



**Children Young People and Families
Policy and Performance Board**

**Monday, 20 February 2012 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Walsh'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin (Vice- Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw	Conservative
Councillor Arthur Cole	Labour
Councillor Frank Fraser	Labour
Councillor Mike Fry	Labour
Councillor Miriam Hodge	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Joan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh	Labour
Miss Elizabeth Lawler	Co-optee

*Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 471 7394 or e-mail
michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.*

The next meeting of the Board is on Date Not Specified

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

Part I

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1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.</p>	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20 February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
 - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
 - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
 - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
 - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

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 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2011

EXB78 - SANDYMOOR FREE SCHOOL PROPOSAL - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the proposed development of a Free School at Sandymoor.

The Board was advised that an application to establish a non-denominational, 11-18 age mixed Secondary School at Sandymoor was submitted to the Department for Education in May 2011. The school would open in 2012 and have a maximum intake of 900 places.

The Secretary of State had approved the application to proceed to the next stage of the process. Statutory consultation would take place from January 2012 for ten weeks, seeking the views of the Local Authority, schools and other stakeholders.

The Board noted that the Secretary of State had the duty to consider the impact of any new school on existing schools in the area. Appendix A, attached to the report provided a summary of the impact the Free School would have on the current provision in Halton. The Free School was likely to have an adverse impact on other Halton schools. The report contained details of the financial implications for Members' consideration.

The Board further considered representations in writing from Councillor John Bradshaw with regard to the matters raised in the report.

Reason(s) for Decision

The report seeks to gain the views of Executive Board to the proposal to establish a Free School on Sandymoor so that a response can be made to the statutory consultation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable

Implementation Date

The Free School are looking to open in September 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council respond to the Sandymoor Free School Proposals as set out in the Appendix attached to the report; and
- 2) should the Sandymoor Free School proposals progress, the Council shall services to the Free School on a full recovery cost basis.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2011

ES64 – FOSTER CARE ALLOWANC 2012-13

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise which sought agreement to the proposed revised level of allowances to be paid to Foster Carers in 2012–13.

As part of the department's Placement Strategy for Children in Care, the level of allowance paid to Halton Foster Carers was increased in September 2010. This was done for a number of reasons, but was ultimately aimed at increasing the number of Foster Carers available within the Borough and supporting their retention. Improved finance was just one component of the investment in the service which also included an improved range of support to carers, more training opportunities and improved engagement in service developments.

It was noted that whilst the number of carers remained a challenge, the quality of the pool of carers available was now better than in previous years and was better able to meet the needs of our children. It therefore remained important that the allowances paid to carers were appropriate, competitive and attractive. In addition, it was important that the allowances paid to carers were increased to reflect actual costs incurred by them and it was therefore proposed that all allowances were increased by 4% (rounded down to the nearest pound).

Members were advised that the proposal to raise allowances by 4% would cost approximately £64,541. However, the failure to recruit and retain carers may result in the purchase of expensive Independent Fostering Agencies placements, where just one placement would cost on average £44,000.

RESOLVED: That the recommended level of increase in allowances is agreed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2012

EXB86 - HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Chair of Halton Safeguarding Children and the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11.

The Board was advised that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 set out a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

The report highlighted the considerable amount of work undertaken by Halton LSCB and the developments that had taken place over the past twelve months.

Five priority areas were identified, managed through its Business Plan. The Board noted that these were in line with the core functions of the LSCB and included:

- Maintaining structures to enable the Board to fulfil its statutory duty and respond to local and national change;
- Policies and procedures;
- Development of a safer workforce;
- Scrutiny;
- Communicating and raising awareness;
- Functions relating to child deaths; and
- Serious Case Reviews

RESOLVED: That the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11 be endorsed.

EXB87 - STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING STATEMENT FOR 14-19 EDUCATION AND TRAINING- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 14-19 education and training.

The Board was advised that the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement would enable the authority to carry out its statutory duty under the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the area. The Statement provided an overview of provision and needs in the area.

The Board noted that to inform the production of the Statement, and to identify key priorities for 14-19 year olds in Halton, a detailed review had been undertaken and analysed, which resulted in the six priorities detailed in the report. These priorities had been consulted on with partners in specific task

groups across the 14-19 partnership, and ratified by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership and the Children's Trust Commissioning Partnership.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement to ensure that Halton Borough Council fulfilled its statutory duties under Sections 15ZA and 19A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009).

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement provided a strategic overview of provision and needs in the area. An alternative option would be not to have produced a 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement for the Borough. This was rejected as the Borough would not have had a strategic overview of the provision in order to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area.

Implementation Date

With immediate effect following the January 2012 Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2012-13 be endorsed.

EXB88 - SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXB89 - INFORMATION ADVICE & GUIDANCE SERVICES (CONNEXIONS) UPDATE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which updated Members on the progress on procurement options for securing information, advice and guidance (IAG) services for young people for 2012/13, and the contractual implications between the six Liverpool City Region Authorities and the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited (GMCP).

The report contained details of the arrangements to secure service delivery, details of the service specification offered by GMCP and an evaluation of the offer. In addition, the Board received an update on the current position on contractual arrangements with the other five authorities within the Liverpool City Region.

Reason(s) for Decision

Local Authorities' statutory responsibilities had changed.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to continuing with the current service level. This would exceed the budget available, would not represent value for money or reflect the change in Local Authorities' statutory responsibilities.

Implementation Date

The revised IAG and tracking service must be in place by April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) negotiations to secure a one year agreement with GMCP within each local authorities' available budget be noted;
- 2) the update on the final GMCP position at the end of December 2011, tabled alongside this report be noted;

- 3) notice be served on GMCP on 31st January 2012 if agreement cannot be reached with a majority of authorities;
- 4) the parallel procurement process be continued; and
- 5) responsibility for procuring IAG provision be delegated to the Director of Children's Services (or other designated budget holder) in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2012

EXB91 - TACKLING 'TROUBLED FAMILIES' - INITIAL PLANS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined Government proposals for tackling troubled families and the Council's initial plans for delivering this new initiative in Halton.

The Board was advised that the Government had made £450 million available in a cross-government drive to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families. The money would be made available to local authorities to fund a national network of Troubled Family 'Trouble Shooters' and family intervention projects.

The Board noted that the criteria for defining a family as 'troubled', was still under development, but information available so far would suggest such a family would have the following characteristics:

- Not be in work;
- Children not attending school; and
- Children involved in crime and/or anti social behaviour

The 375 families calculated for Halton were based on an analysis from the 2005 Family and Children Survey, using the child welfare index and indicators of multiple deprivation, which were detailed in the report. An analysis would be undertaken to convert this indicative estimate into verified figures of 'real' troubled families in Halton.

It was further noted that this analysis would need to be involve multiple agencies and be informed by Government criteria currently under formulation. Details of the Council's initial response, discussed by the Board, were contained in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Government's initiative for troubled families be noted;
- 2) the Council's initial response to troubled families listed in paragraph 4 of the report be endorsed;
- 3) the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families be authorised to lead the initiative on behalf of the Council; and
- 4) a further report be brought to the Board, once consultation had been undertaken with key partners on the delivery of the 'Troubled Families' programme, and after the initial analysis of the 375 troubled families calculated by Government as living in Halton.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2012

ES69 - PURCHASE OF U-EXPLORE SOFTWARE LICENCES FOR RE-SALE TO SCHOOLS AND PROVIDERS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the purchase of U-Explore software licences for re-sale to Schools and providers. U-Explore was a unique innovative, on-line teaching and learning resource that was accessible 24/7 by learners, teachers and parents. It would support schools to deliver their new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils in years 9 to 11. The duty would come into effect from September 2012, however, it was proposed that U-Explore would be implemented from January 2012 to support the transition following the end of the current Connexions contract on 31st March 2012.

It was noted that the software was web-based and was therefore accessible from anywhere by learners of all abilities. In addition, U-Explore was exceptional in that Council would own all the search details and management information and would be able to analyse the jobs and sector areas of interest of young people. This would inform the direction of careers guidance and the planning and commissioning of educational services in the future.

Members were advised that the local authorities within the Liverpool City Region were working in partnership with a collective proposal to implement U-Explore across the City Region. This had already brought economies of scale to the price of an annual U-Explore licence which had reduced from £1800 to £1000 and which would, in this first year, be sold onto schools in Halton for £1200.

It was proposed that the Council purchase a Halton Commercial Licence for U-Explore. This would provide the opportunity to explore further the potential of U-Explore as an income generator. Gaining the commercial licence would ensure that any provider wanting to use U-Explore in the Borough would have to

purchase the system through the Council bringing with it the prospect of a future income stream.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Operational Director for Children, Organisation and Provision be authorised to award the contract for 10 U-Explore software licences to the contractor U-Explore Limited for the sum of £11,000; and
- 2) in light of the exceptional circumstances namely there being only one possible supplier of the service and in accordance with Procurement SO 1.8.2 Standing Orders 3.1 – 3.7 and 3.9 be waived on this occasion. In view of U-Explore being the only supplier of the service and agreement within the Liverpool City Region to collectively implement this software package which will support schools in delivering their new Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance responsibilities under the duties of the Education Act 2011.

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Special Strategic Partnership Board minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People's Portfolio which have been considered by the Special Strategic Partnership Board are attached at Appendix 1 for information.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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



Halton Children's Trust

Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2012 2.00pm, Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services, HBC (Chair)
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision
Mark Grady	Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC
Lorraine Crane	Divisional Manager, IYSS, HBC
Nigel Moorhouse	Operational Director, Children & Families Services, HBC
Steve Nyakatawa	Operational Director, Learning and Achievement, HBC
Emma Taylor	Divisional Manager, Team Around the Family Runcorn, HBC
Katharine Evans	Lead Engagement Officer, CYP Voluntary Sector Partnership
Jane Lunt	Operational Director, Child & Family Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review, HBC
Gareth Jones	Warrington & Halton Youth Offending Team
Michelle Bradshaw	Assistant Director, Child & Family Services, Halton & St Helens PCT
Karen Hickey	Assistant Policy Officer, HBC (minutes)

Apologies

Diane Sproson	Area Manager, Connexions
Simon Clough	Divisional Manager, 14 – 19 Services
Catherine Johnson	Principal Performance & Improvement Officer, HBC
Julia Rosser	Public Health Specialist Registrar, Halton & St Helens PCT
Michelle Vallance	Parent and Carer Engagement Coordinator

In Attendance

Paul McWade	Operational Director, Commissioning and Complex Care, Adult Services, HBC
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Item		Action
1.0	MATTERS ARISING from 29.11.11 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, with outstanding actions completed	
2.0	DECISION MAKING	
2.1	Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS) Paul McWade gave an overview of the development, current activities and future direction for the PBSS. This is a new service with the purpose of supporting and improving the lives of children and adults with learning disabilities and/or autism, and who exhibit behaviour that challenges services. The consequence of such behaviour can place carers and parents under considerable stress, and limit opportunities for the individuals concerned. The PBSS has been established to counter such consequences. The Executive Group endorsed and supported the service. Future commissioning for children with complex needs will be carried out by	

2.2	<p>clinical commissioning groups, therefore it is important to promote PBSS within the NHS to ensure buy in. It was also proposed that the report should be further discussed at the Children's Trust Board, with a view to inclusion within commissioning priorities for the Trust. It was also suggested that schools could be approached with a view to buy in of the service.</p> <p>Children's Trust/HSCB Joint Frontline Event 2012 The date for the event has been agreed as the 8th March and will be run as 2 half day sessions. Activities for the day were outlined within the draft agenda circulated with the report. Regarding engagement of young people, it was proposed that a video blog could be included from the Youth Cabinet to enable them to contribute. MG to speak to Simon Price. It was suggested that the theme of the day should be highlighted as part of the opening speech. Themes will be engagement, both with frontline staff and also across both Boards, and Levels of Need. The group endorsed the plan for the event. MG to circulate updated agenda and also re-drafted joint working protocol between HSCB and the Trust.</p>	<p>Paul McWade (KH to agenda)</p> <p>MG</p>
3.0	<p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>3.1 Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning No Commissioning Partnership meetings have taken place since the last Executive Group meeting. Current focus for the Partnership is the Youth Service tender and also keeping abreast of changes within Health services.</p> <p>3.2 Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Help Frontline Event will take place on the 25th January, to promote latest developments within Early Help to frontline staff. • The Council Executive Board have agreed to the setting up of a task and finish group to review levels of need. The EHAS group are currently seeking a lead for this, preferably from a partner organisation. • An Early Help panel is to be established to focus on more complex cases, the first meeting will take place on the 28th February. • The first session of the revised CAF training will take place next week, all places have been filled. <p>3.3 Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work around outcomes in education for Children in Care is continuing • A visioning day is due to take place on the 1st February • Within secondary schools, the free school meal gap is widening and work is underway to examine other local authorities who have had success in this area, for examples of best practice • SEN Green Paper: some local authorities have piloted some aspects of this and feedback is currently awaited on this. • New performance indicators for vulnerable young people are currently being developed, with the aim of improving on current measures used. 	

4.0	INFORMATION ITEMS	
4.1	<p>Feedback from HSCB Development Day At the recent HSCB Development day, a discussion took place around early intervention, and how we can provide a dialogue between the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Board on this subject. A number of recommendations were identified within the report. It was proposed that these should be reviewed by the Children's Trust EHAS and Commissioning subgroups, in order to identify leads for each action.</p>	PRIORITY LEADS
4.2	<p>Troubled Families Initiative The government has a current focus provide targeted support for troubled families. A report on this will soon be presented to Council Executive Board and it has been proposed that the Children's Trust and the Safer Halton Partnership should jointly oversee this work within Halton. A collective analysis will be carried out to identify families to be targeted. Also a new post for a senior level Troubled Families Co-ordinator is to be created. The post would be based within CYP commissioning, and will be monitored closely as payment will be by results. Executive Board report to go to Children's Trust Board</p>	KH to agenda
4.3	<p>Auditing of Common Assessment Framework The report outlined the processes undertaken as part of the CAF audit and was presented to the Executive Group for information. It was acknowledged that improvements have been made within the service and the audit highlighted this. Proposals are for future audits to take place 3 times a year, and for the process to be widened to incorporate other Early Help services such as IWST.</p>	
4.4	<p>Auditing of Practice in Children's Services, November 2011 The report sets out the findings and subsequent actions arising from the Auditing of Practice in Children's Services in November 2011. It was highlighted that the journey of the child needs to be recorded and evaluated more effectively, as this area has been highlighted by Ofsted.</p>	
4.5	<p>CYP Voluntary Sector Forum Update A web page within the Children's Trust website has now been created for the CYPVSP which will be promoted to all voluntary sector partners. The page will be used as a central information point for VSP members and in the future will contain a database of all members. A business model has been drafted with 5 main business areas which form a clear agenda for the partnership. GM suggested that the Children's Trust website should be promoted via the management team and members briefings. KH to arrange this.</p>	KH
4.6	<p>Thematic Inspection of 'out of area' Children in Care in the Youth Justice System This inspection is around experiences of children in care across all areas. A key issue is criminalisation of young people in care and this will be a focus for the inspection. 10 cases will be examined in detail, 5 of which will be Halton and Warrington children placed out of area and the remainder will be out of area children who have been placed in the Warrington and Halton area. The inspection will take place at the end of February and a variety of partners will be involved.</p>	

4.7	Minutes from HSCB Board and Executive Meetings The minutes were circulated to the group for information.	
5.0	Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 21 st February, 2.00pm – 4.30pm, Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall (Apologies from Michelle Bradshaw)	

Outstanding Actions to date:

Item	Action Required	Who by
2.1	PBSS: report should be further discussed at the Children's Trust Board, with a view to inclusion within commissioning priorities for the Trust	Paul McWade <i>(KH to agenda)</i>
2.2	Children's Trust/HSCB joint event: MG to circulate updated agenda and also re-drafted joint working protocol between HSCB and the Trust	MG
4.1	Feedback from HSCB Development Day: Recommendations to be reviewed by the Children's Trust EHAS and Commissioning subgroups, in order to identify leads for each action	Priority Leads
4.2	Troubled Families Initiative: Executive Board report to go to Children's Trust Board	<i>KH to agenda</i>
4.5	Children's Trust website: website to be promoted via the management team and members briefings.	KH

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th February 2012
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT:	Changes to arrangements for supporting young people in education and training.
WARDS:	ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform PPB of Changes to arrangements for supporting young people in Education and training

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) **PPB Board endorse the report**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 There have been a number of infrastructure changes affecting financial and other support mechanisms available to young people in Halton since 2010. The purpose of this paper is to set out a brief statement on changes affecting 14-25 year olds including information on any new arrangements that have been established in Halton.

14-19 Commissioning Statement

- 3.2 In response to these changes Halton Borough Council has completed an overview of provision for 14-19 year olds (up to 25 for those with a learning difficulty and/or disability). This will enable the borough to take account of these changes and shape provision by identifying gaps, supporting new provision and developing the market. The following priorities have been identified:

Priority 1: Improve participation and achievement of vulnerable groups

Priority 2: Ensure all Halton young people have access to appropriate independent, information, advice and guidance

Priority 3: Put in place effective strategies to reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming or who are already NEET

Priority 4: Plan for the raising of the participation age to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015

Priority 5: Ensure access to higher level qualifications that supports progression through to learning and employment

Priority 6: Respond to the changes in the Local and National Educational landscape

- 3.3 The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement is coherent with the purpose of positive activities for young people supporting them with their health, lifestyle and career aspirations enabling them to achieve their full potential in their transition to adulthood. The majority of our young people will achieve this through their family, school, college and social activities.

The changes to support for young people are detailed below:

Education Maintenance allowance (EMA)

- 3.5 The coalition government removed the entitlement to EMA for the academic year 2011/12 and put in place the following transition arrangements:
- All students who applied for an EMA in 2009/10 will continue to receive payments at the same level until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.
 - Young people in their first year of post 16 study who were in receipt of maximum weekly EMA payment of £30 will be eligible for £20 until end of 2011/12 academic year.

