary duplication and ensuring they are well adapted to local requirements.

In particular we have to respond to the rise of consumerism and the desire of people to access a range of services through a single portal. The advent of Halton Direct Link, Health Care Resource Centres, extended schools and Children's Centres provide models of exemplary service delivery which are highly valued by local people. Increasingly, partners will need to look at much greater efforts towards co-location and joint use of facilities. Not only is this more cost efficient, but it gives partners a proper customer focus.

Intelligence

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:

- a) A data 'Observatory' that holds key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. The Observatory provides data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton.
- b) The Partnership has a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough.
- c) The Partnership website provides an easy to access source of material on all aspects of the Halton Strategic Partnership's work throughout the borough. The site covers the full range of activities from events and award ceremonies to new policy changes. There are dedicated sections for each of the priority areas that outline the aims and objectives plus provide access for meeting minutes. There is also a newly added policy section, developed to keep partners up to date with any changes.

MANAGING RISKS

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this Sustainable Community Strategy the Partnership will adopt a Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. The Strategy will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual Specialist Strategic Partnerships, and will categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks
- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals.

A major review of strategic risks was carried out in 2006 when this Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted. That was followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the Specialist Strategic Partnerships as part of their action planning and Local Area Agreement process.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The targets in this plan are a first step towards aligning our vision for Halton in 2025. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people, building on the work done to date. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

A range of high level outcomes have been set in the Strategy. These provide a benchmark and clarity in how our progress can be measured in the future. For all five themes there are several key objectives and a small number of key targets for each. In particular these reflect the government floor targets, local public service agreements and key desired outcomes. Together these form a 'score card' for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

We want to be judged by what we do and not by what we say. Every year the progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy will be reviewed and the scorecard published as part of our Annual Report. This will allow for scrutiny of the work of the Partnership. Local people are the best judges of how well we are doing. The Partnership works on their behalf and they are best placed to venture an opinion on how the quality of life in Halton rates. As well as the scorecard the Partnership will repeat its Quality of Life survey at regular intervals to track public perceptions of how well the Strategy is being implemented. This regular dialogue is a key part of our performance-monitoring framework. We genuinely want to know what people think of the things we do, how we go about tasks and what we should pay attention to in the future.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the Strategy will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the Strategy is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The Strategy establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this Sustainable Community Strategy.

ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF HALTON

Wholesale improvement in the quality of life enjoyed by local people can only come about if a significant part of the community is involved in making it happen. This can take place informally, in many different ways within the community itself. However this has to be complemented by action taken with the support of a variety of public, voluntary and other bodies.

The views of the public were an important factor in deciding the overall themes and direction of this Sustainable Community Strategy. Channels of communication like the borough's Area Forums and the Police Community Action Meetings provide extra ways to share, discuss and resolve local issues. A whole range of services actively consult with and involve their customers, and staff from a range of organisations work closely with local people on a day-to-day basis.

The Halton Strategic Partnership sees itself, through this Strategy and the actions of partners, as providing leadership. This can only be achieved if they remain in touch with the people and communities they represent and serve. The Strategy aims to create an environment in which everyone can get involved in making things happen in Halton. We want to foster active participation by as many people and agencies as possible. The Partnership will look for ways to make itself more accountable to communities through events, panels, area forums and open and transparent decision-making processes. A number of steps define this:

Customer focus – Services and processes have to be designed around the needs of the people who actually use them. At the same time users need to have an appropriate role in specifying the services that are delivered.

Consultation & engagement – Partners will create specific and purposeful opportunities for people to give their views on what is needed and how it should be delivered. Wherever possible people should be actively involved in decision-making, service specification and design.

Communication – Letting people know what is happening, how they can get involved and encouraging dialogue between partners and local communities is vital. Various media and methods will be used in appropriate and sensitive ways to build and maintain the communication effort.

The Partnership has spent a considerable effort in developing an inclusive approach to engagement through its bespoke strategy and network arrangements. Full details are available on the Partnership website. Community empowerment is about members of a community feeling able to achieve their own goals, with some measure of control over the processes and strategies to attain these. It is a process whereby communities are encouraged to become increasingly self-reliant in improving their neighbourhoods and livelihoods. It is a cyclical, participatory process where local people co-operate in formal or informal groups to share their knowledge

and experiences and to achieve common objectives. It is a process rather than a blueprint, and one that underpins this Sustainable Community Strategy.

THE WAY FORWARD

This Sustainable Community Strategy highlights key objectives for each strategic theme and improvement targets by which success can be judged. These targets collectively form the Partnership Scorecard. We will report back to partners and the public each year on progress against this Scorecard.

If we succeed in achieving our targets, they will translate into real improvements for local people, including:

- longer, healthier lives
- a better urban environment and reasons to feel pride in Halton
- higher standards of education and skills and the greater employment and other life chances that go with them
- fewer people trapped by poverty, excluded or held back through some form of deprivation or disadvantage
- the freedom to feel safe and enjoy life in an attractive neighbourhood

Back cover

If you have any queries or comments you would like to make about this Sustainable Community Strategy, please contact:

The Halton Strategic Partnership Team,
c/o Halton Borough Council,
Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes,
WA8 7QF

Telephone 0151 424 2061
or email lsp@halton.gov.uk

You can find out more detail on the work of the Partnership on our website:
www.haltonpartnership.net

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REPORT: Council

DATE: 13th August 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Appointments to Outside Bodies

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To review the Council's representation on outside bodies.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Council appoint representatives to the outside bodies.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Each year the Council undertakes a review of its membership on outside bodies. In accordance with this practice a review has been undertaken and recommendations to serve on the various bodies have been put forward.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton – none.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – none.