16-19 Bursary Scheme

- 3.6 A new Bursary Scheme was announced on 28th March 2011 to support the most vulnerable 16-19 year olds to continue in full-time education. Eligibility to the bursary is at the discretion of Schools, colleges and training providers and distributed to the providers through the Young Peoples Learning Agency who gave a set allocation of funds to each provider.
- 3.7 The school, college or training provider decide when bursaries are paid, and set conditions that students should meet to receive a bursary, for example, this could be linked to behaviour or attendance.
- 3.8 The bursary fund is made up of two elements:
- A guaranteed group of the most vulnerable young people will receive a payment of £1,200. This group includes: children in care, care leavers,

young people in receipt of income support and disabled young people who are in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance and;

- A discretionary fund for those young people facing genuine financial barriers to participation, such as: cost of transport, food or equipment.
- 3.9 In Halton, schools, colleges and training providers met and agreed to distribute the discretionary fund to those young people who were eligible for free school meals in Year 11 of their school.
- 3.10 To facilitate this Halton Borough Council provides details of young people who were eligible for free school meals in Year 11 to the schools, colleges and training providers in Halton.
- 3.11 The way in which this is being administered varies by provider; some are paying their students monthly and some of paying their students weekly. The majority of providers have based their existing policy on EMA to form the basis of their policy/contract with learners on bursaries and those policies/contracts will identify the structure of the payments, criteria for attendance and behaviour and will also document how to appeal against any decisions made.
- 3.12 The Bursary scheme has been well promoted to young people with information provided in the local press, the Council Web site and through the provider network.

Hardship Funding

- 3.13 Funding has been secured to pilot a project to provide a breakfast during the spring term for those young people facing financial hardship. Historically this is the term when attendance dips and young people are more likely to leave their provision and fall into to NEET. The intention of this initiative is to test whether the offer of a free breakfast during the winter months will motivate attendance at the start of the day and provide a nutritious boost that will help them to remain engaged.

Aimhigher

- 3.14 Funding for the Aimhigher programme by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) was removed in 2010 and program closed. Aimhigher Halton worked across educational institutions in Halton to raise young peoples' aspirations and awareness of the benefits of Higher Education.
- 3.15 The staff delivering the program secured alternative employment either within the authority or within schools. Activity regarding the raising of

aspirations to HE is now included in the IAG strategy however the wider range of bespoke activities delivered by this team has ceased.

HE provision

- 3.16 From 2012/13 universities can offer degree programmes at full cost with fees ranging from £5,800 - £9,000 this could result in a total loan of £27,000 for fees alone not taking account of living expenses.
- 3.17 Maintenance and/or Special Support Grants are available to full-time students starting their course after September 2012. Maintenance Grants help with living costs and are available to students whose household income is £42,875 or less. The maximum Maintenance Grant is £3,250 if the household income is under £25,000. If a student qualifies for Income Support or Housing Benefit a Special Support Grant may be given instead of the Maintenance Grant.
- 3.18 Colleges can now bid for more HE places and can secure full time places. Riverside College plan to offer a varied curriculum of full time and part time across a range of courses. Riverside College is considering setting fees at £4,900 per year for a full time degree with students receiving a £1,000 bursary. The courses will be delivered from the Runcorn Campus in due course.

Riverside College

- 3.19 In 2011/12 Riverside College received funding cuts totalling £1000,000. The College carried out a strategic review relocating provision as follows
- Cronton Campus - 6th Form College
 - Kingsway – Vocational centre
 - Runcorn – Skills Centre/HE/Professional courses
- 3.20 The College plans to expand into new disciplines including HE and Professional courses at the Runcorn campus. Bus services are provided from all parts of Runcorn to Kingsway and Cronton Campuses.

Work Related Learning

- 3.21 The Statutory responsibility on schools to provide Work Related Learning (WRL) activities and 10 day work experience placements was removed for 2011/12. Most schools are continuing to provide work experience opportunities for some or all of their year 10 learners provided through a service level agreement with Halton Education Business Partnership.

Information Advice and Guidance

- 3.22 Schools will be responsible for securing access to IAG careers guidance for pupils in years 9 to 11. This new duty comes into force in September 2012. Government expects that schools will work in partnership with local authorities and external careers guidance providers to ensure that young people are appropriately supported, without the need for legislation.
- 3.23 Local Authorities have a duty to ensure that vulnerable young people receive the support that they need and that there will be local arrangements in place.
- 3.24 Contractual negotiations are taking place at city region level led by Halton to secure local arrangements to meet the Local Authorities Duty to provide a service vulnerable young people.
- 3.25 In order to support schools a web portal is being developed and a careers guidance tool called U-xplore purchased. This is an on-line learning resource accessible to young people and parents 24/7.

Apprenticeships

- 3.26 The Coalition Government is committed to the growth in Apprenticeships and Apprenticeship starts for Halton residents continue to show an increase. There remains a need for more level 3 Apprenticeships particularly for the 16-18 age group and more provision in growth sectors in the borough. There is an Apprenticeship strategy and working group established to meet these priorities.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Council Corporate plan, Children and Young People's plan and Employment Learning and Skills Strategies have key priorities to raise aspirations of young people and increase local employment opportunities for local young people and adults.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The 14-19 Strategic Partnership members are involved in the planning and delivery of provision and support for 14-19 learners in Halton. They will enable Halton Borough Council to carry out its strategic commissioning role by responding to the borough 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Supports key priorities to ensure that Children and Young people do well wherever they live and provides opportunities for young people to

be successful when they leave school by raising aspirations of young people and increase local employment opportunities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Apprenticeships and providing employment opportunities for local people are an important part of the Employment Learning and Skills Strategic Partnership and as such strong linkages must be maintained to ensure that the Commissioning Statement reflects the pathway from education and training into employment opportunities available.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Will create opportunities to reduce NEET, young people in NEET are at a higher risk of ill health.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training are more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to understand and influence the commissioning of 14-19 provision in the borough will lead to a mix and balance of provision driven by providers' priorities which may not meet the needs of young people or employers.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Halton Borough Council has a statutory duty to secure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of—

(a) persons in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19, and

(b) persons in their area who are aged 19 or over but under 25 and are subject to learning difficulty assessment.

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

Document	Place of inspection	Contact Officer
Apprenticeship Skills Children and Learning Act 2011	Children & Enterprise Grosvenor House	Simon Clough

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families PPB

DATE: 20th February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Child in Need Contact, Referral and Assessment Analysis

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to afford Members the opportunity to scrutinise Referral and Assessment activity and provide an update on issues impacting on current performance within the Children in Need (CiN) service. This report focuses on the performance in relation to the first two quarters of the year 2011/12
- 1.2 It is important that Members have a good understanding of this performance and are satisfied that adequate strategies are in place to ensure that the children of Halton are safeguarded. Ofsted Inspections of Contact, Referral and Assessment processes in other Local authorities have criticised the failure to scrutinise safeguarding practices and the poor understanding of issues impacting on performance.
- 1.3 Children's Social Care is made up of a number of services. The CiN service provides contact referral and assessment services to Children in need and those in need of protection, including those Children with a disability who require a social worker. The Permanence team provides services to children in care who have a plan of permanence and the Young People's team provides services to care leavers and Children in Need who are 16+. The fostering team and adoption team undertake family finding and recruitment of carers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Policy and Performance board continues to scrutinise and support the work of the Children's Trust in relation to the development of Team around the Family and early help services.**
- (2) An update report on end of year performance is presented to the board in Six months to include action taken and impact in reducing Social Workers Caseloads**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Referrals

A referral is a request to Children's Social Care for a service or advice that is accepted by Children's Social Care for allocation for assessment.

- There were 590 referrals received in the first two quarters which is a reduction of approximately 24% on the same two quarters last year.
- Police generated 215 or 36% of referrals through the police CAVA system.
- The main reasons for referral continue to be Family Dysfunction 47%, Domestic Abuse 17% and Neglect 17%
- There has been an increase in numbers of referrals in relation to sexual abuse. 39 in this period or approximately 15% of referrals, compared to 7 in the same quarter last year which equated to less than 1% of the number of referrals.

3.2 Contacts

A contact is a request to Children's Social Care for a service or advice that is not accepted for allocation as it does not meet the criteria for access to assessment at Levels 3b and 4 of Halton's Level of Need Criteria.

- There were additionally 732 contacts during the period 164 or 22% of these contacts were generated by Police CAVAS, which did not meet the levels of needs at 3b to 4, it must be noted this is a reduction of 8% compared to the same period last year and early indications are that the CAVA pathway is proving to be more effective.

3.3 Completion of Assessments

The performance in relation to the completion of Initial and Core Assessments within timescales for the period to 79% for Initial Assessments within 10 days and 84 % for Core Assessments. There is still some data tidy up being completed and this figure is likely to increase. The move to Carefirst 6 has proved challenging as workers familiarise themselves with a new system whilst completing work already started on the old system.

The number of Initial Assessments that subsequently become Core Assessments has shown an increase in this period, to 58% an increase of 14% compared to end of year 2010/11. This conversion rate is one

indication of appropriate of referrals, i.e. if referrals are appropriate then it is likely that children and families will need a sustained intervention. A report on this issue was recently presented to Halton Safeguarding Children Board Scrutiny and Performance sub group, this report highlighted that there is a significantly higher conversion rate in the Widnes team and this is being addressed with the Runcorn Managers. The distinction between Initial and Core Assessments will be removed once the recommendations from the Munro review are implemented.

The Safeguarding unit has developed a system for the independent review of CiN cases similar to the challenge and the over view that is provided for Children subject to Child Protection Plans and Children in Care. This has further strengthened the response to Children in Need and ensures that appropriate services are being provided at the appropriate level of need, including the completion of a Core Assessment when appropriate.

3.4 Inspection of Contact Assessment and Referral

An unannounced inspection of initial contact, referral and assessment took place on 7th & 8th December. This two day inspection by Ofsted was undertaken alongside an inspection of the Police child protection unit, by Her Majesty Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). This was part of a pilot of joint inspections and Halton was only the fourth area in the country where such pilots have been undertaken.

It was a very thorough and challenging inspection. Ofsted identified a number of strengths where the service was exceeding statutory requirements, and highlighted eleven areas where statutory requirements were being met. There were no aspects of the service which required priority action. However inspectors confirmed that some social workers caseloads were too high and this was impacting on the completion of initial assessments and this has been identified in previous inspections. Proposals to realign the children in need and children in care services to reduce workloads are currently being consulted on with staff. An action plan to address the areas where improvements are needed has been drawn up. Overall the outcome of the inspection was extremely positive.

3.5 Caseloads and Social Work Capacity

The total number of open CiN cases as of 30th September was 667 (currently 705).

- Social worker caseloads within CiN do vary on a day to day basis in terms of complexity and numbers. The average caseload within the CiN service is around 30 but this will vary according to experience and complexity. National guidance would suggest that caseload should be

around 20. A Caseload management tool has been developed to aid discussion in supervision about caseloads and assist in understanding the workload for individual workers.

- There is currently only one vacancy in the service which is a very recent development and it is not anticipated that there will be difficulties in filling the post. This is as a result of the Recruitment and Retention Strategy and success of 'Grow your own' schemes

However,

- At any one time capacity is reduced by approximately 20 % due to maternity leave and long term absence issues as well as flexible working arrangements, (reduced hours).

3.6 Management Capacity

- Management capacity has again become an issue within the Children in Need Service, with one Principal Manager Vacancy and two Practice Manager Vacancies, (although one of these is being covered by a temporary arrangement). A second round of external recruitment has commenced, however it must be noted that we have been out to external recruitment recently and did not shortlist.
- These Manager vacancies create pressure in terms of supervision points, authorising assessments and other critical reports and documentation, the chairing of key meetings including Core Groups and CiC planning meetings and the duty manager rota. Additionally the practice managers currently in post are new to management and as such require additional support and mentoring which places additional pressure on Principal Managers.
- Working Together 2010 states that an assessment is deemed completed "... once the assessment has been discussed with the child and the family and the team manager has viewed and authorised the assessment". This in effect means that managers have to be available to authorise assessments on a daily basis and are spending increasing time in front of computers. The Munro review of Child Protection will have an impact in extending the timescales for assessment with increased emphasis on quality and less on process and timescales
- Halton is committed to developing a 'grow your own' traineeship for social workers who are aspiring managers, building on the success of social work traineeship and student intake scheme. However it will be a number of years before this scheme realises actual managers.
- The Divisional Manager CiN continues to meet regularly with Principal Managers to focus on performance issues.

3.7 Child Protection Plans and S47 Inquiries

The vast majority of cases are managed on a CiN basis. However Child Protection Plan numbers have increased significantly to 115 during this period and continue to rise. This is the highest they have been for a number of years.

There has also been a significant increase of 25% in the number of s47 Inquiries being undertaken in this period compared to the same period last year. Whilst referral numbers are lower, the referrals appear to be coming in at an acute level, with little evidence of early help and support being offered to children and their families. This could also be an indication that with increased emphasis on Early Help and Support more children are being identified in acute need and this will increase initially before settling down to more usual levels.

3.8 Work Flow.

Court activity continues to impact on the work of the CiN teams. In Sept 11 there were 28 sets of Care proceedings. There is a drive by the court to reduce delays however there are currently 7 sets of proceedings or 25% that are in excess of the 40 weeks timescales prescribed by the public law outline.

Children's Social Care are currently reviewing structures and as part of this process transfer points between CiN and the Permanence team will be reconsidered, the with a view to cases transferring at an earlier point. Additionally older CiN 14yrs+ who are not part of a sibling group will be picked up by the Young People's Team. This rebalancing of the work is being progressed and happening currently on a case by case basis , new processes will be formally in place by 1st April 2011.

3.9 Performance / Data

- Carefirst 6 has now been rolled out to all the CiN teams. As expected there have been some issues that have impacted on performance as practitioners familiarise themselves with a new system, though overall feedback about the processes within the system which enable social workers to carry out their role is generally positive.
- Unfortunately there are a number of significant technical problems with the system and this has impacted on performance. This has included significant 'down time' with the system, lost work, the system running extremely slowly and 'crashing' on a number of occasions. Whilst IT services are working hard with the provider to resolve the issue this is frustrating and placing additional pressures on frontline workers who are trying to complete assessments.

- Additionally the new system has impacted on how the Performance and Improvement team, extract and prepare data, therefore the data in this report will be subject to quality assurance processes. At present the team have to access and match data from the old and new system. This should become easier once all teams are on Carefirst and the system has been fully up and running for a reporting year.
- Electronic social care records are still some time off, however, a decision will be made to cease printing documents that are held on Carefirst 6 given that records will be on one system. All other documentation, letters, correspondence etc will be held on the paper file. This will reduce the burden on workers to maintain paper files as the primary record.

3.10 Summary

There continues to be considerable pressure within the children in need teams. A report was presented to the board in September 11 which compliments this report and highlights what some of the issues of concern. The Executive Board has agreed Terms of Reference (below) and are commissioning a piece of research which will look at Referrals to Children's Social care and the child's journey.



HSCB Research
Revised Terms of Refi

The numbers of Children subject to a Child Protection Plan is increasing as well as the numbers of referrals leading to s47 Inquiry and this will need continuing scrutiny to ensure that there are appropriate and robust Early Help and Support Services in place for children and families.

The CAVA pathways are beginning to show improved joint working with the police and increased understanding of levels of needs with some children and families receiving an appropriate service through Team Around the Family Services.

The recruitment of frontline managers remains a priority and the impact of vacancies will be continually reviewed to ensure that the service remains safe and focussed on the core business of protecting children.

Some early work has been undertaken to look at the impact of the Munro review and how this will change Assessment processes, this will be reviewed and shared with the board once government guidance has been issued.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The work of the Child in Need teams is underpinned by Working Together 2010. The main purpose is to provide services to the most vulnerable children including those in need of protection. This is a statutory function that is measured through a series of national Indicators. The performance of these teams impacts on all aspects of Children's Social Care and it is essential that we ensure that our safeguarding processes through the duty referral and assessment process remain robust.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The teams have recently had their second Ofsted Unannounced Inspection which was very positive and will have an impact on the councils overall rating. It is important that the areas for development highlighted by inspectors especially in relation to high case loads are assessed. Whilst this report high lights some of the current difficulties and constraints it is important to emphasise that in Halton we have very high standards in respect of safeguarding children and robust responses to Child Protection issues.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

All Children in need are subject to regulated services which will be inspected by Ofsted. It is important that members have a good understanding of the work of the front line teams and are assured that Contact, Referral and Assessment processes are robust and safeguard children

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to achieve economic well being

6.3 A Healthy Halton

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to thrive and be healthy

6.4 A Safer Halton

The performance of the Council's children services contact, referral and assessments teams is critical to keeping the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough safe.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

If Contact Referral and Assessment processes are not robust and do not ensure that children are safeguarded and protected from harm, then children will remain vulnerable to poor outcomes and the service will receive poor Inspection outcomes which will impact on the overall rating of the council.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The teams provide services to the most vulnerable children in the borough. The service is available to all children and their families who meet the criteria at level 3b / 4 of Halton's Level of need. This includes all protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010

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

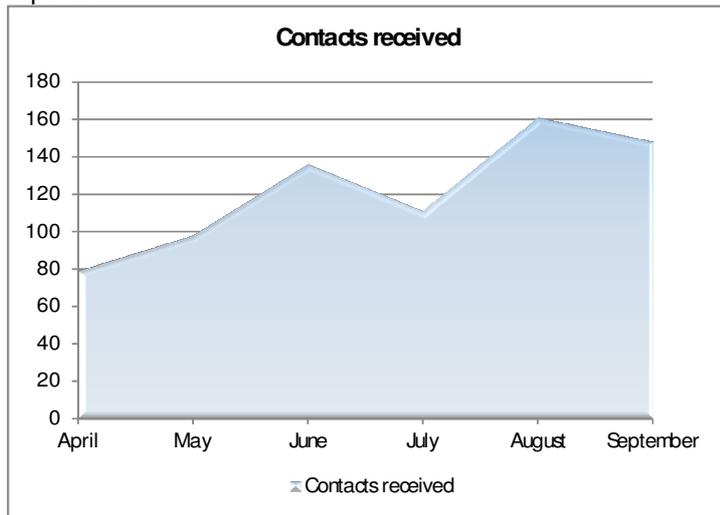
Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010	Grosvenor House	Vicky Buchanan
Halton safeguarding Board Child Protection procedures	Grosvenor House www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk	Vicky Buchanan

Appendix 1: Supporting Data

1.1 Contacts

During the period 1st April 2011 to 30th September 2011 there were 733 contacts to Children's Social Care in relation to 600 children.