6.3 A Healthy Halton –none.

6.4 A Safer Halton – none.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – none.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

Organisation/Body Title	HBC Contact	Contact Name	Building	Road	Town	Representative Name – 2007/08
Association of Civic Hosts		Sir/Madam	32 Ainderby Road	Romanbey	Northallerton	Cllr M Wharton
Bridgewater Canal Trust		Mr N. Lees	Manchester Ship Canal Co.	Peel Dome, The Trafford Centre	Manchester , M17 8PL	Cllrs Morley & Leadbetter
Castlefields Community Forum		Sir/Madam	Chester Close	Castlefields	Runcorn	Cllrs P. Blackmore, E. Cargill & Howard
Chemical Museum Trust		E. Cheers	Catalyst Museum	Mersey Road	Widnes	Cllrs Wallace & Edge
Cheshire County Playing Fields Association		Sir/Madam		96 Lower Bridge Street	Chester	Cllr E Jones
Cheshire Fire Authority		Mr J. Huxley	Cheshire Fire Authority	Winsford	Chester	Cllrs Polhill, Nelson & Redhead
Cheshire Pension Fund		Maggie Sheppard	Cheshire County Council	County Hall	Chester	Cllrs Wharton & Gilligan as a sub
Cheshire Police Authority		Mr M. Sellwood	Cheshire Police Authority	Constabulary H.Q, Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road	Winsford, Cheshire, CW7	Cllr D. Cargill
Cheshire Valuation Tribunal		Mr A. Shippides	2nd Floor, Cunard Building	Pier Head	Liverpool	No vacancies for new members (Cllr Wainwright was appointed but not needed)
Connexions Local Management Committee	J Hatton	Ms D Sproson	Area Connexions Manager	107a Albert Road	Widnes WA8 6LB	Cllrs Dennett & Wright
Court of the University of Liverpool		Miss C.M. Jones	Senate House	Abercromby Square	Liverpool	Cllr T McInerney
Deafness Support Network		Mr M Ward	144 London Road	Northwich		Cllr A Gerrard
Disability Partnership Board	J Welsby	Mr Welsby	Social Services Directorate	Halton Borough Council	Widnes	Cllr A Gerrard
Early Years' and Childcare Partnership		Ms. G. Derby	Chester Bldg, Grosvenor House	Halton Lea	Runcorn	Cllrs T. McInerney and Dennett
Environment Agency Cheshire Liaison Group		Ms. A. Cogdell	Environment Agency	Birchwood	Warrington	Cllr Osborne
Environment Agency South Area Liaison Panel		Sir/Madam	Environment Agency South Area	Appleton House, 430 Birchwood Boulevard	Warrington WA3 7WD	Cllr Nelson
European New Towns Platform		P. Gaborat	65 Rue de Canal	1000 Brussels	Belgium	Cllr D Cargill
Fiddlers Ferry Powerstation Community Liason Board		Mr M Hayward	Station Manager, AEP Energy Services	Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, Widnes Road	Warrington WA5 2UT	Cllr Parker
Groundwork Merseyside		Mr D. Robertson	Phoenix House	Spring Road,	Widnes, WA8 0NL	Cllrs Nelson & Stockton (Deputy)
Halton Borough Transport		Mr C Adams	Halton Transport Bus Depot	Moor Lane	Widnes	Cllrs Wainwright, Wharton, Philbin, Morley, Wallace and Worrall

Halton Citizens' Advice Bureau		H.N. Patal	Grosvenor House	Halton Lea	Runcorn	Cllrs Dennett & Gilligan
Halton Community Transport		Mr D Prince	Halton Community Transport	33 Ditton Road	Widnes WA8 0PP	Cllr Philbin
Halton Development Partnership Ltd		Mr E. Burrows	Manchester Ship Canal Co.	Peel Dome	Trafford Centre	Cllr McDernott & Polhill
Halton Housing Trust Customer Forum		Ms Tierney	Halton Housing Trust, Head Office	Daresbury Point, Greenwood Drive	Manor Park, Runcorn WA7 1UG	Cllrs Wainwright(West Widnes) Philbin (Widnes East) J Lowe (Runcorn)
Halton Housing Trust Board		Mr N Atkin	Halton Housing Trust, Head Office	Daresbury Point, Greenwood Drive	Manor Park, Runcorn WA7 1UG	Cllrs Wright, Nelson, Swain, Gilligan and M. Ratcliffe
Halton Partnership		Ms S Shemoff	Municipal Building	Kingsway	Widnes	Cllr Polhill & Wright Query: shelagh to check if exists with SSP structure with Rob MacKenzie
Halton Play Council		Sir/Madam	Play Resource Centre	10 Mersey Road	Runcorn WA7 1DF	Cllrs Loftus, Dennett, Wallace and E. Ratcliffe
Halton 'Have your Say' Police Forum		Mr M. Sellwood	Cheshire Police Authority	Constabulary H.Q, Clemonds Hey, Oakmere Road	Winsford, Cheshire, CW7	Cllrs Swain, Wainwright, D.Cargill and D. Inch
Halton Rugby League Service Area		Mrs Rhoden	Sports Development Officer	Halton Borough Council	Widnes	Cllr Harris
Halton Tobacco Alliance		Mr T Miller	Halton Primary Care Trust	Lister Road, Astmoor	Runcorn WA7 1TW	Cllr Morley
Halton Village Millennium Green Trust		Prof. J Allen	Castle View'	The Underway, Halton Village	Cheshire WA7 2AJ	Cllr E. Cargill
Halton Voluntary Action		Ms D Darby	Sefton House	Public Hall Street	Runcorn	Cllr Jones
Halton YMCA		Mr J. Mackie	Halton Lodge Avenue	Halton Lodge	Runcorn	Cllr M Wright & J. Lowe
HITS		Sir/Madam		84 Grangeway	Runcorn	Cllr E Cargill
Ineos Chlor Community Forum		Mrs J. Woods	Ineos Chlor Limited	Room. C113, The Heath P.O. Box 14	Runcorn	Cllr A.Lowe
Knights Charity		Mr J Moore	Support Svs. Municipal Building	Kingsway	Widnes	Mr S Hill & Mr D Reynolds
Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee		Mrs D. Sharp	Cheshire County Council	County Hall	Chester	Cllr Wainwright
Local Government Assoc. (Urban Commission)		Sir.Madam	Local Government House	Smith Square	London SW1P 3HZ	Cllr McDermott
Local Government Assoc.(NW Branch)		Sir.Madam	Local Government House	Smith Square	London SW1P 3HZ	Cllrs McDermott, Polhill and Hodgkinson
Local Government Information Unit		Sir/Madam	1/5 Bath Street	1/5 Bath Street	London	Cllr McInerney
Local Implementation Group for CHD		Sir/Madam	Halton Primary Care Trust	Lister Road, Astmoor	Runcorn	Cllr Gerrard
Manchester Port Health Authority		Mr J. Robinson	Dutton House	46 Church Street	Runcorn	Cllr Morley