Please note that all Integrated Working Support team contacts have been removed from the contacts reports.



The chart details the contacts received by month of the period.

Due to the changes in the recording methods the split by team is not currently available consistently across the period. This will be resolved for future reporting as there will be consistent recording methods using CareFirst 6 in future.

	Number of contacts
CYP CiCOLA	1
Housing	1
CYP S.47 Physical Abuse Enquiry	2
Missing person	2
CYP S.17 Physical Abuse	3
CYP S.17 Sexual Abuse	3
CYP S.17 Neglect	5
CYP Behavioural Issue	6
CYP Referred for CAF	9
CYP Adults who pose a risk to children	10
CYP S.17 Domestic Abuse	11
CYP OFSTED Enquiry	16
CYP S.17 Food Vouchers/Financial Assistance	18
CYP CAF/CASS Enquiry	23
CYP Referred to other service/resource	24
CYP S.17 Family Dysfunction	71
CYP Notification	76
CYP Advice given	191
CYP Level of need does not meet Threshold	259

The table details the presenting issues for the contacts received during the period.

The majority are classified as level of need not meeting the threshold or advice given.

	Number of contacts
Anonymous	44
Cafcass	30
Court / Immigration	2
Day Service Staff	1
Education	52
Health	79
Housing	8
Integrated Working Support Team	1
Relative/ Parent/ Carer/ Friend/ Neighbour	124
Mental Health Staff	23
Other	91

The table details the source of contacts received during the period.

22% of the contacts were from Police.

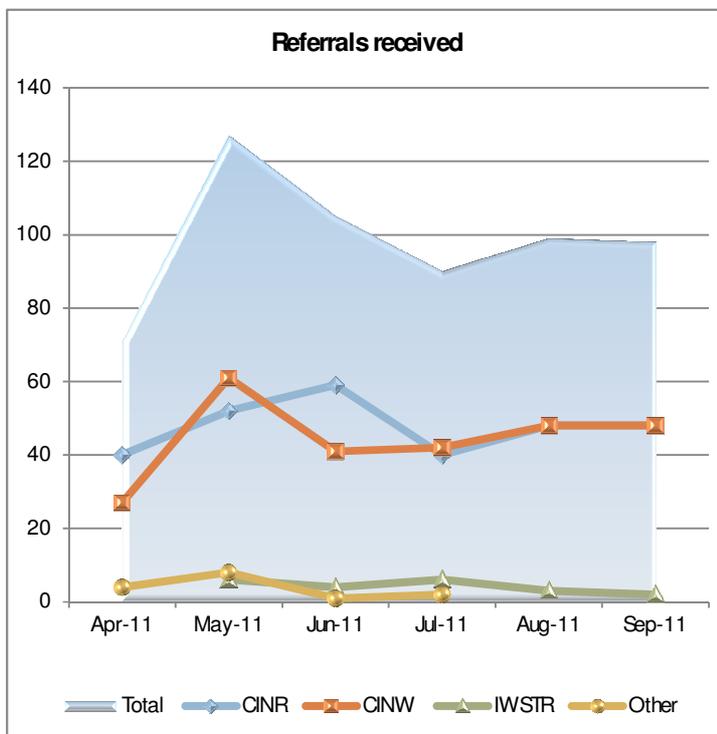
Own Local Authority / Other Local Authority	57
Police	164
Probation	35
Residential Care Staff	1
Social Worker / Care Manager	18
Youth Offending Team	3

1.2 Referrals

During the period 1st April 2011 to 30th September 2011 there were 590 referrals to Children’s Social Care in relation to 581 children. The information that follows below is the breakdown of these referrals;

- By month and quarter received
- Team with whom the referral was received
- From whom the referral was received
- The presenting issue recorded.

There is also a map detailing the contacts by ward, to provide information about where the referrals originate from.



There was a peak in the referrals during May where Widnes received more than Runcorn. During Quarter 2 there has been a more stable number of referrals each month although significantly there were similar numbers for Widnes as Runcorn.

	Q1 2011/12	Q2 2011/12
Police	110	105
Other LA	36	32
Health	30	27
Friend/ Family/ Neighbour	24	25
Anonymous	21	18
Education	34	7
Social Care	16	9
Other	3	11
Service Provider	8	14
Probation	7	11
Housing	7	6
Councillor/ Politician	3	0
CAFCASS	0	3
Self	0	2
Alleged Abuser	1	0
YOT	0	1

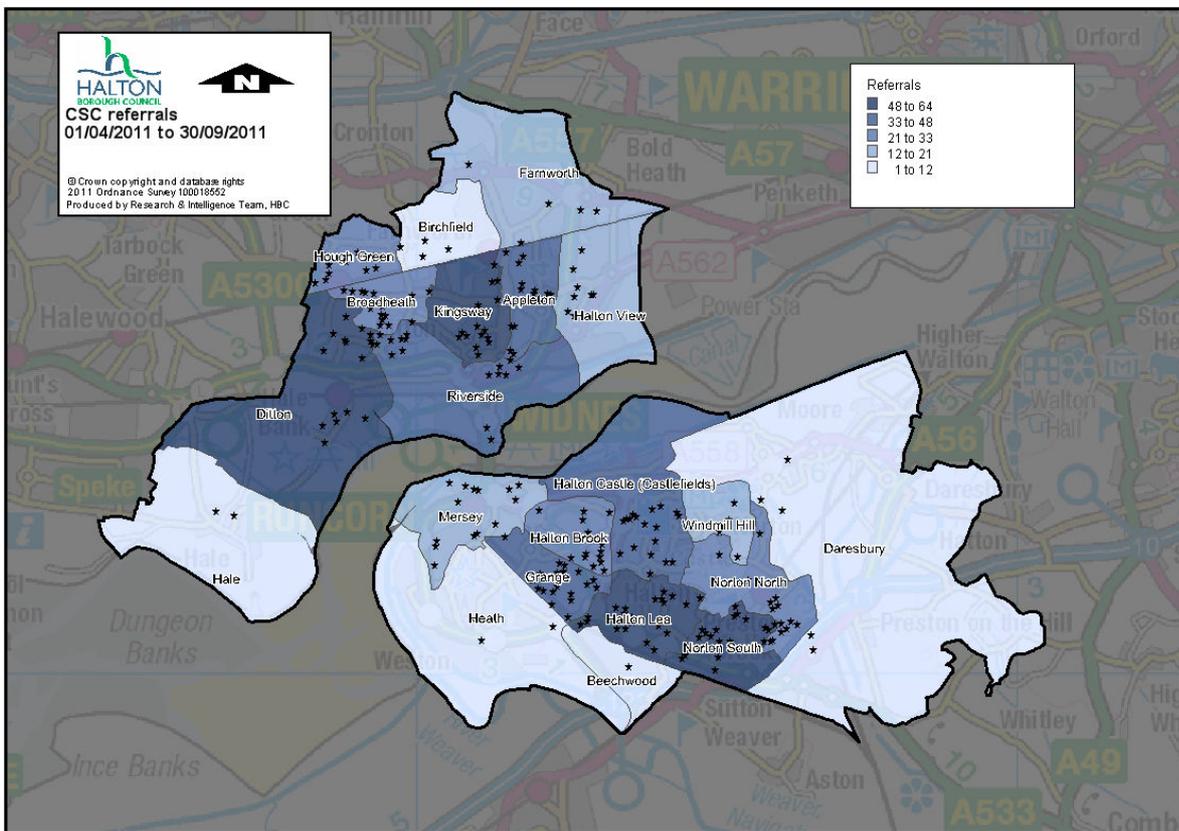
This table details all of the referrals in the period (1st April 2011 – 30th September 2011) by source of referral and the quarter received.

Police account for 36% of the referrals made during this period, with Other LA’s accounting for 12.5% and Health for 10.5%.

	CIN Runcorn	CIN Widnes	Other
Behavioural Issue	5	1	2
Private Fostering	1		
Disability Housing Need			2
S17 Disability	3		
S17 Domestic Abuse	57	37	4
S17 Emotional Abuse	1	2	
S17 Family Dysfunction	121	143	13
S17 Neglect	52	25	8
S17 Physical Abuse	12	8	
S17 Sexual Abuse	14	11	1
S17 Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	3	6	
S47 Domestic Abuse	2		
S47 Emotional Abuse	2		
S47 Neglect	6	9	3
S47 Physical Abuse	3	18	2
S47 Sexual Abuse	4	7	1

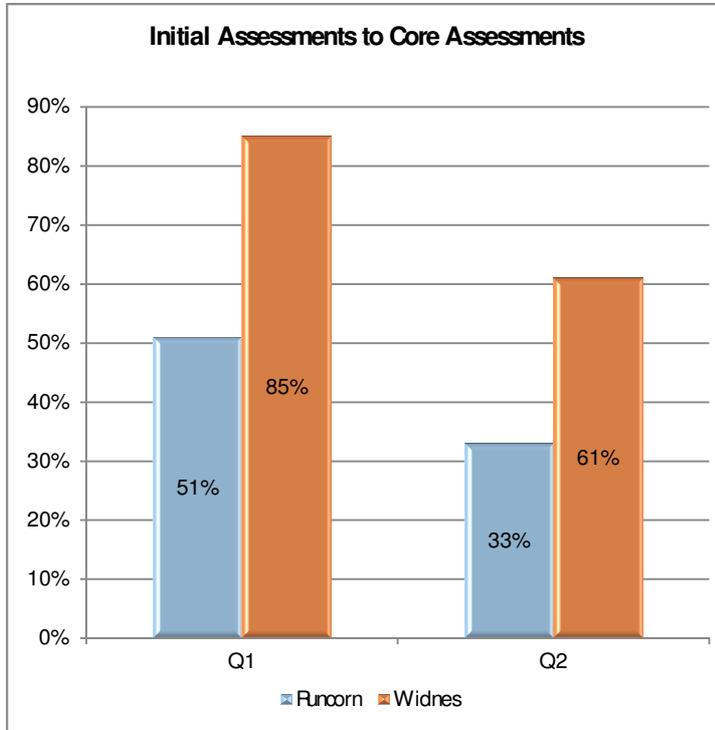
This table details of all of the referrals by presenting issue (grouped where possible) according to the team receiving the referral.

S17 Family Dysfunction accounts for the largest proportion for both Runcorn and Widnes.



This map details all of the referrals where there was a Halton postcode available and groups the count by ward according to the colour code and the star indicates the actual postcodes.

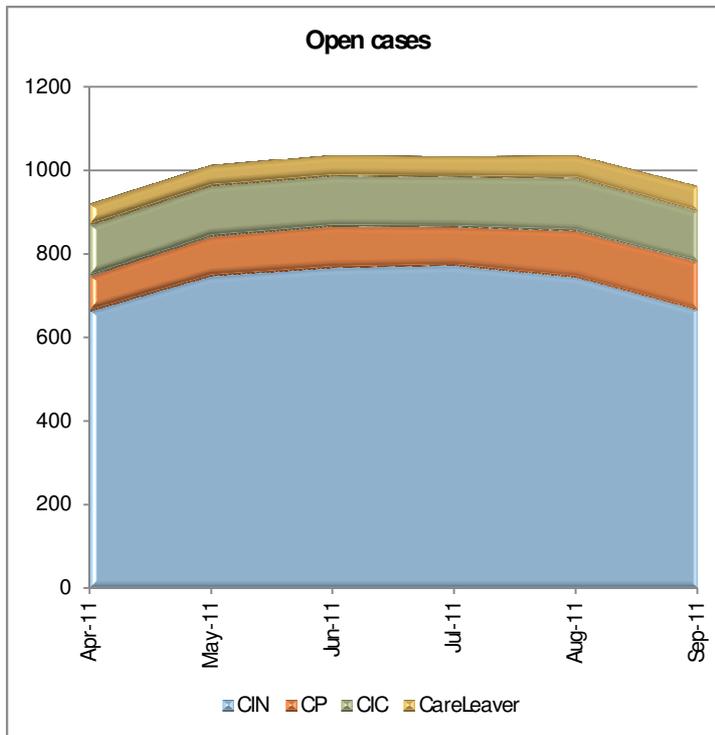
1.3 Initial Assessments and Core Assessments



This chart details the percentage of the Initial Assessments which led to Core Assessments during the quarter. Please note that as assessments are closed in retrospect this will increase the figures for Quarter 2.

Widnes has a higher percentage of Initial Assessments leading to Core Assessments across both quarters.

1.4 Children in Need population

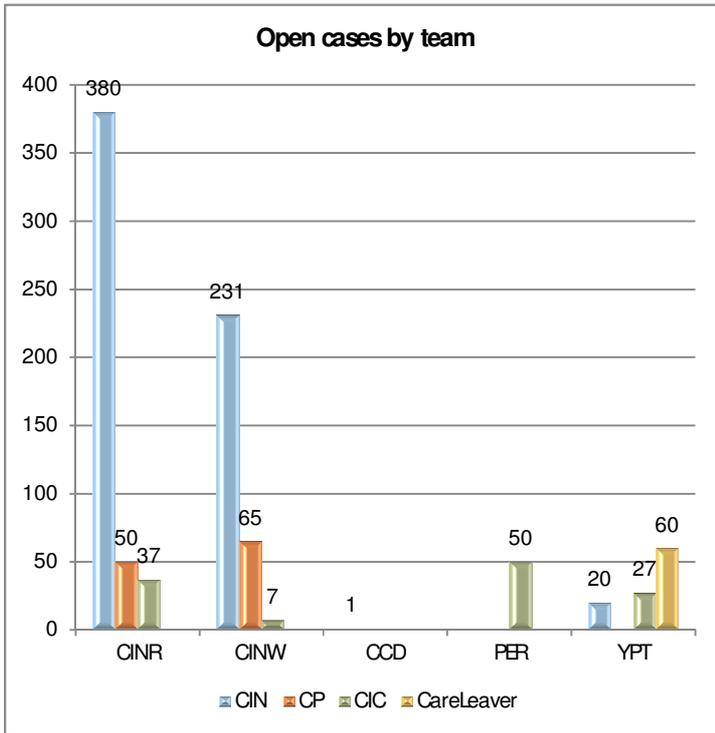


This chart details the open cases by type of case over the period 1st April 2011 to 30th September 2011.

The population of Children in Need (CIN) saw a slight increase during the period May to August. Over the period the average CIN population is 730 however the latest information as at the end of September sees the figure decrease to 680.

The number of Children in Care (CIC) has remained relatively stable throughout the period although the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has significantly increased from 84 at the start of the

period to 115 at 30th September 2011.



This chart details the breakdown of open cases by team by type of case from the data as at 30th September 2011.

CIN Runcorn team has a significantly higher caseload than that of CIN Widnes, specifically for Children in Need. There are a small number of Children in Need cases held within the Young Persons Team, however the majority are held by the Children in Need teams.



Report To:	HSCB Executive
Date:	22 nd November 2011
Author:	Tracey Holyhead, HSCB Business Manager
Report Title:	Revised Scope and Terms of Reference of Independent Research and Analysis of Referrals to Children's Social Care
Report Status	Final

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present to the Executive Board revised terms of reference for the independent research and analysis of the increase in referrals to Children's Social Care.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Executive Board considers the scope and terms of reference within this report.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Following the HSCB Chair's quarterly meeting with the HBC Chief Executive and the Lead Member for Children & Young People it was agreed that an analysis of referrals to Children's Social Care would be undertaken and reported to the Main Board meeting in September 2011.
- 3.2 A report on the analysis of referrals to Children's Social Care was presented to the Main Board by Vicky Buchanan, Divisional Manager Children in Need. The report recommended a more in depth piece of research be commissioned by the Board.
- 3.3 Following discussion at the Main Board it was agreed that the Board should commission research and that the Executive Board would agree the terms of reference and manage commissioning of the research.

4.0 Proposed Scope and Terms of Reference for Research to be Commissioned Analysing Referrals to Children's Social Care

- 4.1 Terms of reference:

- 4.2.1 In reference to the following strategic plans, needs assessments and case records
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment , Health & Wellbeing in Halton 2010-11
 - Children & Young People's Plan 2011-13

- State of the Borough Report 2010
- Contact, Referrals & Assessment Reports 2009-11
- Early Help & CAF Reports 2011
- Primary Care Provider Workforce Capacity Report 2010 -11
- Commissioned Services Report 2009-11
- Case Records

- 4.2.2 To examine the demographics of the borough over time to assess the impact this may have had on the identification of Children in Need and Children in need of Protection.
- 4.2.3 To examine the impact of any changes to the children's workforce and commissioned services and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.4 To examine and scrutinise the year on year increase of referrals to Children's Social Care of children under 5 years old to identify any themes or consistent issues and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.5 To examine why there is such a low percentage of cases referred to Children's Social Care that have had a robust early help plan around CAF or single agency assessments, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.6 To case track a selection of referrals to Children's Social Care to examine the child's journey to see whether there were any missed opportunities for intervention, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.7 To examine which agencies make referrals to Children's Social Care and which do not, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.8 To examine whether the increase in referrals reflects an increase in a particular need or category of abuse, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.9 To case track referrals to Children's Social Care Duty Team in order to identify why only 46% of Initial Assessments progress to a Core Assessment, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.
- 4.2.10 To examine the timeliness of decision making at the point of referral, and to look at the quality of information provided at referral, and to make recommendation to HSCB as to how practice and procedures should be improved.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th February 2012
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People & Families
SUBJECT:	Multi-Agency Transition Protocol
WARDS:	All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an opportunity for the Board to comment on the revised transition protocol.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy and Performance Board

- (1) Note, comment and endorse the revised Transition Protocol

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Strategic Transition Group oversees the implementation of the Multi-Agency Transition Strategy for Young People aged to 14-25. The Board endorsed the strategy on 21st February 2010. The Strategic Transition Group consists of representatives from; Adults Social Care, Children & Enterprise Directorate, NHS Halton, Riverside College, Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust, Transport Services, Housing Commissioning and Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership. The Strategy sets out very simply the domains in the transition from Children's to Adult services, what we are doing already and how we can improve.
- 3.2 The implementation of the Transition Strategy is supported by an action Plan and an important aspect of which is the need to revise the Transition Protocol. The Protocol sets out in more detail the critical milestones in transition and the procedure to be followed by all of the key agencies. The protocol also clarifies the wider operational governance arrangements.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Transition Protocol reflects national guidance on effective transition for young people and sets out the procedure to be followed by all agencies and partners.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This Strategy will ensure that the needs of children and young people are met.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

This protocol will ensure that young people's transition into adulthood is well managed and timely, thus enabling them the best opportunity to grow, learn new skills and secure employment.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

This Protocol will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable children and adults are met.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Transition is always the focus of any inspection in Children and Adult Social Care. Good, robust arrangements need to be in place to ensure that all services work together to support a young person moving into adulthood.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

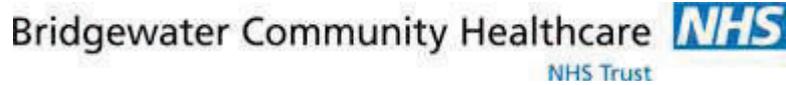
8.1 Young people who need to move through transition are some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded in the community. This Protocol seeks to ensure that they can participate in mainstream community life.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

December 2011

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Multi – Agency Transition Protocol 2011	Children & Enterprise 1 st Floor Chester Building Grosvenor House	Nigel Moorhouse



Halton Multi Agency Transition Protocol December 2011

An Inter-Agency Agreement between:

- Halton Borough Council
- Connexions
- Halton and St Helens PCT
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- 5 Boroughs Partnership

POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Document	Halton Multi Agency Transition Protocol
Reference Number	DCS/04
Service area	Children & Family Services Department
Target Audience	All Staff within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halton Borough Council • Connexions • Halton and St Helens PCT • Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust • 5 Boroughs Partnership
Forum Policy/Procedure/Strategy was approved	Halton Children's Trust Executive Group
Date policy was approved	29 th November 2011
Date policy is effective from	1 st December 2011
Date of review(s)	1 st December 2013
Status: Mandatory (all named staff must adhere to guidance) Optional (procedures and practice can vary between teams)	Mandatory
Location of Document	Halton Borough Council Intranet
Related document(s)	The Children Act 1989 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 Children in Care Policies and Procedures Children in Need Policies and Procedures HSCB Policies and Procedures Disabled Children's Service Policies and Procedures
Superseded document(s)	
Responsible officer(s)	Operational Director, Children and Family Services
Any other relevant information	

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1.0 WHAT IS TRANSITION?

- 1.1 Transition is the process that occurs when Young People move from Children's services to Adult's services. This involves physical, emotional and psychological developments that are coupled with changes to roles and relationships with family and friends, care staff and the wider community. For Young People who are disabled, opportunities have often been limited.
- 1.2 It is particularly important that all parents and carers of young people who are disabled understand the changes that will occur during this period of time and the processes that will be implemented to minimise the natural concerns and anxieties that accompany change.
- 1.3 Given the range of factors that will change during this time of transition, it is important that a multi-agency approach is taken and not just restricted to services provided by the Local Authority.
- 1.4 Central to achieving these positive outcomes is the need to ensure that young people are fully involved and participate in the planning process and are supported to have as much choice and control over their lives as possible.
- 1.5 The government report "**Improving Life Chances for Disabled People**" underlines the need to co-ordinate services and to fully involve people in planning life choices by setting the targets of:
 - By 2015 all disabled Young People and their families will experience continuity and coordination in the services they receive, as both Children and Adults.
 - By 2015 all Young People will have the opportunity to be fully involved in the personalised planning of their future activities and provision.

2.0 HOW IS TRANSITION MANAGED?

- 2.1 Strategic responsibility for Transition is managed through the Strategic Management Group. This group has representation from people in Strategic Management positions from all the partners signed up to this protocol. The terms of reference for this group can be found in **Appendix 1, Groups and Documentation**.
- 2.2 The Halton Transition Sub Group reports into the Strategic Management Group and the Adult Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, the Physical and Sensory Disabilities Local Implementation Team, the 14-19 Strategic Partnership, and includes representatives from the Communities Directorate, Children and Enterprise Directorate, Connexions, The Young People's Learning Agency, Health Service Staff, Education Department and Self Advocacy Group. The terms of

reference for this group can be found in **Appendix 1, Groups and Documentation**.

- 2.3 Halton Transition Tracking Panel meets once in each school term to co-ordinate the reviewing process and to track the educational progress of individuals. Any issues resulting from these meetings is fed into the Operational Managers' Group and the Division of Inclusive Learning. The terms of reference and membership for this group can be found in **Appendix 1, Groups and Documentation**.
- 2.4 Transition Operational Managers Group meets every month to discuss Young People who are disabled and who may meet the eligibility criteria of Halton Borough Council's Fair Access to Care services, and track them through their Transition into Adult Services. The terms of reference and membership for this group can be found in **Appendix 1, Groups and Documentation**.
- 2.5 Halton has one Transition Co-ordinator whose role is to work in partnership with Health, Social Care, Education and Connexions, to provide information about services and future options to Schools, Young People and families and to adopt a person centred approach to Transition Planning. The Transition Co-ordinator will attend 14+ reviews and compile information as necessary to inform service development, including distributing key information through a spreadsheet via the Operational Managers' Meetings every month. Transition work, with an education focus, is also undertaken by the Specialist Teacher for Transition, within the SEN Service and Division of Inclusive Learning

3.0 WHO DOES THIS PROTOCOL APPLY TO?

- 3.1 This Protocol applies to those Young People who have a disability and have special educational needs (SEN), and who may meet the eligibility criteria of Halton Borough Council's Fair Access to Care Services Framework
- 3.2 Indicators of eligibility include Young People resident in Halton who:
 - Have a Statement of Special Education Needs and have been assessed as having severe learning difficulties and/or autism or a physical or sensory disability. This may include Children and Young People who are Win receipt of School Action Plus Enhanced Provision.
 - Receive a service from the Children's Social Care and/or Disabled Children's Service.
 - Are "Children in Care" and have a Statement of Special Education Needs identifying them as having severe and /or complex learning disabilities or physical disability.

- Have severe and enduring mental health problems.

3.3 There may be some Young People who are not assessed as having special educational needs but who may need some support in planning for and adapting to adult life because of their impairment e.g. Young People with Asperger Syndrome who may be classified as high functioning and outside the statutory responsibilities for statementing. These Young People may need referring to Connexions and Education and Leisure services to ensure that they are connected with resources in the community.

3.4 In terms of eligibility for both adults' and children's Health services, this includes those registered with a Halton GP. School health staff will meet the needs of all students within the school, including those who live out of the area, while they are in the school.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

4.1 Eligibility for Community Care services within Adults' Social Care will be in accordance with Halton Borough Council's Communities Directorate **"Fair Access to Care Services Policy Eligibility for Adult Care Services" Revised March 2010.**

4.2 Adults who are assessed as needing services will also have a financial assessment in accordance with Halton's Fairer Charging Policy. This is to determine whether they need to make a financial contribution to the services they will receive.

4.3 Young People who require a Continuing HealthCare Needs Assessment will be assessed by their 17th birthday.

5.0 PERSON CENTRED PLANNING

5.1 **Valuing People Now** requires local agencies to facilitate person centred plans for Young People with a Learning Disability moving between Children's and Adult's services. The guidance states that these plans should be separate from Social Work assessments, which look at levels of need and eligibility for services.

5.2 The opportunity to have a Person Centred Plan will be discussed at the Year 9 Transition Review and Schools will introduce Person Centred Approaches. The School Nurse will initiate the Health Action Plan at this time. Halton Speak Out have been commissioned by one of the schools to complete all year 9 reviews in a person centred way, and have delivered training to a number of other schools to enable their staff to complete year 9 reviews in a person centred way.

- 5.3 The importance of Person Centred Planning is recognised for all Young People from 14-18 Years. All young people with complex needs currently have their Child in Need Planning meetings facilitated in a person centred way through Halton Speak Out.

6.0 TRANSITION TIMETABLE

- 6.1 Transition plans, for those pupils that have Statements of Special Educational Needs, are drawn up and monitored through the statutory annual review process, which are arranged by both mainstream and special schools. Detailed guidance for this reviewing process can be found in the [Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. \(DfES 2001\)](#) The Annual Review process is monitored both by the SEN Assessment Team and the SEN Service.

Year 9 (Age 13/14)

- 6.2 This is the start of the formal Transition process. The annual review in Year 9 is the Transition Review. The Transition Co-ordinator will provide an Information Pack to Parents/Carers. This pack will contain information regarding social and leisure opportunities, post School options, money matters and the roles and responsibilities of all the agencies involved in Transition Planning. An accessible version will also be available.
- 6.3 The review is called by School and must be attended by:
- The Young Person and their family or chosen representative.
 - School Staff.
 - The Transition Co-ordinator.
 - Connexions Advisor.
 - SEN Team representative
 - Relevant Health Staff (School Nurse plus any therapists involved)
- 6.4 The following should attend if involved
- Children's Social Worker or Community Support Worker.
 - If the Young Person is not currently involved with Children's Social Care or the Disabled Children's Service then the Transition Co-ordinator will ascertain whether the Young Person needs any involvement and if necessary facilitate a referral.
 - Person Centred Planner.
- 6.5 Following the Transition Review:
- The Transition Plan will be completed and should cover the Young Person's aims and aspirations for the future, the options that may be available to the Young Person as they prepare to leave School and the support the Young Person may need as they prepare to leave School and when they have left School. This will be reviewed

annually. Schools take responsibility for writing and holding the Transition Plan.

- Connexions staff will begin their assessment process to contribute to their Section 139A assessment.
- Health staff who are present at the review will give consideration to whether the Young Person needs any therapeutic involvement or if any further referrals need to be made.

Year 10 (Age 14/15)

- 6.6 The relevant School will inform the Transition Co-ordinator of review dates. These dates may coincide with Children's Social Care reviews and this will be discussed in the Tracking meeting. Where a Young Person has a designated Social Worker or Community Support Worker from Children's services the Transition Co-ordinator will inform the worker of the date of the review. Relevant health professionals will be invited to the review by school staff.
- 6.7 The Transition Plan will be reviewed, as per the SEN Code of Practice
- 6.8 The Transition Co-ordinator will ensure that Adult Services and partners are notified of Young People in Transition with significant care needs, through the Transition Operational Managers Group. The Transition Co-ordinator will update the spreadsheet to inform future commissioning for both Social Care and Health. The purpose of this is to flag up any particularly complex cases and to appraise the commissioners of any future issues/planning that will be needed to ensure these Young People's needs will be met when they become adults.

Year 11 (Age 15/16)

- 6.9 The relevant School will inform the Transition Co-ordinator of review dates. These dates may coincide with Children's Social Care reviews and this will be discussed in the Tracking meeting. Where a Young Person has a designated worker from a Children's Social Work team the Transition Co-ordinator will inform the worker of the date of the review.
- 6.10 The Transition Plan will be reviewed, as per the SEN Code of Practice
- 6.11 If the Young Person is leaving School in the next academic year, school and Connexions staff will ensure Young Person has visited college to have taster days if they are progressing to college.
- 6.12 If the Young Person is leaving School in the next academic year Connexions staff will complete a Section 139A assessment, as per the SEN Code of Practice.
- 6.13 If the Young Person is leaving School in the next academic year, their final School Health Review (Health Action Plan) should be completed

by either the consultant paediatrician or the school nurse, and made available and a copy should be given to the Young Person/family and shared with GP if consent is given for this.

Year 12 (Age 16/17)

- 6.14 Young People who have left School will be monitored by their post 16-education provider; otherwise Schools will arrange reviews as above.
- 6.15 If Young Person attending college has significant health needs, college staff will invite relevant health professionals to the review. If not, health needs will be met by community health services, including GP.
- 6.16 Discussions will take place at the Transition Operational Managers group regarding the appropriate timing of Adult Services' involvement in individual cases, but usually referrals are made by Young Person's 17th birthday. **Appendix 1 Groups and Documentation.**
- 6.17 Where the Young Person has a Social Worker or a Community Support Worker they will initiate the referral, if they do not have a Social Worker or a Community Support Worker this will be the responsibility of the Transition Co-ordinator.
- 6.16 When a Young Person reaches the age of 16 their financial position may change in a number of ways depending on individual circumstances:
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – if this has been claimed on behalf of a Young Person they are now eligible to claim it in their own right.
 - Some Young People may be able to access Incapacity Benefit and/or Income support. Due to the complexity of these issues, following review a referral will be made to the welfare rights team to ensure that all Young People are in receipt of the correct benefits.

Year 13 (Age 17/18)

- 6.17 Where a Young Person is still educated within a School setting, the annual review process will take place as outlined above.
- 6.18 For Young People who have significant identified social care and/or health needs, and who are likely to receive a service from Adult Services the following will apply:
- The Children's Social Worker will complete a referral and forward it to their line manager and the transition co-ordinator by the young person's 17th birthday (or earlier if YP has particularly complex needs). The Transition Co-ordinator will ensure a referral goes on to the system for the appropriate Adult Team.
 - Once an Adult worker is allocated they will complete an assessment of need in line with **Fair Access to Care Services**. The relevant

Children's Social Care staff will help to facilitate this assessment by providing introductions and information as necessary. Applications should be submitted to the relevant funding panel prior to the Young Persons 18th birthday even though funding responsibility will not begin until that date.

- If the Young Person has a learning disability, the Transition co-ordinator will complete a referral to the Adult Community Learning Disability Nurses if required to complete eligibility assessment and complete Health Action Plan if required.
- For young people with Learning Disabilities, the Adult Community Learning Disability Nurse will liaise with child health services to establish if there are current or planned interventions that are ongoing or required in preparation for early adulthood. This will promote a multidisciplinary/multi agency approach.
- If the Young Person has complex health needs, consideration will be given to Continuing Healthcare Funding, and the adult social worker should complete a CHC checklist and liaise with CHC team as soon as possible, prior to their 17th birthday. Consideration should also be given to a referral to the Community Matron service if appropriate.
- For those young people who use specialist and adaptive equipment to enhance their function, independence or quality of life, child health services will review that equipment in preparation for early adulthood. This is crucial, as some specialist equipment that was funded for their needs as children is not subsequently funded in adult life.
- Adult services representatives will attend the final Child in Need or Child in Care review which will be a handover meeting. Transfer of funding and case management responsibility will begin on the Young Person's 18th birthday.
- If an Adult Services panel agrees to the provision of services then the social worker will make a referral to the Welfare Rights Service. They will complete a benefits check to look at any changes in income that may occur as the Young Person reaches 18 and a Fairer Charging Assessment to determine the level of financial contribution that the Young Person must make to services received once they become 18.

Year 14 (Age 18/19)

- 6.19 The final School Health Review (Health Action Plan) will be available to the Principal Managers of the Adult Learning Disability Team, the Physical and Sensory Disability Team and the Community Mental Health Team, to inform future Health needs.
- 6.20 For young people with a learning disability, the Adult Community Learning Disability Nurse will liaise with child health and paediatric therapy services to establish if there are ongoing interventions that are likely to need to be transferred to adult health services nursing and therapists. Where necessary, referrals will be made to the appropriate

adult health service provider, so that any joint working and phased transfer of ongoing intervention required can be facilitated.

- 6.21 Connexions staff will complete a Section 139A Assessment for Young People who are remaining in education.
- 6.22 College link courses will continue but where applicable other Young People will link to other resources e.g. day services, and/or referrals to the Community Bridge Building Team and Health Trainers to identify opportunities to build independence, maintain and improve health and access employment opportunities if possible.

Age 18 – 25

- 6.23 Some Young People with special educational needs remain at School until they are 19. College link courses will continue but where applicable other Young People will link to other resources e.g. day services and/or referrals to the Community Bridge Building Team and Health Trainers to identify opportunities to build independence, maintain and improve health and access employment opportunities if possible
- 6.24 Adults aged over 18 are entitled to assessment of need following the Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria. Following assessment, application may be made to fund services.
- 6.25 All adults in receipt of a service from an Adult Social Care Team will have a minimum of an annual review to determine continued eligibility for a service.
- 6.26 Connexions can provide advice and guidance to Young People up to the age of 25 years. A small number of Children who were “Children in Care” are entitled to ongoing support under the **Children Leaving Care Act (2000)**. This support will include the provision of a Personal Advisor to offer advice and guidance and will be provided by the Young People’s Team
- 6.27 If young people aged 18 or over have not been included in the transition process as described above for any reason and professionals/parents/young people feel they may meet the criteria for adults’ services, they can refer them for an assessment through Halton Council’s Contact Centre on 0151 907 8306. If the outcome of the assessment is that someone is eligible for services from Adult Social Care they will be met by either the Adult Learning Disabilities Team (ALD), the Physical and Sensory Disabilities Team (PSD) or the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). For Young People with Learning Disabilities who may require services from ALD Health Team, including LD nurse, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Psychologist, these are also accessed through Halton Council’s Contact Centre on 0151 907 8306.