Mersey Forest Steering Committee		Sir/Madam	Mersey Forest Offices	Risley Moss, Birchwood	Warrington	Cllr Harris and Findon (sub)
Merseyside Co-ordinating Committee		Sir/Madam	P.O. Box 88, Municipal Building	Dale Street	Liverpool	Cllr McDermott Harris and Polhill
Merseyside Culture Forum		Mr. J. Bell	Knowsley Borough Council	P.O Box 22, Municipal Bldg	Archway Rd, Huyton	Cllr Jones
Merseyside Strategic Transport & Planning Committee		Mr Fay	Liverpool City Council	Liverpool		Cllrs Polhill & Harris
Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority	J. Unsworth	Ms Valentine	Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority	6th Floor, North House, 17 North John Street	Liverpool L2 5QY	Cllr Harris
Murdishaw Community Centre		Sir/Madam	Barnfield Road	Murdishaw	Runcorn	Cllr D Cargill
National Association of British Market Authorities		Mr J. Edwards	13 Moor Road	Orrell Post	Wigan	Cllrs Wainwright & Hignett
National Society for Clean Air		Sir/Madam	44 Grand Parade	Brighton	East Sussex, BN2 9QA	Cllrs Lloyd Jones, Osborne and Findon
North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation		Sir/madam	6th Floor Delphian House	New Bailey Street	Manchester M3 5AP	Cllr Gilligan and A. Lowe (Sub)
North West Regional Assembly		Mr. P Robinson	Wigan Investment Centre	Waterside Drive	Wigan WN3 5BA	Cllr McDermott
North Western Home Safety Council		Sir/Madam,	West Grove	West Park	St Helens WA10 4AH	Cllr Osborne
Norton Priory Museum Trust		Ms C McDade	Norton Priory Museum	Tudor Road, Manor Park	Runcorn	Cllrs Nolan, Swain, Jones
Police Custody Suite Liaison Panel		Inspector Morrall	Corporate Development	Winsford Police HQ, Clements Hey	Winsford	Cllr D. Cargill, Howard and M. Ratcliffe
Reserve Forces & Cadet Association		Sir/Madam	Alexandra Court 28	Alexandra Drive	Liverpool, L17 8YE	Cllr T. Higginson
Riverside College		Lesley Venables	Halton College	Kingsway	Widnes	Received letter stating that under new legislation have new way of selecting Members - Cllr McInerney
Rocksavage Community Liaison Group		Ms C. Riley	Pendragon Consultants Ltd	19 Ralli Courts, West Riverside	Manchester	Cllr A. Lowe
Runcorn General War Relief Fund		Mr J Moore	Support Svs., Municipal Building	Kingsway	Widnes	Cllrs Dennett and Nelson
Rural Commission		Ms Stribling	Local Government Association	Local Government House, Smith Square	London SW1P 3HZ	Cllr Nelson & McDermott (sub)
SACRE		Ms C. Armstrong	Chester Bldg, Grosvenor House	Halton Lea	Runcorn	Cllrs Dennett, McInerney and C. Rowe
Sankey Canal Restoration Society (SCARS)		Mr P. G. Keen	c/o The Groundwork Trust	27 Shaw Street	St Helens	Cllr Morley
Schools Forum		Ms A McIntyre	Grovesnor House	Halton Lea	Runcorn	Cllr Dennett
SIGOMA		Mr P. Coppard	Chief Executive Barnsley M.B.C.	P.O. Box14, Town Hall	Barnsley	Cllr Wharton

T H Brown Trust		Mr Eastup	Kinderton House	Western Road	Runcorn WA7 4JY	Cllr Nelson (NB: appointed until he resigns - does not need to be re-appointed each year...)
Trans Pennine Trail		Ms Loach	Trans Pennine Trail Office	c/o Barnsley MBC	Planning & Transportation, PO	Cllr Osborne
Warrington, Widnes & District Society for the Blind		Mr R. Davies	Rex Furness Centre	4 Museum Street	Warrington	Cllr J. Lowe
Widnes Educational Foundation		Mr J Moore	Support Svs, Municipal Building	Kingsway	Widnes	Cllrs Dennett, Findon, Leadbetter, McDermott, Morley
WREN		Mr R Smith	Wren House, Manor Farm	Bridgham, Norwich	Norfolk NR16 2RX	Cllr Osborne

REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	13 th August 2008
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy
SUBJECT:	Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Reports 2008-2009
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To receive the Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Reports for 2008-2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the 2008-2009 Annual Reports submitted from the Policy and Performance Boards be received.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Article 6 of the Constitution requires each of the Policy and Performance Boards (PPBs) to submit an Annual Report to Council outlining their work, making recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

The Annual Reports (see attached) have now been submitted to the appropriate PPBs for consideration and all have been agreed.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton – none.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton – none.

6.3 A Healthy Halton – none.

6.4 A Safer Halton – none.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal – none.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.



Cllr. Mark
Dennett
Chairman
Children &
Young People
PPB

ANNUAL REPORT
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

"I would like to start as always by looking back over the previous twelve months. In July 2008 the Halton received the results of its first Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children's Services in the Borough. It confirmed significant progress by all partners working together for the children of the Borough. This is great news for both the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership and sets a strong foundation to build upon for further improvements in the future.

One of the most pleasing results of the report is that Halton was found to be outstanding in its provision of safeguarding in the Borough. Notwithstanding this result the shocking case of Baby Peter in Haringey and other similar cases highlighted the need to be ever prepared, that is why a thorough review of safeguarding was conducted separately to the JAR and also why a report on how we can improve the inspection of care homes (Regulation 33 visits) and Climbié inspections with our staff was presented to the board in February.

Once again the attainment of our children at Key Stages 2 and 4 was outstanding. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students who did so well, and also thank the parents and teachers who supported them in achieving these fantastic results. The results show Halton's commitment to drive up standards and improve the opportunities available to all of our young people as they move into adulthood.

Progress continued on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This programme will transform Halton's Secondary Education provision through the investment of over £100 million into our Secondary Schools. BSF and the Primary Capital programme, which will look at our Primary Schools, are massive commitments into the future of education in Halton. Their success, as well as tackling some of the entrenched health issues facing our children and young people are some of the main challenges facing the authority and its partners.

Previously, I have talked about the function of overview and scrutiny and the responsibility of holding the Executive Board to account. To this end we held the third of our annual question and answer sessions with a member of the Executive Board; this time it was the turn of Councillor Tom McInerney, Executive Portfolio Holder for the Children and Young People who talked and answered questions on the future initiatives for the young people of our Borough.