7.0 REQUESTS FOR INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST PROVIDERS

- 7.1 Where a Young Person's Learning Difficulty Assessment identifies that there is no suitable local provision available, the referring agency will complete a Placement Request Form on behalf of the young person and supply supporting evidence to the nominated Local Authority Placement Officer within the 14-19 Team. A Placement Panel Meeting will be held to consider all available evidence against the criteria set out in the Placement Information from the Young Persons Learning Agency. The nominated Local Authority Placement Officer will write to all interested parties confirming the decision.
- 7.2 Where the cost of specialist provision is likely to involve a contribution from Children's Social Care or Health Services, representatives from the relevant teams will be fully involved in the decision making and referral process.

8.0 NEW AND UNEXPECTED ENTRIES TO THE SYSTEM

- 8.1 These may occur, for example as a result of people moving home, or as a result of a Young Person acquiring an enduring injury during the transition phase. New entries to the system will be highlighted in the Termly Tracking Meetings, and the Transition Operational Managers Group.

9.0 OUT OF BOROUGH SCHOOLS

- 9.1 A small number of pupils are educated in out of borough Schools. The above procedure will still apply, including the link course to Riverside College where appropriate. These young people are reviewed and monitored by the Specialist teacher for Transition, within the SEN Service.
- 9.2 Connexions advisors in Halton (Home authority) will liaise with Connexions advisors in the host authority to ensure that the APIR process and S139A assessments and Skills Funding Agency applications are completed.

APPENDIX 1

GROUPS AND DOCUMENTATION

1.0 HALTON TRANSITION SUB GROUP

1.1 This group meets every two months. Membership consists of:

- Communities Directorate,
- Children and Enterprise Directorate
- Adult and Paediatric Health Services
- Connexions- SEN inclusion Adviser
- Special Schools
- Riverside College
- Halton Speak Out
- Carers
- 14-19 team (co-chair)
- SEN Team (Inclusion 0-25) (co-chair)

1.2 The terms of reference of the group are:

Aims

- The overall aim of the Transition Sub Group is to build local capacity to enable Halton learners with a learning difficulty or disability (LDD) to access provision that meets their needs. There will be a focus on equipping young adults to enter the workplace and/or to become as independent as possible in adult life
- The group will act as a forum for all partners involved in the transition of young people with LDD from the age of 14 until they leave full time education or training up to the age of 25. The LDD cohort will include young people with a learning difficulty, physical or sensory difficulty, ASD, communication difficulty and emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

Main Objectives

- Roles and responsibilities – the group will clarify the roles and responsibilities of each organisation involved in transition and provide a forum for monitoring protocols, policies, timelines and information sharing agreements.
- Identifying needs and planning – the group will use data gathered by the tracking panel, SEN reports from Year 9 and Connexions LDD NEET to make recommendations regarding provision and services. The group will also identify local training needs arising from the data to support providers and highlight any gaps in provision.
- Quality Framework– the group will provide a forum to discuss recommendations following quality checks on assessments including Section 139a Reports/Learning for Living and Work Documentation.
- Communication – the group will provide feedback to Partnership Boards and the 14 – 19 Partnership Group on recommendations made

by the Sub Group and monitor any work relating to transition undertaken by these Boards.

- Information – the group will produce and monitor information for parents/carers, young people and agencies on the transition process and support available.

Actions

- Produce clear information on the roles and responsibilities of each organisation involved in transition. This will be linked to guidance set out in transition policy documents.
- Produce a clear transition timeline based on these roles and responsibilities to aid local college assessments.
- Carry out an audit of information and policies and procedures relating to transition. This will highlight any gaps and provide details on information that needs updating.
- Provide LDD NEET analysis to help inform provision
- Provide Quality Reports on Section 139a Assessments

2.0 HALTON TRANSITION TRACKING PANEL

2.1 This group meets once every School term. The membership consists of:

- SEN representative (Chair)
- Transition Co-ordinator
- Communities Directorate
- Children and Enterprise Directorate,
- Adult and Paediatric Health Services
- Connexions
- Special Schools
- Riverside College.

2.2 The terms of reference of the group are:

- To co-ordinate reviewing processes and where possible, to incorporate transition and post transition reviews with Children's Social Care reviews or planning meetings. Ref: [SEN Code of Practice 2001 section 9.6](#)
- To identify any new or unexpected entries to transition.
- To discuss progress of individuals, possibly to facilitate further referrals or allocate tasks to individual School, Children's Social Worker or Health staff.
- To highlight examples of good practice or complaints issues which can be fed back as learning to the Transition Sub-Group.
- To improve clarity of expectations and communication to families from Children's and Adult's Services.
- To feed back any relevant information to Operational Managers Group

3.0 TRANSITION OPERATIONAL MANAGERS GROUP

3.1 This group meets every Month. The membership consists of:

- Transition Co-ordinator (Chair)
- Adult Health Manager
- Connexions
- SEN service (Inclusion 0-25)
- Manager of 14-19 service
- Manager of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Team Leader of Children's Community Nursing service
- Principal and/or Practice Managers of:
 - Adult Learning Disability Team (ALD)
 - Physical and Sensory Disability Team (PSD)
 - Adult Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT)
 - Young People's Team (YPT)
 - Permanence Team
 - Disabled Children's Service (DCS)
 - Child in Need Teams (1 representative from 3 Childcare Teams)
 - Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS)

3.2 **The terms of reference for this group are:**

- To identify and plan for the needs of Young People who are likely to meet eligibility criteria for Adults' social care and/or Health services
- Track the Young People through Transition and inform the commissioning Strategy of services received.
- Early identification of Young People who may be assessed for Adult Social Care
- Forum for sharing information and fostering good working relationships.
- Forum to discuss relevant issues which can be fed up to Strategic Management Group if/when required

4.0 STRATEGIC TRANSITION MANAGEMENT GROUP

4.1 **This group meets bi-monthly. The membership consists of:**

- Operational Director – Children & Families Services, Children and Enterprise Directorate, HBC – Chair
- Divisional Manager – Team Around the Family, Children and Enterprise Directorate, HBC
- Divisional Manager – Assessment Services, Communities Directorate, HBC
- Divisional Manager – Inclusive Learning, Children & Young People Directorate, HBC
- Divisional Manager – Independent Living Services, HBC
- Transition Co-ordinator – HBC
- Specialist teacher for Transitions - HBC
- Head of Children, Family and Maternity Services Commissioning, Halton & St Helens PCT

- Senior Commissioning Manager, Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust
- 5Boroughs Partnership – Assistant Director, Children Therapy Services
- Area Connexions Manager

4.2 **The terms of reference for this group are:**

- To develop and implement a multi-agency transition strategy for young people with complex needs.
- Ensure robust multi-agency planning for transition for young people with complex needs that includes the involvement of young people and their families and influences relevant commissioning strategies.
- To monitor and review the implementation of the action plan of the multi agency strategy for transition and relevant protocols.
- To develop impact and outcome measures that demonstrate continuous improvement.
- Ensure that there is a strategic link with the EHMWB strategy for children and young people.
- To monitor transition arrangements.

APPENDIX 2

TRANSITION CONTACT LIST

MEMBER	LOCATION	CONTACT NUMBER
Principal Manager Disabled Children Service	Peelhouse Family Centre	0151 420 8130
Principal Manager ALD	John Briggs House	0151 907 8306
Practice Manager ALD	John Briggs House	0151 907 8306
Principal Manager PSD	John Briggs House	01928 704496
Practice Manager PSD	John Briggs House	01928 704447
Transition Co-ordinator	John Briggs House / Peelhouse Family Centre	0151 907 8306/ 0151 420 7767
Head of Learning Disability Service	The Bridges Learning Centre	0151 495 5302
Principal/Practice Manager YPT	Midwood House	0151 471 7396
Principal/Practice Manager PLC	Midwood House	01928 704313
Principal/Practice Manager CMHT	St Johns Unit	0151 422 6800
Adult Health Service Worker	The Bridges Learning Centre	0151 495 5302
Manager 14-19 Team HBC	Grosvenor House	01928 704416
Director of Student Services	Riverside College	0151 257 2077
Young Person's Project Worker	Halton Speak Out	01928 588526
SEN Assessment Team (Inclusion 0-25)	Grosvenor House	01928 704350
Teacher & School Nurse	Chesnut Lodge School	0151 424 0679
Teacher & School Nurse	Ashley School	0151 424 4892
Teacher & School Nurse	Cavendish School	01928 561706
Child Health Service Worker	Woodview Child Development Centre	0151 495 5400
Divisional Manager Assessment Services	John Briggs House	0151 471 7640
Operational Manager Specialist Services C&YPD	Grosvenor House	0151 906 4846
Divisional Manager Inclusive Learning C&ED	Grosvenor House	0151 906 4850
Divisional Manager Independent Living Services	John Briggs House	0151 906 4847
Assistant Director Children & Learning Disability Service (5BP)	Hollins Park	01925 664829
Assistant Director, Child & Family Health, Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust		0151 495 5022
Connexions Area Manager	Connexions Office, Runcorn	01928 706000
Head of Child and Family Health Commissioning Halton & St Helens PCT	Victoria House	01928 593701
Commissioning Manager (Adults' services) Halton & St Helens PCT	Victoria House	01928 593635

APPENDIX 3

TRANSITION PROCESS FLOW CHART

Stage 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 9 (Age 13/14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transition Information Pack is provided to Parents and Carers • The Transition Plan is completed • The Young Person and family are offered a Person Centred Plan • Connexions Review process started • Referrals made for therapeutic involvement.
Stage 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 10 (Age 14/15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Plan is reviewed • Transition Co-ordinator will ensure Adult Services are notified of Y.P with Complex Needs
Stage 3	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 11 (Age 15/16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Plan reviewed • Section 139A completed (If applicable) • Final School Health Review (Health Action Plan) completed and made available (if applicable)
Stage 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 12 (Age 16/17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate timing of Adult Services' involvement in individual cases discussed at Transition Operational Managers group • Referral for financial matters (where appropriate)
Stage 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 13 (Age 17/18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Co-ordinator to give referral to appropriate Adult Team • Allocated Adult worker to complete assessment • Introductions and information from Children's Social Work Team/Disabled Children's Service • Adult worker to attend the final Child in Need or Child in Care review for handover • Transfer of funding and case management begins on Young Person's 18th birthday • Welfare Rights Service referral made • Application to specialist college made (where appropriate) • Health Action Plan received
Stage 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 14 (Age 18/19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final School Health Review (Health Action Plan) completed and made available • S139A completed (If applicable)

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 February 2012
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT:	Young Carers Scrutiny Topic
WARDS:	All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Board on the progress made regarding Young Carers since this topic last came to the Board on 31 October 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The contents of the report, strategy and action plan are noted;
- (2) The new Young Carers Strategy and action plan are endorsed as a piece of work that reflects the issues raised during the scrutiny process and views of young carers.
- (3) The issue of young carers is brought back to the Board in twelve months to review progress and any further developments

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The topic for young carers was a subject to scrutiny between September 2010 and July 2011. This was because young carers are a vulnerable group given their family circumstances, and they could be defined as 'children in need' as defined within the Children Act 1989, especially when their caring role inhibits the experience and usual development of childhood.
- 3.2 The scrutiny process consisted of Members and Officers within Children and Families Services. Members were Cllr Mark Dennett; Cllr Kath Loftus; Cllr Margaret Horabin, Cllr Joan Lowe; Cllr Mike Fry; and Cllr Peter Browne. Officers were Nigel Moorhouse (Operational Director); Emma Taylor (Divisional Manager); and Tracey Dean (Principal Manager).
- 3.3 Findings of the scrutiny process were highlighted within the October 2011 report and included information regarding:
- (i) Current staffing arrangements and structures regarding young carers
 - (ii) Commissioned services for young carers
 - (iii) Governance arrangements

- (iv) Performance issues
 - (v) Partnership arrangements between Children's and Communities' Directorates
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Group process highlighted a number of positive factors, in particular the work being undertaken regarding young carers and the positive impact this is having on young carers and their families. Increased joint working between Communities and Children and Enterprise was also recognised.
- 3.5 The process also raised a number of areas for further development:
- (i) **Service provision**- young carers' vulnerability means that early help services need to continue to support them and prevent their needs from escalating;
 - (ii) **Strategy**: this needed reviewing due to staff structure changes. Also, the strategy needed to reflect HBC's model of early help;
 - (iii) **Participation**: HBC needs to ensure that the systems in place to ensure meaningful participation from young carers, especially regarding effectiveness of services and future delivery. They need to feel they are being listened to and can see change happen.

Progress to date

- 3.6 Since October 2011, a new Young Carers strategy has been written, along with an action plan to track progress. Whilst this was led by Children and Families Department, it was written in conjunction with colleagues from Communities Directorate; Commissioning; and current providers.
- 3.7 Most importantly, young carers themselves were fully involved in the strategy. Facilitated by a voluntary organisation, they were supported to study the strategy and comment on the eight key areas of work identified to implement the strategy. Their response to this exercise is attached as an appendix.
- 3.8 The scrutiny process helped highlight the need for a clearer model and pathway to services. This has now been reviewed and a new pathway to a range of services for young carers will be implemented on 1 April 2012. One key factor includes a single point of entry for young carers to access support and the availability of a continuum of help for them and their families.
- 3.9 Another key area of progress has been the re-establishment of the '*Memorandum of Understanding*' between Communities and Children and Enterprise Directorates. The memorandum is a regional document, recognising that both Directorates should work closely together when dealing with young carers. A holistic approach is required, whether a professional is working with the adult(s) or children, to ensure young carers' needs are met effectively. The scrutiny process helped to do

this, with representatives from both Directorates working jointly to review current services and work with young carers themselves to help plan services for 2012-2013.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is a range of legislation that give HBC statutory responsibilities towards young carers and their families, eg Children Act 1989; Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004; Services for Young Carers: A Framework.
- 4.3 The National Carers strategy (June 2008) highlighted the need for extended planned breaks for carers and the need for greater engagement with carers and more effective joint working between agencies.
- 4.4 Young Carers have a right to an assessment of their own needs as a carer and to have their views taken into account (Carers Recognition and Services act 1995). They are also entitled to assistance and support to engage in education and employment (Carers Equal opportunities Act 2004).
- 4.5 An outcome of this legislation is the new Young Carers strategy. It links strongly with Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers (2009-2012) within Communities Directorate, whilst highlighting young carers in their own right. The overriding objectives of the strategy is to ensure that young carers are enabled to reach their full potential and access the help they need via appropriate local services.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The key issue at this point is to ensure that the new strategy is implemented with clear arrangements in place to monitor and track progress. The other issue is the development of new service specifications for future services. These need to ensure that services next year fully reflect the views of young carers, as well as being cost effective and deliverable.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

It is the Children's Trust priority that outcomes for children and young people improve via access to early help and support services and effective joint commissioning of services locally. Services need to be targeted effectively to ensure that outcomes improve for the children and families with the greatest need. The strategy for young carers highlights all these priorities and focuses on the need to offer early help for young carers and their families to help prevent their needs escalating and more specialist interventions becoming necessary.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

All young carers have the right to continue their education and access further training or employment when they leave school. Their caring responsibilities should not restrict or prevent them from achieving their full potential. This is a significant element of the new strategy.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Young carers are entitled to enjoy healthy lives, both physically and emotionally. Caring responsibilities can affect a young person’s health in many ways. Emotional health and wellbeing is another key element of the strategy, highlighting that HBC needs to work alongside health partners to help prevent long term health problems for young carers.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Young carers need to feel safe and secure whilst undertaking their caring responsibilities. There are potential safeguarding issues- ‘hidden harm’ is a particular issue. The strategy ensures that clear processes are in place and adhered to; and that potential safeguarding issues are considered jointly by Children and Enterprise and Communities Directorates.

6.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal: There are no implications here.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The overriding risk is the risk is that future success of the new strategy will depend on availability of funding both from Communities and Children and Enterprise Directorates. Improving outcomes for young carers will depend on early help services being available in order to help prevent young carers’ needs escalating, leaving them more vulnerable to more intrusive interventions (ie statutory services).

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

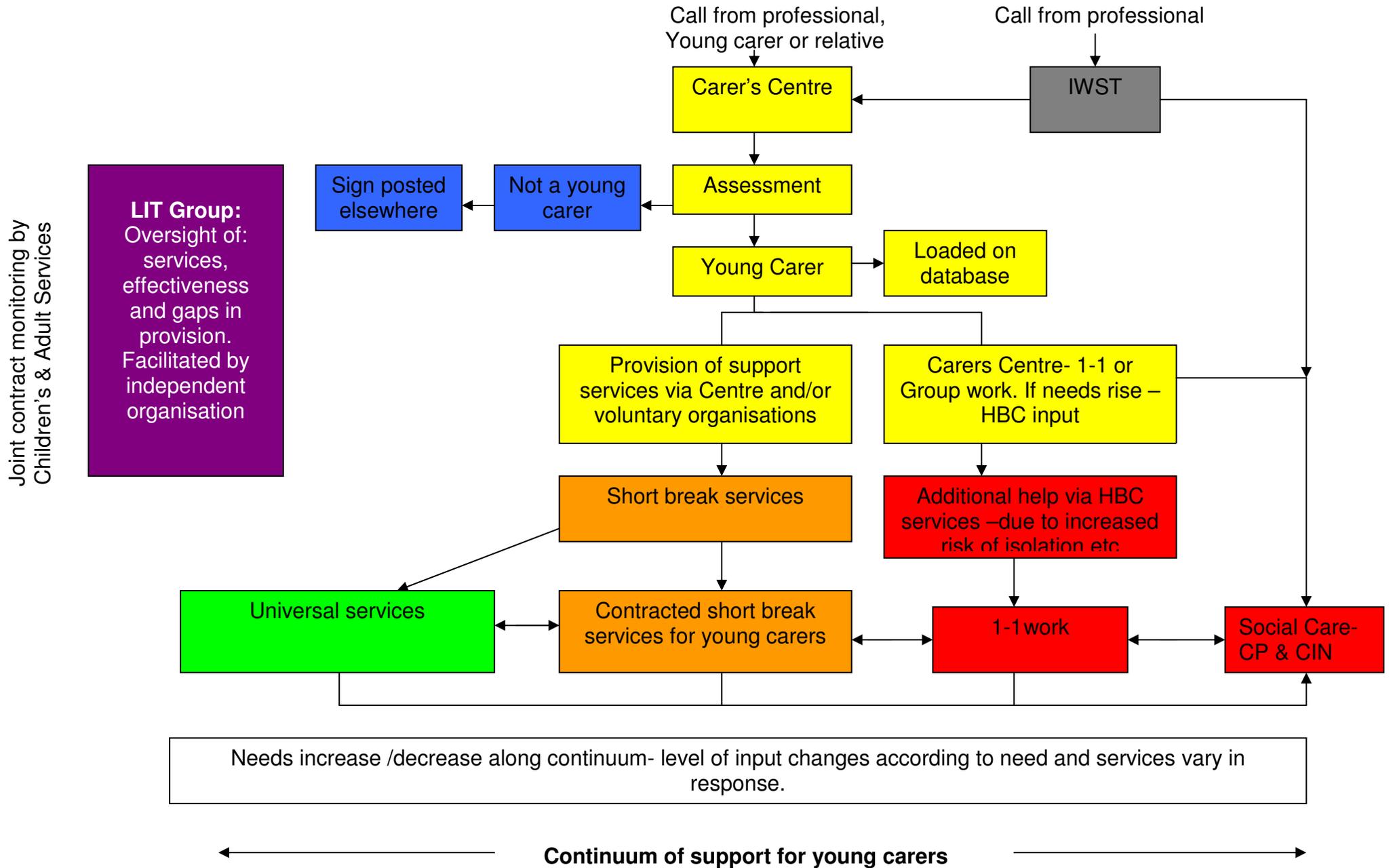
8.1 The new Strategy will ensure that the needs of young carers in the Borough will be addressed due to their vulnerability. The strategy recognises this fact and the action plan highlights key areas where agencies need to work together to ensure they are not disadvantaged because of their caring role.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Memorandum of Understanding	Grosvenor House	Emma Taylor Divisional Manager

Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers 2009-2012	Runcorn Town Hall	Leigh Hammad, Policy Officer
Carer Equal Opportunities Act 2004	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/15/contents	
National Carers Strategy	http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/07/carers-strategy/	

Young Carers Model – Up to 18 years



THE YOUNG CARERS' STRATEGY FOR HALTON

DRAFT

January 2012-2014



Summary

Young carers are a particularly vulnerable group within our Borough. This is because they can often be difficult to identify; in order to keep their family together a characteristic can be that their home lives are kept hidden and they keep quiet about their circumstances, often through concern over what may happen to their family if anyone finds out about their caring role. Subsequently, young carers could become children in need themselves, requiring a range of support services to protect them from potential future harm.

Young carers are therefore a priority within Halton for all agencies and this strategy presents a multi agency vision, agreed by young carers themselves, whereby all identified, known and potential young carers are able to reach their full potential in life. It highlights the needs of young carers, with the aim of ensuring that they all have access to projects/services which can provide support for their emotional and personal needs and social and educational development. It encourages agencies to work with families, supporting them to reduce the amount of inappropriate care that a child/young person provides to any family member. In implementing this vision we will ensure that:

- Every young person who is potentially a young carer will receive the help and support they need to ensure they can make informed choices regarding their caring responsibilities and any potential impact upon them. These choices are not a “once in a lifetime decision” but are reviewed with the young person on a regular basis as part of any support plan for them or the cared for person.
- Professionals recognise that young carers are entitled to be children and young people first and ensure access to, or make provision for, young carers to have the time and opportunity to pursue leisure activities, have fun and personal development opportunities.
- Every young carer receives a range of timely, practical and emotional support to help them manage their caring role, ensuring they do not have to take on tasks or responsibilities inappropriate to their age or understanding.
- Support and information will be accessible and will recognise and respect their caring role and any specific cultural needs they may have
- Every young carer has the opportunity to extend and fulfil his or her potential and receive sufficient support to enable them to attend school regularly and benefit from the opportunities offered to all young people at their school, college or other education provision.
- All agencies raise awareness through strategies to profile the needs of young carers and ensure that they tailor their work with adult service users to minimise the burden on young carers.

The Children Act 1989 places a statutory obligation on agencies to work together to support and improve the life chances of all children, including those in a caring role. A holistic approach to the identification and assessment of need is crucial so that young carers’ needs can be met:

- (i) agencies should ensure that the health needs of young carers are identified and met. The impact of their role on their own health could include anxiety or depression, eating disorders, self harm, or use of alcohol or drugs.
- (ii) young carers should be protected in their home, school and community. They may experience bullying at school because of the care they provide at home, or because they have a disabled sibling.

- (iii) young carers often miss out on their schooling because of their caring role at home. Schools should ensure that there is no consequences for a child who regularly does not hand their homework in, is late for lessons, or misses school. Sensitive discussions and enquiries may be necessary to ensure their caring role is not adversely impacting on their education.
- (iv) young carers should be encouraged and supported to make a positive contribution to society through school, leisure and their family. This means agencies need to consider ways of supporting the family to reduce the hours of caring for the young carer.
- (v) young carers should not miss the opportunity to gain meaningful employment - which may include part-time/Saturday work when they are still in education, or full-time employment on the completion of their education. Support to achieve all the above aims will contribute to this final aim.

The document highlights the joint working taking place, and further work needed, between Halton's Communities Directorate and Children and Enterprise Directorate in respect of Young carers. The 2 Directorates have a duty to meet the needs of carers in Halton, whether they are an adult or a child. Therefore the strategy stands alongside and complements the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers (2009-12), as well as the Children and Young People Plan (revised 2011). Offering a range of help and support is a statutory requirement for Adult's and Children's Services and the majority of these are adult carers. However, the needs of Young Carers cannot be overlooked and therefore this strategy is a separate document, although inextricably linked to the Halton's overarching Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers (2009 – 2012).

The strategy recognises the need to ensure that resources are available to enable young carers to take their place in the community with confidence. The action plan covers these areas so that colleagues across statutory and voluntary agencies are aware of their responsibilities regarding young carers.

The action plan accompanying the strategy sets out clear targets over the next 3 years in respect of young carers. The implementation of the strategy via the action plan will be monitored by the Early Help and Support Strategic Group (EhAS), a subgroup of the Children's Trust.

Finally, the document has been fully shared with young carers, their families and colleagues from the Carers Strategic Group. Carers have agreed the vision and the key objectives of the strategy. They have also contributed significantly to the areas of work identified to implement the strategy (see section 6 and action plan); in particular specific tasks and goals that they consider crucial, not only to raise awareness of young carers' issues, but to ensure that young carers are fully supported and their needs are fully met.

1. Strategic vision and objectives

1.1 Young carers themselves have discussed and agreed the overall vision for this strategy. The vision and values of the young carers themselves compare well to those set out in the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers (2009 – 2012):

- Carers will be recognised and valued
- Carers will be supported and enabled to care as long as they wish to do so
- Carers will be enabled to have some regular time for themselves, free of their caring duties
- All agencies will work in partnership with carers to provide the help and services carers need
- All agencies will work together to plan and develop services for, and with, carers
- Information on issues of relevance to carers will be made available to carers, statutory and voluntary agencies, and the wider community.

The values highlight some points particularly relevant to young carers which are shared in this strategy:

- All agencies need to work in partnership to improve support for carers as part of mainstream community care and children's services;
- A pro-active approach will be taken to identify, accommodate and support diverse needs of the carer
- The role played by carers is recognised and valued
- Carers will be involved in decision making about their needs and consulted about their preferences for services
- No carer will be compelled to care or to continue caring if they no longer feel able to do so
- Former carers will be helped to access support to enable them to adjust to their new circumstances
- Service providers will ensure equity in the provision of support to carers, whatever the illness or disability of the person they are caring for
- Carers will continue to be involved in planning and determining the types of services available
- Carers will be invited to take part in the evaluation of services.

1.2 The strategy supports the 3 priorities and aims of Halton's revised Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP April 2011). The Children's Trust Partnership, the group of agencies that formally approve this Plan has agreed 3 cross cutting priorities and the strategic objectives for Young Carers can be seen through these 3 priorities:

i. To improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support:

The key objective here is to ensure that the model and philosophy of working with young carers ensure that young carers are assessed and appropriate support put in place as soon as possible from when they are first identified. The overall aim is to help that young carer as early as possible in order to prevent their own needs from increasing and more intrusive interventions becoming necessary for them and their whole family. Another key element is looking at how services can best address the needs of young carers in families that fall under the “hidden harm” agenda. This means that clear protocols are needed between children’s and adults’ services (adult mental health and drug and alcohol services) so that young carers’ needs are identified early whether this is via adults or children’s services.

ii. To improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning:

The objective here is that young carers benefit from a range of help and support services available within the Borough, that they have choice from a variety of activities and sessions that enable them to continue to enjoy life, continue with their caring role, but also reach their own potential. This has to be achieved via integrated and effective commissioning arrangements between all partner agencies so that services are readily accessible and everyone is clear on their roles and responsibilities. Professionals working with young carers must ensure that there is a balance between having the same opportunities as those not undertaking a caring role, with having their particular needs recognised. All statutory and voluntary agencies need to offer inclusive services that continuously strive to improve outcomes for young carers and their families.

ii. To improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively:

Young Carers are a vulnerable group by nature of their own caring role and are at risk of becoming excluded within the wider community. Agencies need the awareness and skills to understand the needs of young carers and be able to deploy resources to help enable them to reach their full potential. The life chances of Young Carers should not be affected by their caring role and they have the same entitlement to access educational, social and developmental opportunities as any other child/ young person.

1.1 The Trust’s values highlight the way in which this strategy seeks to achieve these key objectives:

- (i) 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
- (ii) Working together to create a sense of ownership in building a borough that our children and young people can be proud of
- (iii) Working together to make sure we are accountable to the community by providing services and support, which reflect their lives and needs

- (iv) Working together with integrity to make sure all children and young people in Halton receive and have access to the best we can offer
- (v) Working together to build an inclusive Borough which values diversity and works hard to promote equality of access and opportunity
- (vi) Working together in an honest and open manner, which appreciates different opinions and welcomes alternative perspectives on the path to finding a way forward
- (vii) 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

2. Definition and Legislative Context

2.1 There is a wide range of legislation, local policy and standards influencing this strategy:

- Services for Young Carers: A Framework (2002)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Carers Recognition and Services Act 1995
- Disabled Children Act 2000
- Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004
- HBC Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers (2009-2012)
- The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- The NHS and Community Care Act (1990)
- The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services

2.2 The previous Government's National Strategy for Carers (June 2008) set out the vision for supporting Carers over the next decade; it included short-term commitments and identified longer-term priorities. Additional investment led to extended planned breaks for carers. There was also an increased emphasis on joint agency working, and on the need for the National Health Service to more effectively engage with carers.

2.3 Carers often need support to be able to continue caring and to lead active lives as well. The intended outcome is that with additional investment and a clear vision carers can be treated with respect, have a degree of financial security, and receive quality advice and support from health, social care and other agencies. Carers should be treated as expert partners and there would be more choice and control over how they receive support.

2.4 Young carers are defined as children and young people under the age of 18 years who provide care to a parent, a sibling, another family member or a friend who has a physical illness / disability; mental ill health; sensory disability or has a problematic use of drugs or alcohol. The care given may be practical, physical and/or emotional. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result

of this has a significant impact on their normal childhood. “The terms ‘disability’ and ‘long-term illness’ do not just mean a physical disability or illness, but also cover, for example, learning disability, substance misuse, frailty and old age”.

- 2.4 The child or young person does not have to live with the person they care for and the term does not refer to young people under the age of 18 years who are caring for their own children. The term also does not refer to young people under the age of 18 years who accept an age appropriate role in taking increasing responsibility for household tasks in homes with a disabled, sick or mentally ill parent.
- 2.5 The overall impact of caring on a young person varies; they could experience:
- Reduced school attendance
 - Social isolation
 - Emotional difficulties as a result of trying to balance the need to help their family members but also have their own needs met.

It is therefore important to assess needs on an individual basis (Service for Young Carers; A Framework 2002). Examples of some of the tasks that children undertake include personal and intimate care for other members of the family (which may include adults of the opposite sex to the child), giving medication, lifting, budgeting, shopping, housework, collecting prescriptions and benefits, communicating for a parent or parenting younger siblings.

- 2.6 The definition is broad and encompasses young carers in a range of relationships with the person for whom they care. It is important, however, within this strategy to acknowledge and prioritise the needs of those young people caring for an adult in a family where there are no other adults, that is, a child caring for a single parent. These young people are acknowledged as those at greatest risk of the adverse effects of caring and likely to need greater levels of support.
- 2.7 Children acting in a caring capacity within their family may be ‘children in need’ (Children Act 1989), especially when their caring role inhibits the experience and normal development of childhood. Children who care have the same rights as all children. Caution is needed, however, with younger children. Whilst they may be taking on caring roles within the family this may be as a result of wider, more concerning factors that are impacting on both their physical and emotional health. For a younger child, for example aged 5 or 6yrs, issues of neglect need to be considered primarily over their caring role.
- 2.8 Young carers have a right to an assessment of their own needs as a carer and to have their views taken into account (Carers Recognition and Services Act 1995, Disabled Children Act 2000); and also assistance and support to engage in education and employment (Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004). They can access their own Carers Assessment from the age of 16.

3. Local Context

- 3.1 With regard to numbers locally, there is no absolute figure for the number of young carers in the borough or the UK. Young carers are only known to agencies when they or their families chose to identify themselves. Therefore, the true extent of caring by children and young people is 'hidden'. The 2001 Census identified 175,000 young carers aged under 18yrs in the United Kingdom, 474 of whom are in Halton.
- 3.2 The Mott MacDonald (2006) research carried out in Halton stated 24,508 young people between the ages of 5 and 19 years live in Halton in 2004. Research carried out by Saul Becker et al (1995) suggests that 2.1% of the population of young people are young carers. Based on this projection, an estimated 515 young carers live in Halton. The difference of 41 between the estimated figure and the self declared figure (8% of the total) may be said to represent the 'hidden' young carers in Halton.
- 3.3 This is a very conservative estimate given the formula of 2.1% does not include all those young carers from families where a family member has an alcohol or substance misuse issue.
- 3.4 Given the above, a more realistic estimate on the numbers of young carers' in Halton would be 4.1% of the total cohort of 5-19 year olds. Recent research states "*Current estimates for this in England and Wales are between 250,000 and 300,000 children with at least one parent who has a serious drug problem- representing 2-3% of children under 16.*" (Is the harm still hidden? Best, Witton, Homayoun, Manning and Day - 2007)

4. Key Objectives

- 4.1 There are 3 more specific objectives linked to the Children's Trust's priorities that this strategy strives to achieve:

i. Inclusive Provision for young carers

Agencies involved believe that young carers are seen as children first, by promoting inclusion and supporting them to be able to undertake educational and leisure activities with their peers. The aim is to ensure young carers are prioritised and offered a continuum of support across the levels of need, from access to universal services within the Borough to more specialist (statutory) services where this needed.

Some young carers will be at greater risk of exclusion due to additional factors to contend with as they grow up. For example, teenagers who are about to leave school may not feel able, ready or confident enough to go on to further education, employment or training (EET) due to their personal circumstances and their loyalty to their family.

It is recognised that many young carers gain benefit from meeting with children in a similar situation to themselves and should therefore be supported to take advantage of a choice of specialist projects and community based activities. Young people tell us they value opportunities to meet with peers who have similar responsibilities.

As a result of work over the last year schools are beginning to put in place arrangements to help recognise the needs of young carers. This is a positive step and further development work is needed to help all schools achieve a consistent approach to the identification and support to young carers.

ii. Physical Health and Emotional Wellbeing of young carers

A priority is to ensure that the health needs of young carers are recognised and met by the National Health Service, including GPs, School Nurses and other health colleagues where necessary. The physical and emotional wellbeing of young carers need to remain a priority for all agencies, especially those who have direct contact with young carers or other members of their families. Policies and procedures are needed that cover all aspects of young carers and the challenges they face. Primary Mental Health services and CAMHS need to have processes in place to monitor the emotional wellbeing of young carers, especially those where “hidden harm” is a factor (see 5.1.3).

iii. Choice for Young Carers

Children in a caring role should be supported to make choices about their life and feel confident that if they are not able or do not wish to provide the care, then the needs of the cared for person are addressed holistically. Young Carers should be encouraged to take part in activities with their peers who are not carers. Statutory and voluntary and community services also provide services which are available to young carers across the Borough, offering activities and support on an individual and group basis. There need to be simple, understandable pathways for young carers to access a range of suitable help and support, where options are available and duplication is avoided; and agencies need to sign up to their roles and responsibilities. It is vital that families with young carers are not adversely affected by any gaps in service provision, and any gaps there may be between Adult and Children’s Services. Therefore, a clear model of supporting young carers is crucial here, as well as clear lines of accountability for professionals involved. Progress here will be promoted and monitored by the Young Carers LIT Sub Group; and ultimately the Children’s Trust in conjunction with Carers Strategic Group.