Looking back I think it has been a good third year for the board and I would like to thank all of the members of the board, as well as all of the officers involved for their continued support and contribution.

One of the main challenges for our young people that was highlighted in this year and will form a foundation for the work over the next twelve months is health. Halton is one of the lowest Local Authorities in the North West with regard to Health indicators. Clearly this is unacceptable and that is why I have made a public commitment to look at how we can improve the health of our young people and thereby improve their quality of lives. We started this process by looking at ways in conjunction with Halton and St Helens PCT we can improve oral health of our young people. The recommendations from this examination was approved by the Executive Board in April.

Finally, as last year I would like to conclude this report by thanking all of the officers and members (of all parties) involved in all of the 'additional duties' that take place to make sure that the children and young people receive that best care and support. Duties such as being a school governor with all of the responsibilities that that entails, statutory inspections of our care homes (Regulation 33) or of our social worker teams (Climbié visits), membership of the Local Safeguarding Board, the Adoptions Panel, the Children and Young People's Alliance Board, to name but a few of the 'extra duties' that both members and officers perform to support and improve the lives of the children and young people of our Borough."

Councillor Mark Dennett
Chairman, Children & Young People Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/9 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Cllr Mark Dennett (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Horabin (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Browne, Cllr P Drakeley, Cllr F Fraser, Cllr R Gilligan, Cllr T Higginson, Cllr J Lowe, Cllr S Parker, Cllr M Ratcliffe, Cllr J Stockton,

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the work of the Council (and its partner agencies within Children's Trust Arrangements) in seeking: to ensure that children and young people in Halton have the best possible start in life and opportunities to fulfil their potential and succeed; and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met six times during the year, and set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during the year.

Educational Attainment and Achievement 2008

School performance was discussed in relation to the successes specifically at Key Stage 2 and 4 and also in terms of progress in narrowing the gap for achievement for vulnerable pupils including those with special educational needs. Members noted the significant improvement in results and explored ways in which services work in partnership with schools to support the raising of standards. Members discussed the Foundation Stage Profile results and what was expected from a child in relation to their parents understanding the whole process better.

Child Health in Halton

Members were advised on the causes of poor health and actions being taken to improve health outcomes. Members had the opportunity to discuss the developing Children's Trust arrangements and the relation to Health staff from the Primary Care Trust, supporting well and vulnerable children, now being supported through the Partnership arrangements with the Local Authority as part of the Children's Trust.

Regulation 33 visits and Climbié Audits

Members discussed thoroughly the need to carry out Regulation 33 visits and it was resolved that training would be provided to all PPB Members on Regulation 33 Visits and Climbié Audits. Following training and CRB checks a new extended list of Members available to carry out visits and audits would be put together and a rota agreed. The Board will receive regular monitoring reports on the progress of visits and audits.

Service Plans

This year the Board took a significant step forward in the way it engaged with the service planning process. Following an informative briefing from the C&YP Directorate's Senior Management Team and Members' discussion at a special autumn meeting, the PPB Members identified issues and activities they hoped could be prioritised in the service plans for 2009/10 - 2011/12. In February, draft plans were drawn up and presented to the PPB for comment and endorsement, and feedback was provided on how far it had been possible to reflect the Members' earlier proposals in the new plans. Engaging the PPB more actively in this way strengthened the link between their role in monitoring performance and implementation of the plan in one year, and the PPB's contribution towards shaping the plan for the next.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

2008/9 saw the important, high level outcomes for children and young people in Halton coming more under the scrutiny spotlight. The PPB raised its sights to focus attention on key, strategic indicators of performance e.g. as set out in the Local Area Agreement and in the service's work with partners. This process highlighted continuing success in the improving academic achievement of the Borough's children, but also underlined how many health outcomes remained poor. This evidence underpinned the PPB's decision to focus their 2009/10 Topic review work on the health of children and young people.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2009/10) it will carry out Topic reviews examining the following area:

Improving health outcomes for children and young people in Halton to support the raising of achievement and attainment

This topic area will be completed in 2009 / 2010.

In 2008/2009 the following scrutiny topic was completed:

- Oral health

The scrutiny topic below is on-going from 2008/2009:

- Access to services by young people

SAFEGUARDING

Members regularly considered matters relating to Safeguarding, particularly in the areas of monitoring of racist incidents, anti-bullying, private fostering arrangements and the work of the Halton Safeguarding Children's Board.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work, please contact Judith Kirk, Operational Director, Judith.kirk@halton.gov.uk, tel: 0151 471 7545



Chairman
Councillor
Gilligan

**ANNUAL REPORT
CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY
AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009**

“I would like to thank Members of the Board for their hard work and the contribution they have made to its activities over the past year. This year, key areas have included scrutiny of the Widnes and Runcorn Markets, involving the setting up of a Working Party, a review of compliments and complaints which has fed in to topic work on customer care, and ongoing scrutiny of Carbon Management and Neighbourhood Management”. Councillor Bob Gilligan Chairman of Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board”

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/09 the Board comprised of eleven Councillors – Gilligan (Chairman), Lowe (Vice Chair), J. Bradshaw, Browne, E. Cargill, Dennett, Edge, D. Inch, Nolan, Nordall, and Wainwright.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Resources, Personnel and Training, ICT and E Government, Property, Committee and Member Services, Legal Services, Communications and Marketing, Stadium, Civic Catering, Procurement, Equalities (employment aspects), Corporate Complaints and Area Forums. The Board also has responsibility for monitoring the performance of the reporting departments, namely Policy and Performance, Legal and Member Services and HR, Finance, Exchequer and Customer Services (Revenues), Property Services and ICT

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met five times during the year, and in addition held a special meeting to consider Neighbourhood Management. Set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during that time.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

The Board received a report setting out the progress made

by the Council towards compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, in particular on major refurbishment or repair works, findings of site visits and interviews, building modifications, emergency evacuation procedures and disabled toilet facilities along with secondary use of Council owned buildings. A number of recommendations were endorsed by the Board, in which it considered the need for emergency evacuation procedures to be updated as top priority.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Strategic Director Corporate and Policy presented the findings of a review of the Council's Corporate Performance Management Arrangements and set out recommendations and conclusions of the topic group which were split into six areas; the role of Members, the Performance Management Framework and Service Planning, Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting arrangements/use of information, the New National Indicator set and Local Area Agreements. The recommendations were approved and subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board.

COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS REVIEW

The Board received the findings of the Scrutiny Review undertaking in relation to Compliments and Complaints. The Board noted that Members received a number of complaints during surgeries and these were reported through the Councillors Complaints procedures. ICT were looking at implementing a system for Councillors which would link into the complaints process. A number of recommendations were approved and the findings were fed into a new topic brief for the review of customer care. In that regard, two strands to the topic were outlined;

- to explore how best to implement the new Customer Excellence Standard, to help drive improvement and consistency throughout the organisation
- to develop an overarching Customer Care strategy that would set out key areas upon which the Council needed to focus to secure improved outcomes.

It was noted that a pilot assessment of customer services at Halton Direct Link and Revenues would be carried out.

MARKETS

The Strategic Director Corporate and Policy set out the most up to date position with regard to the current performance of the Council's two markets based in Widnes and Runcorn. The presentation contained an outline of facilities, occupancy rates, financial performance and current issues of both markets. A number of initiatives were considered and Members agreed to set up a market working party to examine ways of possible improvements at both markets.

TRANSFER OF ASSETS

A Topic Group had been formed to develop a policy for recommendation to the Executive Board as to how the Council might approach the issue of transferring assets to the third sector. The draft strategy and policy statement was intended to provide both guidance and a process to follow if such transfers were deemed to be appropriate. The Board endorsed the Policy which was subsequently approved and adopted by the Executive Board.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

The Board received an update at its September meeting, in which Members were informed that work was currently being focused in three pilot neighbourhoods, central Widnes, Hallwood Park and Palacefields, and Castlefields and Windmill Hill. It was reported that all three neighbourhood management boards would continue to develop and all had evolving neighbourhood action plans and growing programmes of events and interventions. The Halton Neighbourhood Away Day had been well attended and proved to be productive. It had set the following areas of work for the partnership over the coming months:-

- a re-statement of the partnerships neighbourhood management provision
- to track the closing of the gap with regard to key indicators between the Neighbourhood Management areas and Halton as a whole
- to investigate the value for money / business case for sustaining of neighbourhood management beyond 2010
- to reach a consensus about if and when to roll out neighbourhood management after 2010 beyond the current pilot areas.

A special meeting was held in February at which the

Board received a presentation from Councillor John Swain, executive member for Quality and Performance, and Mr. N. Mannion, the Neighbourhood Director. This detailed:-

- a brief overview of the Government's expectations and key objectives
- how and why the three pilot neighbourhoods were chosen
- how the Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership was structured and operated
- Halton's approach to developing neighbourhood management including how the government funding has been used
- the key tools and techniques being utilised
- the future challenges and opportunities for neighbourhood management
- Members were also advised of the funding profile over the four years of the project and of Government guidance on the use of funding
- Members were advised that the next steps of the initiative would be to complete an evaluation of the impact of larger interventions, negotiate the inclusion of local targets in Halton's Local Area Agreement, explore options as part of a business case to sustain neighbourhood management beyond 2010, and continue to increase residents' involvement.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

During the year the Board has focused a significant amount of effort on monitoring the performance of its reporting departments. Among the performance issues overseen by the Board during the year are:-

- School catering and the operation of the Stobart Stadium, Halton
- The process of hearing Job Evaluation Appeals and dealing with the Equal Pay litigation
- Sickness Absence in respect of which members asked for a report to be presented to its Meeting in June 2009
- Ongoing scrutiny of Treasury Management.

WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2009/10) it would carry out detailed work on the use of natural resources. In the first instance the Board would

	<p>establish a baseline of how green the Borough is at present and then use this overview as a basis for selecting areas of priority for closer examination by Members, dividing the task into manageable pieces which would provide Members with choices so that they contribute according to individual interest and expertise.</p> <p>Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Committee Services in the first instance, telephone 0151 471 7394 or email caroline.halpin@halton.gov.uk</p>
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Cllr. Jones
Chairman



ANNUAL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT LEARNING AND SKILLS

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

“ This has been a very busy and productive year for the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members for all the work they have undertaken. The Board undertook a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, visits and policy development. I believe it is making a substantial contribution to improving the way the council and its partners work together and particularly note the increasingly close relationship with the Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership, whose meetings I attend on behalf of this Board”.

Councillor Eddie Jones, Chairman Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2006/07 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Eddie Jones, Frank Fraser, Dave Austin, Marjorie Bradshaw, Susan Edge, David Findon, Harry Howard, Stan Parker, John Stockton, Christopher Rowe and Philip Worrall.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the Culture and Leisure Services and the Economic Regeneration Departments. The primary functions are to focus on the work of the Council (and its partners) in seeking to improve economic prosperity, to further develop culture and community cohesion, to improve the skills and employment prospects of its residents, and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Employment, Learning and Skills priority

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year, and set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during the year.

Community Cohesion

The Board received an update on community cohesion matters and considered a range of performance indicators that could be used to measure progress.

Local Area Agreement

The Board considered the progress made on the Local Area Agreement (LAA), particularly in relation to targets for employment, skills and enterprise development.

Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership (SSP)

The Chairman of this Board is a member of both the Employment Learning and Skills SSP and its Performance Sub Group. It was agreed to further develop the relationship between the two Boards that the SSP minutes would be regularly considered at PPB meetings.

Community Development

The Board received an annual report on **Community Development** service (2007-08) that directly supported 90 community organisations involving 2,084 active volunteers (increase of 945 from the previous year).

The Board received an annual report on **Community Centres** scrutinising capacity usage of the Council's five facilities by members of the public, other Council departments and partner agencies.

The Board received an annual report on impact of **Voluntary Sector Core Grant** funding for 2007-08 and considered the mid-year performance for 2008-09. It also considered a report on the criteria and assessment process for accessing community grants.

Libraries

The Board considered a number of reports on Libraries in Halton. This included a presentation on the investment in Halton Lea Library, an update on the Big Lottery CORE (Community Opportunities through Reading and Engagement) programme, and the progress being made on delivery of the mobile library services.

Arts Policy and Public Art

The Board also considered the development of an Arts Policy and considered the relationship between arts development work and the Council's wider corporate strategy. The Board also considered the draft Public Arts Strategy including the development of a new part time post (externally funded) that would help to kick start public art across the Borough.