5. Team Around the Family (TAF)- an ‘early help’ approach to young carers

5.1 Achieving these objectives fits into Halton’s model of early help and support to children and families. This is Team Around the Family (TAF), a model fully endorsed by the Children’s Trust. The principle is that the earlier that additional needs are identified within a family, the quicker support can be arranged, thereby helping to prevent needs from escalating and families then requiring more intrusive and specialist

interventions. The needs of young carers fit neatly into this model. Young carers need to be identified as soon as possible, so tailored help and support can be offered to them and their families. When achieved, this will help enable them to function without the need for statutory interventions. There are a number of key features of the model which link directly with needs of young carers:

5.1.1 **Single point of entry:** The model works on the principle that there should be one point of access for all queries that are not relating to either child protection or child in need issues. The point of entry and coordination of many services come via two Integrated Working Support Teams (IWST), one covering Runcorn, the other Widnes. IWST coordinates consultations with professionals working with families and helps to ensure that professionals involved can access services that are most appropriate to the family's needs. Halton Carers Centre is a component of the model as it acts as the point of call for the majority of queries regarding young carers. The Centre is key in the identification and assessment of young carers in the Borough, as well as the coordination and oversight of support services. Where further, more specialist support may become necessary the Centre would request additional input via HBC's Support Team; if there were any immediate safeguarding issues then Children Social Care would be contacted. At any point during their involvement the Centre could consider whether a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) would be beneficial for the child, especially when additional needs have been identified and multi-agency input is needed. At any point here the IWST Teams are available for any help or guidance on this. (See **appendix 1**, young carer model).

5.1.2 **Continuum of support:** Early help and support sits in between universal and statutory services; therefore there is a continuum of support available to young carers across Halton's levels of need. Enabling carers' access to universal services is the aim wherever possible and can result in a number of benefits and support for young carers, for example:

- i. Sports and leisure services and youth service provision are all supported to work proactively with young carers' services to engage and facilitate access.
- ii. Connexions Personal Advisers offer an information, advice, and guidance service for all 13-19 year olds (up to the age of 25 for young people with a learning disability and/or disabilities). Connexions advisers need to be aware of young carers' issues so they can identify carers when they present to access the Connexions service. They must be aware of the referral pathways so they can advise and sign post young carers to the specific services available to them.
- iii. The Youth Service has prioritised young carers as a targeted group. Youth workers need to be trained about the issues young carers face. They must be able to recognise young carers and sign post them to specialist services as well as working inclusively with them so they can get the most from this important universal service.

However, it is recognised that it is not always possible to offer support via universal or other targeted/ early help services. Therefore the model ensures a smooth transition between this lower level support and statutory services. From the young carer's perspective, and their family, the whole process and provision of service needs to feel seamless with no disruption to the professional input and service they could be currently receiving.

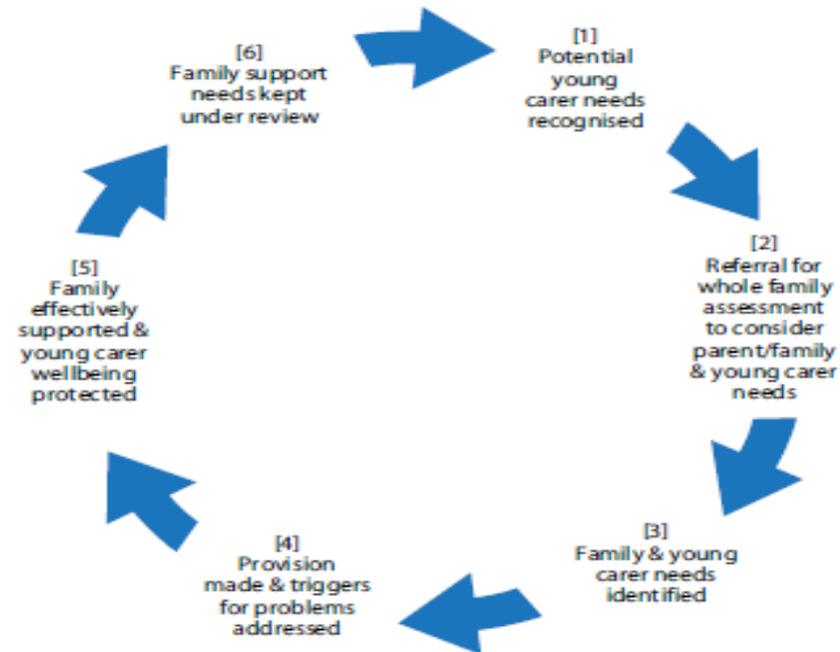
5.1.3 **Safeguarding and ‘Hidden Harm’:** Young carers must be seen as children first; it is their caring responsibilities that increase their vulnerability, for example,

- i. Increased likelihood of compromised parenting, eg due to parents’ drug/alcohol use or mental health problems- ‘hidden harm’
- ii. Absence from school and/ or other universal settings

Consequently, there’s the potential for safeguarding issues to arise, especially where younger children are concerned. More professionals across Adults and Children’s services are now recognising the need to work closer together to safeguard children in families where drug and substance misuse and/or serious and enduring mental health issues impact significantly on children. It is imperative that safeguarding issues are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner by all professionals. Clear lines of responsibility and accountability are required and working protocols between agencies should assist workers and managers to coordinate their interventions more effectively. The Memorandum of Understanding between Children’s and Adults’ services helps facilitate joint working where young carers are involved (see 7.2). Young carers and the issue of ‘hidden harm’ are also highlighted in the safeguarding induction booklet for new staff.

5.1.4 **Child and family empowerment:** A strong feature of the model is the focus on individual and family strengths. It works on the basis that families should identify their own difficulties and solutions wherever possible, and empowered to make their own decisions. Professionals involved should adopt a holistic, ‘Think Family’ approach, considering the whole family (child, adults, extended family and wider community) when assessing the needs of young carers. This will allow services to be agreed following full engagement of the whole family. This method of working requires a commitment from all professionals to work holistically in the best interests of the whole family, a key outcome being that young carers don’t take on an inappropriate caring role.

Diagram 2: Virtuous circle: a whole family approach



Young carers: vision for future services

- Universal services – GPs, schools, etc – equipped to play their part in early identification.
- Targeted and project-based support: good practice already available in some areas shared across all others.
- All areas focusing greater effort on prevention – better joined up support around the family so young carers are protected.

Think Family Toolkit – Improving Support for families at risk (Guidance note 9, September 2009)

6. Implementing the Young Carers Strategy

6.1 The objectives highlighted lead to 8 key areas of work that have been identified to implement the strategy. There is the need to:

- i. Raise awareness of young carers amongst professionals
- ii. Promote educational achievement and attainment for young carers’
- iii. Ensure the young carers’ service is fully integrated into the Team Around the Family model of early help and support, including universal services
- iv. Ensure young carers entering transition are supported appropriately.
- v. Develop a range of services designed to support young carers and their families where pathways and roles are clear and duplication is avoided
- vi. Ensure that professional workers adopt a holistic approach when determining the needs of a young carer, ie the whole family is considered during any assessment and provision of services
- vii. Ensure health colleagues and other partners promote the positive emotional wellbeing and mental and physical health of young carers
- viii. Ensure stronger and more meaningful involvement of young carers to influence and shape services for Carers

7. Children’s Services and Adult Services

7.1 A crucial theme underpinning the 8 areas of work and that Halton’s Children’s Services and Adults Services Departments must recognise and act upon, is the need to work closely together to ensure families are assessed and their needs met holistically as outlined in The Children Act and National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. The family must be seen as a “whole” and their needs met accordingly, not addressed in isolation by the two Departments where adult and child’s needs are addressed separately. Alongside this, the role of voluntary and community organisations must be acknowledged. Using this ‘Think Family’ approach comprehensive packages of support to families in need should be provided by all agencies working together.

7.2 **Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Children and Adult services:** In 2009, Directors of Adult and Children’s services signed up to the development of a MoU. Key principles were agreed to help prevent young carers becoming vulnerable: early identification and support; no gaps between Adult’s and Children’s Services; and Adults’ and Children’s professionals should work together in the best interests of young carers, including assessment processes and the coordination of services. Locally, the MoU is being implemented strategically and operationally./ There is commitment to joined up approach via joint representation on the Carers’ Strategic Group and joint contract monitoring is now place. Frontline staff have also come together in a joint workshop to look at hidden harm issues within families. Further work is still required so that colleagues from DAAT, Mental Health and Children’s Services are clear on their roles and responsibilities when working with families where drug and/or alcohol misuse, or sever and enduring mental health issues are impacting on the potential development and well being of young people.

7.3 **Young Carers' Sub-LIT group and the voice of young carers**

Building on a successful model in Adult services Halton has established a multi-agency Young Carers Sub-LIT group. Here, young carers are encouraged and supported in being part of the monitoring and oversight of services to young carers. It is their opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and be fully involved in service planning and monitoring. This group feeds into the wider group of adult providers, and, ultimately, the Carers Strategic Group.

7.4 To help them to do this, young carers are offered training to enable them to speak in groups and improve their own self esteem and confidence. The aim is for them to freely share their views and therefore be better equipped to take an active role in identifying gaps in service provision; and make recommendations to the Carer's Strategic Group on funding allocations for young carers' breaks.

7.5 The LIT Group operates at a time most convenient for young carers to attend. Importantly, the decision was jointly made by agencies that the group should be facilitated independently to ensure full participation by young carers. Therefore the facilitation is commissioned out to a voluntary organisation whose remit is to ensure that strategic developments are informed by young carers themselves; also that young carers play a lead in the monitoring of the action plan accompanying this strategy (see **appendix 2**).

8. **Management Information**

8.1 An improved management information system about young carers is being developed within the Borough. It is vital to know which young people are young carers so the objectives of this strategy can be met. Currently each provider of short break services keeps their own record of young carers and Halton monitors this. The aim is to create one overarching database, monitored by the Carers' Centre and HBC, using the data from all agencies working with young carers. This means all providers and HBC need to work closely together to ensure that all known young carers are recorded and there is no duplication of information across the Borough between different providers.

8.2 With this central database of young carers HBC will be able to track progress more closely without concern over duplication; achievements can be reported on as well as any issues highlighted that need further work. Where gaps or concerns arise, timely action can be taken to address these in order to better support young carers. They may, for example, be experiencing difficulties in education because of their caring responsibilities; or their own health needs may be affected. The database will be able to highlight these and work is underway to make the system enable this analysis to take place.

9. **Monitoring the Young Carers' strategy**

9.1 Halton Children's Trust has overall responsibility for the outcomes of young carers, hence regular reporting to the Trust is necessary regarding the strategy and its action plan.

- 9.2 The strategy and action plan is monitored and evaluated via the Carers Strategic Group, where there are 6 sub groups which oversee Services to Carers. As highlighted, one of these groups is the Young Carers Local Implementation Team Sub group (LIT). This group consists of Young Carers and service providers and is facilitated independently to ensure the views of everyone are taken into account, especially carers themselves.
- 9.2 Operationally, the implementation of the strategy and action plan will be monitored by the Young Carers LIT Group. The purpose of this group is to monitor the services available to young carers in the Borough, their effectiveness, and to highlight any gaps in services provision. Any such issues raised by the Group will be fed up to the Carers Strategic Group for further discussion and action taken where necessary. Issues raised will also be reported to The Children's Trust, given its responsibility towards all Halton's children.
- 9.3 The link between Adults and Children's Services is maintained especially by the fact that there is representation on both groups by the Divisional Manager responsible for young carers. This ensures consistency between the groups with less chance of issues being missed. It also ensure smooth communication between the 2 Directorates as well as local providers.

The implementation Plan supporting the strategy follows:

1. Raising awareness of young carers amongst professionals

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
To ensure the profile of young carers is raised amongst professionals and that they are aware of the issues young carers face and impact on their lives	Highlight young carers in child safeguarding training in the context of the potential emotional impact on them as young people	HSCB Mgr	Professionals are fully aware of the issues young carers face and how these can limit young carers' aspirations and life chances as well as damage their emotional health and wellbeing	Rolling programme 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' x3 per year	Number of professionals accessing safeguarding training Course evaluations highlight learning re young carers to measure levels of competence Number of agencies that incorporate young carers into their safeguarding booklets	
	Highlight young carers in HBC's Levels of Need training	TAF	As above	Rolling programme X2 year	Number of professionals attending levels of need training	
	Make reference to young carers in workforce safeguarding induction booklet	HSCB Mgr	As above	Jan 2012	Number of induction booklets taken up	Complete
	Use a variety of media to promote issues and raise awareness amongst professionals	Young carers Lead organisation	As above	Dec 2013	Number of awareness/promotional events each year, led by young carers	

2. Promote educational achievement and attainment for young carers

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
To ensure professionals are equipped with knowledge and information on young carers and the impact their caring role has on their educational attendance	Identify designated persons in schools to play key role re young carers	Heads Governing Body Designated person	Clear designated person in each school to identify potential young carers. Support for young carers accessible via school or signposted elsewhere as soon as need arises	Jan 2013	Attendance rates at school Attainment levels of young carers at school % increase in requests for services by schools Number of establishments with accessible information	
	Ensure schools have access to up to date information re support services for young carers	All school staff Carers Centre HBC Young Carers	All schools are confident about who to contact in the case of any concerns about young carers Young carers take lead role in training professionals		Number of young carers involved in training professionals Number of young carers involved in peer mentoring	
That schools work in partnership with organisations, to ensure young carers have their own individually assessed needs met appropriately	Increase knowledge of services & establish pathways to services from schools	Schools HBC Carers Centre	Professionals confident who to contact re young carers issues and concerns	July 2013	% increase in calls to services via schools	

2. Promote educational achievement and attainment for young carers

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
For young carers to seek advice and support in school	<p>Awareness-raising sessions in schools via drop-ins; presentations</p> <p>Publicise services available</p> <p>Highlight young carers via PSHE work. Promote positive image of caring role</p>	<p>Carers Centre Providers Youth Service</p> <p>Carers Centre Schools Community and voluntary organisations</p>	<p>Positive images of illness and disability to encourage understanding</p> <p>Young carers confident to ask for help and able to identify themselves as young carers</p> <p>Caring role de-stigmatised</p> <p>Increased peer support for young carers</p> <p>Access to effective range of services to help prevent carers' needs increasing</p>	July 2013	<p>% increase in young people asking for information and advice re young carers</p> <p>% reduction of incidence of bullying within school re caring role</p> <p>% increase in take up of services, including counselling services</p> <p>Number of positive reviews of services</p>	
To ensure young carers can reach their educational potential.	<p>Recognise young carers as a priority group</p> <p>Enhance support systems within school</p>	<p>Schools Carers Centre</p> <p>Contracted Service providers</p>	<p>School attendance takes account of caring roles & timely identification of such pupils.</p> <p>Young carers do not miss school due to caring role</p>	Sept 2013 onwards	<p>% decrease in non-attendance rates due to caring role</p> <p>% decrease in no. of occasions where young carer is penalised for non-attendance</p>	

2. Promote educational achievement and attainment for young carers

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
	<p>Increase awareness of how caring roles impact on school attendance.</p> <p>Monitor attendance patterns re young carers</p>		<p>Increase in access to individual support services.</p> <p>Increased attendance for those who have caring roles</p> <p>Young carers reach educational attainment levels</p> <p>Young carers are emotionally & physically healthy through their school life.</p>		<p>% increase in attendance of young carers</p> <p>% increase in young carers accessing further education</p> <p>% increase of young carers receiving grades A*-C GCSE (incl English and Maths)</p>	

3. Ensure that young carers' services are fully aligned with the Team Around the Family model of early help and support services

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
To ensure services for young carers are fully integrated into Halton's TAF model of early help and support.	Share 'TAF' model with partners. Embed pathways within model	TAF staff Communities Directorate Partners Schools	Needs identified early & access to services. Clarity on pathways to services re carers	Dec 2012	% increase in requests for services for young carers % increase in known and identified carers	
To have one central database of young carers known and identified young carers in the Borough	Collate robust management information across contracted service providers Establish 1 database	Children and Families Dept Communities Directorate Carers Centre Contracted providers	Young Carers identified across all levels of need. Accurate number of young carers 1 managed database, overseen by HBC	Sept 2012	Launch date of one database Confirmation of management and oversight arrangements	
To enable young carers to reach potential via holistic assessments, and a range of services across the levels of need	Award varied contracts with no duplication Award contracts with clear outputs and outcomes Establish single, clear assessment process Contract monitoring incl input from young carers	Carers Centre Contracted Providers IWST Teams	Range of effective services from universal to targeted & specialist No duplication or gaps in services or pathways to services Think family approach adopted by all professionals	April 2012	% increase in young carers open to social care that have their needs met via CAF or universal provision % increase in agencies working with young carers-children's and adults' services % increase in CAF assessment re young carers	

4. Ensure young carers entering transition are supported appropriately

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
That young carers have access to a wide range of employment and training opportunities	<p>Link young carers to employment initiatives, eg via Job Centre Plus / other employment and career organisations</p> <p>Ensure training for advisors includes young carers' issues</p>	<p>Connexions</p> <p>Schools & colleges</p>	<p>Young carers receive appropriate careers advice and support for further education</p> <p>Wider activities available to young carers beyond 16yrs</p> <p>Positive transition into employment or further training</p>	Dec 2012	<p>% uptake of services re careers and further education, employment and training</p> <p>% of young carers going on to further education, employment or training</p>	
For young carers to successfully make the transition into adulthood	<p>Establish clear pathways & continuity of support between children's and adult services</p> <p>Clarify transition protocols and individual roles between Carers Centre and Young Carers services</p> <p>Raise profile of the needs of young carers and the type of support required</p>	<p>Schools Colleges</p> <p>TAF</p> <p>Local providers</p>	<p>Young carers are well prepared in advance and well supported through transition into adult support services</p> <p>Young carers are aware of their rights and services available as they become young adult carers eg carers' direct payments at 16+yrs</p>	Sept 2012	<p>No. young carers that go on to receive support as adults via organisations</p> <p>No young carers satisfied with help and support during transition process</p>	

5. Develop a range of services designed to support young carers, disabled parents and their families provided by the Voluntary and Community Organisations, Statutory and Private agencies