Skills

The Board established a joint topic group with the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board to examine how to maximise the opportunities resulting from the investments in the logistics and distribution sector, most notably at 3MG. It also received a detailed report on progress on the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus and considered a progress report on implementation of the skills action plan. The Board also considered the findings of a large scale survey of local businesses that sought to identify business skill needs. This was referred to the new Scrutiny Panel that was established to identify existing and future skill needs.

Employment

The Board considered the findings of research that sought to identify why certain parts of the Borough has persistently high levels of worklessness. This detailed report summarised a number of group sessions with workless and recently employed people and identified a number of key issues. The report was referred onto the Barriers to Work Scrutiny Panel for detailed consideration. It also reviewed the progress made on the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy.

Procurement

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director Environment which detailed the recommendations of the Policy Board's Scrutiny Panel regarding the Council's Procurement Policy and its role in developing local employment opportunities.

Service Plans

The Board considered issues that should be fed into the service planning process and examined the draft service plans for Culture and Leisure Services and Economic Regeneration Departments.

Sport

The Board gave consideration to a report regarding how Halton is responding to the opportunities offered by the Olympic Games including; sports development grant scheme, elite performers and free pitch hire for junior sports clubs.

Enterprise

The Board reviewed progress on the Enterprise Action plan and considered the opportunities open to Halton through the new North West Development Agency enterprise programme.

Free Swimming

The Board considered a report regarding the government initiative to provide free swimming to all those aged over 60 and those under 16 for two years from 1st April 2009. This is part of the government initiative to get two million people more active by 2012.

Child Poverty

The Board considered a report on Child Poverty in Halton. The report explained that whilst good progress had been made in reducing the overall numbers of children living in poverty, the government focus to date has been on those parents/carers that are out of work. However, there are still many children living in poverty who live in working households. Child poverty is a key focus for the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy and the partnership is developing a common methodology framework for the development of child poverty action plans.

Joint Needs Assessment

The Board considered a report on the first Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Health. It discussed this at length and considered ways in which the activity within Employment learning and Skills can contribute to improving Health in the Borough.

Fairfield High School – All weather pitch

The Board considered a letter from the school regarding the all weather pitch provision at the site and how the existing pitch could be improved.

Mersey Gateway

The Board requested and received a report on the employment opportunities arising from the Mersey Gateway. The Board was keen to identify the range of opportunities (not just construction) that will arise and how apprenticeship, training places and jobs could be secured through the contracting arrangements.

Performance Issues

The Board considered the departmental quarterly monitoring reports through the year. It particularly noted the impact that the recession had on targets relating to inward investment and jobs created/safeguarded. Of real note was the positive impact the changes to the mobile library services which had seen visits increased by 130% and issues by 45%.

Work Programme 2009/10

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2009/10) it will complete the reviews of the following areas:

- Logistics – Joint with Urban Renewal
- Barriers to Employment

Additionally, the Board will commence reviews of:

- Workforce & Skills for Science and Technology joint with Urban Renewal
- Financial Inclusion
- Libraries

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Gary Collins 01928 516100 gary.collins@halton.gov.uk



Cllr Ellen Cargill
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT
***HEALTHY HALTON* POLICY AND**
PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

As Chair of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their contribution to the Board's work during this year. The Board has looked in detail at many of Halton's Health and Social care priorities during this period. As in the previous year this has been a busy and challenging period and a number of important consultations were undertaken during this year, particularly proposal for Foundation Trust for the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. My thanks must also go to Audrey Williamson Operation Director for Adults of Working Age and her Team for all the support given to the Board Members over the year.

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/09 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Ellen Cargill, D Austin, R Gilligan, T Higginson, M Horabin, M Lloyd-Jones, J Lowe, G Philbin, E Ratcliffe, G C Swift and P Wallace. The primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to improve health in the Borough and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Healthy Halton priority.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Board met six times this year with full agendas for each meeting. The Board received reports and presentations on a wide range of Health and Social Care issues. These included:

Ambition for Health Strategy

This is a five-year strategy identifying six key themes to improve the health of Halton residents. Themes include, supporting healthy start in life, tackling major killers through prevention and modernising services for vulnerable people. Improving the health of Halton residents continues to be a priority for the Council and its partners and this strategy will shape the work to be undertaken to meet this priority.

New Developments in Health Services

Equitable access to primary medical care; the Board was informed of new GP practices to be developed within Halton. As part of the National Programme there was plans for one GP led Health Centre based in Widnes and one new practice based in Windmill Hill in Runcorn. The Board supported these developments recognising the high level of need within Halton.

Oral Health

The Board has expressed interest in Dental Services and consequently received two presentations from NHS Halton and St Helens, which set out the plans to improve dental health in Halton.

Halton Health Campus

Work started on developing new services to fully utilise spare capacity on the Campus in 2007/08. Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has continued its interest in this area and received further reports on plans and developments. The Chair of Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board is a member of the Project Management Board, which ensures that Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board is fully involved.

Annual Health Checks

Once again, the Board has fully contributed to the health checks for North Cheshire Hospital Trust, 5Boroughs Partnership Trust and NHS Halton and St Helens (Primary Care Trust). To ensure that members were fully appraised of each Trust's position when measured against the Health Care Standards an additional meeting was arranged prior to the Board meeting in March. Each Trust gave a detailed presentation with sufficient time for a full debate and discussion on areas of significance. The Board noted the improvements in compliance in the standards by the Hospital Trust and the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust. The Care Quality Commission notes the importance of the contribution of Scrutiny Committees to Health Checks and while the Health Checks demand additional time from members the work is valuable and informative.

Social Care

Again, the Board received a number of reports on developments within Social Care and monitored performance. Reports included:

Extra Care Housing

It was noted that while Dorset Gardens provided excellent extra care for those people who additional needs while living in the community more such developments were urgently needed. The Board supported the work that has been undertaken to-date and the need for further development.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

This assessment was jointly undertaken by the Directors of Adult Social Services Public Health and Children & Young People's Services in every Local Authority and Primary Care Trust. Since April 2008 there has been a statutory duty for these bodies to work together to develop a JSNA for their area, so people put Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Health (JSNA). The Board noted that this was not a single one off exercise but was an ongoing piece of work and would continue to receive reports on further progress.

Review of Direct Payments

The Board received a report at the June 2008 and at the March 2009 meeting on proposals for some changes to the Direct Payment Policy and Procedure. A number of options were put forward and recommendations went to the Executive Board Sub Committee

Complaints and Compliments on Adult Social Care

As in the previous year the Board received the Annual Report on complaints and compliments noting that such complains and compliments were used as a learning tool to improve services. The complaint procedure will be changing in the following year and will be subject to a further report.

WORK TOPICS

The Board received four completed Work Topic reports this year; **Choosing Health** which had been an outstanding report from 2007. The Board accepted the report and recommended that the Health SSP should monitor the action plan.

Physical and Sensory Disabilities Contracts with the Voluntary Sector;

Members had participated in scrutinising a small number of contracts with specialist services to meet the needs of people with, for example, Hearing Impairment. The recommendations were endorsed and the Board will be monitoring the action plan.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults was received by the Board, a joint piece of work undertaken with Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board, this had been a valuable Work Topic in recognition of the importance of this area of work. The Chairs of Healthy Halton and Safer Halton PPB presented the report to the Executive Committee, which accepted the report and its recommendations.

The fourth Work Topic that was received was on **Health of Carers**. The needs of carers continue to be a priority for Halton and this Work Topic sought to explore ways to ensure that carers health needs were recognised at the earliest possible stage.

Special Meeting: A special meeting was held in January 2009 to ensure that Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board could fully consider and contribute to Health and Community Service Plans. This was a useful meeting offering members an opportunity to understand new priorities with the Preventive Agenda and Personalisation, and new service areas such as services for People with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Formal Consultation: Formal consultation took place in March when the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board received a presentation from a representative from the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust on its application for Trust status. This application was supported and the improvements in service delivery by the 5Boroughs Partnership Trust were recognised by Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board has received quarterly monitoring reports on Social Care performance, and also received the report on the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate's star rating on Halton. Halton Adult Social Care is judged to be Three Star (excellent).

Performance has continued to remain strong in many areas including the following:

- No delays in hospital discharge due to Social Care since fines for delays were introduced five years ago
- Establishment of an emergency respite service for carers
- Joint Intermediate Care services between NHS Halton St Helens and Halton Borough Council
- The development of a Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities
- The development of the Personalisation Agenda within Halton, particularly for Adult Social Care

WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board has agreed two Work Topics for 2009/10:

- Joint working with the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board: **Employment opportunities for disabled people**, this was selected in recognition of the need to increase the opportunities for people known to Adult Social Care to gain employment and to fully participate in mainstream life in Halton.
- **Disabled Facilities Grant**: This grant and its use will be fully reviewed by members of Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

Councillor Ellen Cargill
Chairman, **Healthy Halton** Policy and Performance Board

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Cllr. Shaun
Osborne
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

“Safety, and people’s perception of being safe in all its form remain a major issue in Halton. The Board has, and will continue to focus its energy on making Halton residents feel safe. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members who have worked hard to this end.

The Board has had a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, and policy development, because ‘Safer Halton’ is a truly cross-cutting agenda. I believe it is making a considerable contribution to improving the way the Council and its partners work together to improve the quality of life in Halton. I thank everybody who has contributed to the work of the Board in 2008/09.”

Councillor Shaun Osborne
Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/9 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Osborne, Stockton, M Bradshaw, Edge, M Lloyd Jones, Morley, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Shepherd, Thompson.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety and Drugs Team, Bereavement Services, Registration and Consumer Affairs, Risk and Emergency Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Road Safety and Waste Management.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year. Special Board meetings considered budget implications for 2009/10 and provision of grave spaces.

The main initiatives of the Board’s work for 2008/09 are as follows: -

Community Safety

The Board continued its scrutiny and policy development role in this crucial area. The Family Intervention Project, Witness Support, Youth Crime and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults were all considered by the PBB, with relevant recommendations made. Contributions were made to the formulation of Policing Objectives. The Board received a presentation on the excellent progress to achieving a Multi-Agency Problem Solving Team, an initiative the PPB had instigated in its previous Municipal Year. The Drug Treatment Plan was approved, and consideration was given to the provision of alcohol abuse services, an issue highlighted for attention in 2009/10.

Environmental and Regulatory Service Issues

The PPB monitored the performance of waste management, the implementation of a waste management strategy and re-cycling performance. The Board contributed to the Litter and Dog Fouling enforcement policy, and the implementation of the Fixed Penalty Notices Policy.

Road Safety

The major issues considered related to Road Traffic Collisions, Incidents of Objects being thrown from footbridges, and the performance of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership.

Bereavement Services/Consumer Protection/Registration Services

The PPB contributed to the development of new services relating to Civil Funerals and the Nationality Checking Service. Cemetery provision for 2015 and beyond was a major issue, with recommendations made to Executive Board for approval.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

The PPB proposed the following topics for the work programme for 2009/10: -

- Waste Management
- Cemetery Provision
- Enclosure of Footbridges
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and violence relating to alcohol
- MAPS

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Howard Cockcroft (0151 471 7461) or e-mail at Howard.cockcroft@halton.gov.uk



Councillor
Hignett

ANNUAL REPORT URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

“In thanking all of the Officers and Members of the Urban Renewal PPB for their support throughout the year, it is worth noting that for Urban Renewal this has been an exciting and productive year. Many of the Council’s programmes have been coming to fruition, making a significant contribution to Halton’s regeneration. The Board has considered many programmes and projects which contribute hugely to improving the quality of Halton’s environment. Tough decisions have had to be made in the light of the impact of external influences, particularly with regards to funding, but nevertheless continued progress in regenerating the urban infrastructure is to be welcomed.”

Councillor Hignett
Chairman, Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/9 the Board comprised eleven Councillors –

Councillor R. Hignett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor K. Morley (Vice Chairman)	Labour
Councillor P. Balmer	Conservative
Councillor P. Blackmore	Liberal Democrat
Councillor E. Cargill	Labour
Councillor M. Hodgkinson	Liberal Democrat
Councillor D. Leadbetter	Labour
Councillor P. Murray	Conservative
Councillor P. Nolan	Labour
Councillor C. Rowe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor D. Thompson	Labour

The Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board’s primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to bring about the Urban Renewal of the Borough. It is also charged with scrutinising progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Urban Renewal Priority. It is responsible for evaluating performance and formulating policy in relation to the following areas:

- Major Projects
 - Highways and Transportation,
 - Environmental Health and Planning,
 - Economic Regeneration,
- with the additional responsibility for
- the Park Ranger service (as from 2005/6)
 - Contaminated Land (as from 2005/06)
 - Strategic Housing (as from 2006/07).

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met six times during the year. As well as considering Executive Board decisions relevant to the work of the Urban Renewal Board, agreeing the Service Plans of the relevant Departments and monitoring their general activities and performance against them, set out below are some of the main activities and issues that the Board has worked on during the year:

Corporate Responsibilities

- The Board considered petitions from Residents regarding the future of St. Marie's Church, Widnes, from residents concerning traffic conditions in Dale Street, Runcorn. and from employers regarding the creation of the Astmoor Business Improvement District.
- The Board reviewed the Travel Policy and Procedure of the Health and Community Directorate
- The Board considered reports of Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which advised on progress towards targets set in the Community Strategy and 2007 Local Area Agreement.
- The PPB endorsed the Public Arts Strategy and referred it to the Executive Board for approval.
- The PPB received the minutes of the Urban Renewal SSP.
- The Board received and accepted a summary of the findings of the first Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Health.

Highways and Transportation

- the Board supported taking the Local Transport Plan (LPT2) Interim Review Report to Executive Board for approval to submit to Government Office North West.
- The PPB agreed nominations of Members to sit on the Council's Public Transport Advisory Panel for the 2008/09 municipal year.
- The Board received a report which highlighted the emerging key findings of the Halton Accessibility Study and agreed the options to be used as a basis for consultation at a key stakeholder event.

Major Projects Department

- The PPB received a presentation on the operations and developments of the Stobart Group on the 3MG site from Mr. Steve O'Connor, a Director of the Stobart Group.
- The Board received a presentation from Lynn Smith – Acting Director of Norton Priory Museum which outlined the research that had been carried out there over the past five years.
- The Board considered the North West Development Association-funded projects which were completed in 2008/9, and those which had been identified for funding in 2009/10. In addition the PPB agreed the Widnes Waterfront Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) Performance Plan for the financial year 2009/10.
- The PPB received a presentation on Urban Renewal activity in the Borough.

Economic Regeneration

- The Board agreed a 'Heart of Halton' Plaque scheme
- The Board approved the development of a logistics focused, proposition-based marketing and PR campaign.

Environmental and Regulatory Services

- The Board considered developments concerning Growth Point Status including submission of returns for Community Infrastructure Fund and Growth Fund, and recommended acceptance to the Executive Board.
- The Board considered developments in relation to the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West, and the consequences of the adoption of it for Halton. .
- The Board considered and supported the drafting of the Core Strategy as a central enabling document in the delivery of Corporate priorities.
- Members considered how the Landscape Services Division and The Parks and Countryside Service performed during Year 10 of the APSE Performance Network's Benchmarking process in relation to Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Services, recording their thanks and congratulations on their success.
- Members considered the progress made with the Hale Park Restoration scheme.

Housing

- The Board considered and agreed the draft housing strategy which had been the subject of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.
- The PPB considered and agreed the Commissioning Strategy for Extra-Care Housing.

Other

- The Board agreed an Overview and Scrutiny Action Plan for 2008/9.
- Members undertook a guided tour of regeneration sites in the Borough

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008-9

The Board established work groups to consider the following areas:

- Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry (Joint Group with Employment, Learning and Skills PPB);
- The Future of Town Centres Management (continuation of);
- Implications of de-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge; and
- Housing Strategy (continuation of);

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2009-10

The Board agreed the following topic ideas for inclusion in its work programme for 2009-10 :

- Workforce and Skills for the Science Industry, with a focus on Daresbury (Joint Group with Employment, Learning and Skills PPB); and
- Continuation of the work of the Implications of de-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge Group; and
- the LDF Working Party; and
- Housing Strategy (continuation of);

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Committee Services in the first instance, telephone 0151 424 2061 extension 1125 or email michelle.simpson@Halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO: Standards Committee
DATE: 3rd June 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy
SUBJECT: Standards Committee Annual Report
WARDS: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To summarise the work of the Committee in the last municipal year and to recommend Members to invite Council to note the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Standards Committee is made up of ten members, comprising three independent members, two Parish Councillors, and five members of Halton Borough Council. During the Municipal Year, the Membership was Mr. Bill Badrock (Chairman), Mr. Tony Luxton, Vice Chairman, Mr. Robert Garner, Parish Councillor Ronald Crawford, Parish Councillor Canon David Felix, Councillor Phillip Balmer, Councillor Stan Parker, Councillor Linda Redhead, Councillor Kevin Wainwright, and Councillor Mike Wharton.

The Committee met on five occasions throughout the Municipal Year.

3,2 The role of the Standards Committee is to:-

- Help Councillors and Co-opted members to observe the Members Code of Conduct
- Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-opted members and Church and Parent Governor representatives

- Advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members Code of Conduct Monitor the operation of the Members Code of Conduct
- Provide training to Councillors and Co-opted members on matters relating to the Members Code of Conduct
- Deal with complaints against Councillors and Parish Councillors
- Deal with matters concerning politically restricted posts
- Deal with dispensations relating to Declarations of Interests.

3.3 The Municipal Year was a time of considerable change in the operation of the Committee. New legislative requirements necessitated the appointment of two additional Members, and Mr. Garner and Reverend Canon Felix were welcomed on to the Committee. Arrangements for local assessment of complaints came into force in May 2008, and the Standards Committee established a Assessment Sub Committee and Review Sub Committee to deal with the new position. The Committee also approved the establishment of mutual arrangements with nearby Authorities with regard to independent members when necessary. Members considered carefully the guidance issued by the Standards Board for England about the operation of the new arrangements.

3.2 Joint training sessions with Warrington Borough Council were carried out during the year in order to equip members as fully as possible for dealing with local assessment.

The Standards Committee section of the Council's Web Site was developed, and publicity given to the work of the Committee by way of an article in Inside Halton Magazine.

The Committee considered and provided comments on the DCLG Consultation Document relating to Member and Officer Code of Conduct, and also considered and approved the Local Code of Corporate Governance prior to it being referred to the Council for adoption.

Members received regular reports throughout the year providing updates on developments at the Standards Board for England, including copies of all bulletins produced during the year.

The Chair and the Monitoring Officer reported on matters of relevance following their attendance at the Standards Board annual conference in Birmingham in October.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** – None

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** – None

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – None

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act