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
That services are available across the levels of need via one single point of entry	Establish point of entry & clear pathways to assessment & services	HBC Providers Young carers	Young carers identified swiftly & range of quality services offered	April 2012	Time taken to identify and assess young carers	
To develop services based on local need, with smooth transition from universal through to specialist services if needs increase	Agree pathways to universal services, incl Leisure & Youth Services and schools	TAF IWST Commissioning	Effective services based on local need. Young carers access inclusive activities in community	April 2012	% of young carers open to social care % young carers accessing universal services	
	Review role of HBC staff & clarify function of IWST		Specialist services only when there is an assessed need.	Sept 2012	Number young carers assessed as needing specialist intervention	
To ensure young carers are fully involved in all aspects of service design and delivery	Set up group for young carers & ensure full input in the monitoring/ shaping of services	Communities Directorate Children/ Enterprise Young carers Vol orgs	Young carers fully involved in service design and monitoring	April 2012	Number of services monitored by Commissioning and young carers themselves	
To ensure a range of commissioned services, from peer support to short breaks, that benefit the whole family	Develop further principles of MoU, ie joint approach to young carers by Children and Communities Directorates	Communities/ Children's Commissioning TAF Young carers	Holistic approach between both Directorates re meeting families' needs	April 2012	Total number of commissioned services via both Directorates Feedback from providers and families	

6. Ensure that professional workers consider the needs of the whole family when they make an assessment and provide services

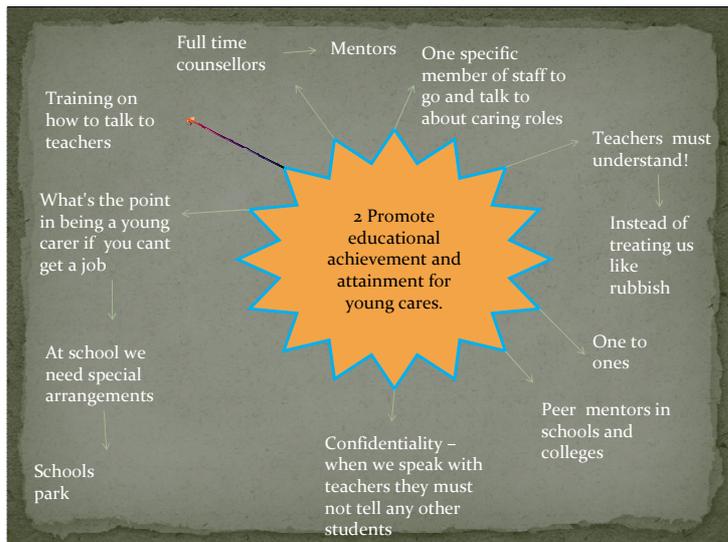
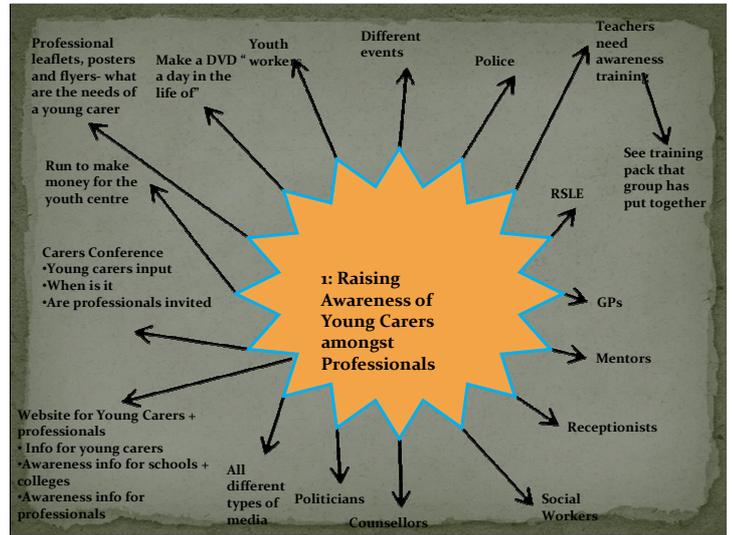
Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
To assess young carers' needs holistically, taking into account family strengths as well as difficulties.	Develop further Memorandum of Understanding protocol between Communities and Children and Enterprise Directorate	TAF DAAT Mental health services	Integrated working between agencies and Departments/ Directorates Holistic assessment with named lead professionals where appropriate	Dec 2012	No. young carers with CAF or other holistic assessment Number assessments undertaken by different agencies involved with young carers	
To work across Directorates to identify young carers and assess their needs	Establish joint training for staff within Adults and Children's Services	As above	Issues of hidden harm identified and needs assessed and met swiftly	Nov 2012	% increase in Adult workers involved with young carers Number of training sessions held	
For professionals to undertake assessments where necessary, involving young carers and their families.	Implement levels of need training across Borough Undertake CAF or other appropriate assessments when necessary	All professionals	Most appropriate lead professional identified for young carer Support services put in place in timely manner	Dec 2011 Dec 2011 Onwards	Number of assessments undertaken re young carers Number of different agencies undertaking assessments	

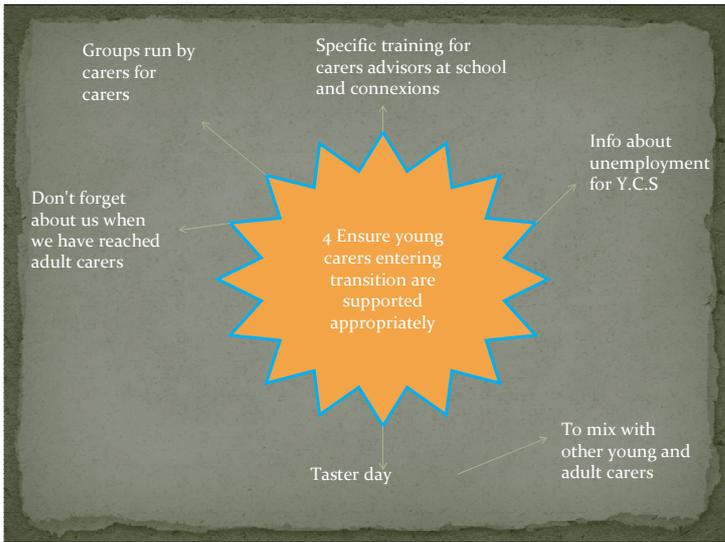
7. Health – Promoting the positive emotional and mental health and wellbeing of young carers

Objective	Action	By Whom	Outcomes	Timescale	Measure	Progress
To work in partnership with all health colleagues to effectively identify, assess, support and safeguard young carers.	Develop protocols and practices that clarify roles of agencies working with young carers; and that focus on the impact of drugs, alcohol, mental health on the well-being of young carers	CAMHS Schools, DAAT, Children's and Adult services, HSCB	Holistic assessments highlight all needs and safeguarding issues and appropriate services are agreed taking account of all issues	Dec 2012	Implementation of protocols & workshops between Adults/ children's services No. assessments undertaken by Adult-led services	
To identify young carers as early as possible in order to ensure their physical & emotional health & they are safeguarded especially where there are hidden harm issues	Continue to develop principles of the MoU & develop 'think family' approach with young carers Establish working protocols between Children's & drug/alcohol mental health services, based on current research & documents Ensure young carers can access counselling/ other support when need arises via groups, 1-1 sessions and phone/ text service	All professionals Health colleagues Schools TAF Adult Services	Young carers are physically & emotionally healthy via effective holistic assessments and timely early help Fast track access to health services & counselling where appropriate Young carers have access to sport/ leisure facilities		No. young carers identified by Adult services No. jointly worked cases involving young carers No. young carers identified by adult services Number of young carers access sport/ leisure facilities Number of young carers accessing courses/ training re healthy living & positive caring	

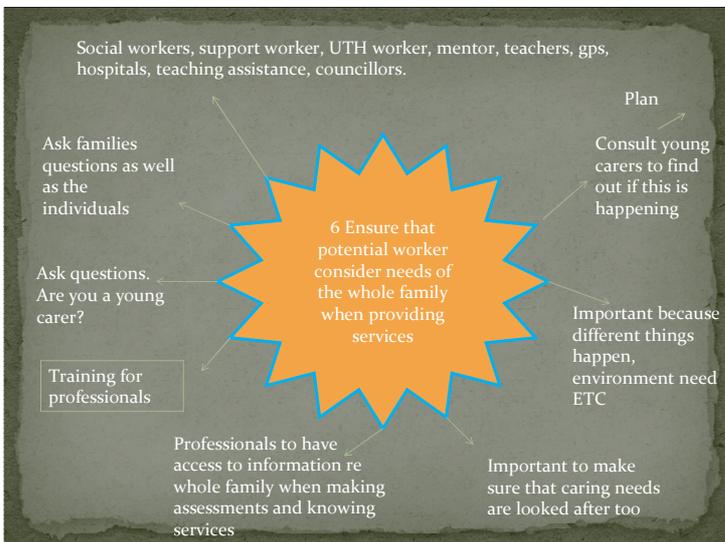
Young Carer's power point

Our view





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REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families
Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20th February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Policy & Resources

SUBJECT: Sustainable Community Strategy Performance
Framework 2011 – 16 and Mid- Year Progress
Report 2011/12.

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the 2011- 2016 Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

- i. The report is noted
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning the actions taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's 2011–16 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) arising from the mid year review.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy, a central document for the Council and its partners, provides an evidenced-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated.

3.2 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October 2010 the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAAs. Nevertheless, the Council and its partners need to maintain some form of effective performance management framework to:-

- Measure progress towards our own objectives for the improvement of the quality of life in Halton.
- Meet the government's expectation that we will publish performance information.

3.3 Thus, following extensive research and analysis and consultation with all stakeholder groups including Elected Members, partners and the local community and representative groups, a new SCS (2011 – 26) was approved by the Council on 20th April 2011.

- 3.4 The new Sustainable Community Strategy and its associated “living” 5 year delivery plan (2011-16), identifies five community priorities that will form the basis of collective partnership intervention and action over the coming five years. The strategy is informed by and brings together national and local priorities and is aligned to other local delivery plans such as that of the Halton Children’s Trust. By being a “living” document it will provide sufficient flexibility to evolve as continuing changes within the public sector continue to emerge.
- 3.5 As such, articulating the partnership’s ambition in terms of community outcomes and meaningful measures and targets to set the anticipated rate of change and track performance over time, will further support effective decision making and resource allocation.
- 3.6 The views of Lead and Senior Officers and Elected Members have been captured in a number of forums within Halton BC and Partner organisations, via the Children’s Trust Executive Board and SSP Performance Sub Groups, who were consulted on the selection of appropriate measures and targets in the period April to October 2011.
- 3.7 Selected measures and targets for Children and Young People in Halton community priority are summarised in Appendix 1, using the Halton Corporate template, designed for the purpose of bringing together all relevant items of performance information. For instance, this considers the levels of performance that have been achieved to date and provides a contextual backdrop in relation to national, regional and statistical neighbours. The template also provides a clear evidence based rationale for measure selection, which will further evidence and support value for money judgements by the Audit Commission and ensure outward accountability.
- 3.8 Placeholder measures have also been included where new services are to be developed or new performance information is to be captured, in response to legislative changes; for which baselines will be established in 2011/12 or 2012/13, against which future services will be monitored.
- 3.9 An annual ‘light touch review’ of targets contained within the SCS, will also ensure that targets remain realistic over the 5 year plan to ‘close the gaps’ in performance against regional and statistical neighbours.
- 3.10 Attached as Appendix 2 is a report on progress to the 2011-12 mid – year position which includes a summary of all indicators within the new Sustainable Community Strategy and additional information for those specific indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy & Performance Board.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the performance measures and targets contained within it will remain central to the delivery of community outcomes. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is central to our policy framework. It provides the primary vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate collaborative actions that will positively impact upon the communities of Halton.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The publication by Local Authorities of performance information is central to the coalition government's transparency agenda.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 This report deals directly with the delivery of the relevant strategic priorities of the Council.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Halton's residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated thorough the regular reporting and review of progress and the development of appropriate actions where under-performance may occur.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document	Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 26
Place of Inspection	2 nd Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes
Contact Officer	Hazel Coen DM (Performance & Improvement)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Children & Young People SCS Performance Framework 2011-16.
Appendix 2 - Mid Year SCS Progress Report for 2011/12

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

**Background Information to the Sustainable Community Strategy Partnership
Indicators 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Index:

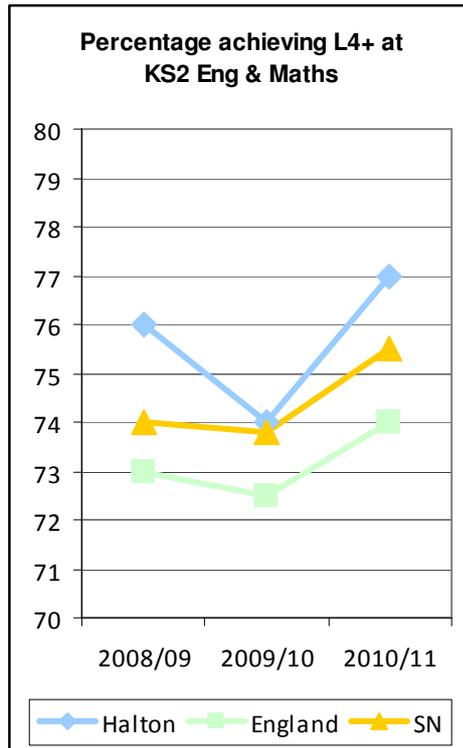
Definition	Lead Partner	Responsible Officer	Page No.
1. Increase the percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS with 6+ in CLL and PSE	HBC	Gill Bennett	2
2. Increase the percentage achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in English and Maths	HBC	Gill Bennett	3
3. Increase the percentage achieving 5+ GCSE's grades A*-C including English and Maths	HBC	Gill Bennett	4
4. Increase the percentage achieving Level 3 at 19	HBC	Simon Clough	5
5. Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training	HBC	Simon Clough	6
6. Reduce the percentage of children who are Obese in Year 6	PCT	Eileen O'Meara	7
7. Reduce the rate of children and young people admitted to hospital for substance misuse	HBC / PCT	Lorraine Crane	8
8. Increase the percentage of referrals where there is evidence of early help and support	HBC	Emma Taylor	9
9. Increase the percentage of educational settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	HBC	Gill Bennett	10
10. Reduce the attainment gap between free school meals pupils and the Halton average at Key Stage 2	HBC	Gill Bennett	11
11. Reduce the attainment gap between free school meals pupils and the Halton average at Key Stage 4	HBC	Gill Bennett	12
12. Reduce the over-identification of Special Educational Needs at school action and school action plus	HBC	Jennifer John/Gill Bennett	13
13. Increase the percentage of young people progressing to Higher Education	HBC	Simon Clough	14
14. Increase the percentage of children with SEN or receiving enhanced provision achieving two levels progress	HBC	Jennifer John	15
15. Reduce the under 18 conception rate from the 2009 baseline	HBC	Lorraine Crane/John Bucknall	16
16. Increase the percentage of children in care achieving expected outcomes at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4	HBC	Chris Taylor/Gill Bennett	18
17. Reduce child and family poverty	Halton Borough Council/Job Centre Plus	Steve Nyakatawa	19

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS with 6+ CLL and PSE																									
<p>Percentage achieving 78+pts across EYFS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>England</th> <th>SN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>45.0</td> <td>48.5</td> <td>47.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>47.0</td> <td>51.2</td> <td>51.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>50.0</td> <td></td> <td>55.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Halton	England	SN	2008/09	45.0	48.5	47.3	2009/10	47.0	51.2	51.2	2010/11	50.0		55.9	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council							
	Year	Halton	England	SN																					
	2008/09	45.0	48.5	47.3																					
	2009/10	47.0	51.2	51.2																					
2010/11	50.0		55.9																						
Responsible Officer:	Gill Bennett																								
Good is:	Higher percentage																								
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																									
Percentage of all children who achieve 78 or more points at Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 points each across Communication, Language and Literacy and Personal, Social and Emotional scales.																									
Rationale: This indicator is a key attainment indicator, the data is readily available and we should be able to benchmark data against other areas and previous performance.																									
A new EYFS framework is to be introduced in September 2012 which will include a revised EYFS Profile. Targets can only be set on the current Profile areas. The last assessment against the current indicators will be undertaken in July 2012.																									
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016																	
Halton Target	44.8	48.0	52.0	54.0	56.0	N/A	N/A	N/A																	
Halton Actual	45.0	47.0	50.0			N/A	N/A	N/A																	
Benchmarking:																									
All England	48.5	51.2	55.7																						
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A																						
Relevant Statistical Neighbours 1	47.3	51.2	55.9																						
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																									
Trend for performance has been positive, although statistical neighbours have a higher average performance, and growth in Halton over the past couple of years has been at a lower rate than comparators.																									
This is a placeholder indicator and future indicator will be developed in line with the new framework once in place.																									

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of children attaining level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2



Lead Partner Agency: Halton Borough Council

Responsible Officer: Gill Bennett

Good is: Higher percentage

Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:

Percentage of all children who attain at least level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2

Data is taken from KeyPas performance system and is available on an annual basis.

Rationale:

This indicator is a key attainment indicator, the data is readily available and we should be able to benchmark data against other areas and previous performance.

This attainment indicator is included as part of the new floor standards.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	N/A	77.0	79.0	80.0	81.0	81.0	81.5	82.0
Halton Actual	76.0	74.0	77.0					
Benchmarking:								
All England	73.0	72.5	74.0					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ²	74.0	73.8	75.5					

Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):

Trend for performance has been positive, with a slight dip in performance in 2009. Halton has consistently higher performance than statistical neighbours since 2008.

These are highly ambitious targets when considering that Halton is already outperforming against national and when you look at the current performance of the top ranked Local Authorities in the country, particularly the target for an increase of 3 percentage points by 2012/13.

² NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage achieving 5+ A* - C including English & Maths																									
<p>Percentage achieving 5+GCSE's A*-C inc Eng & Maths</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Percentage achieving 5+ GCSE's A*-C including English & Maths</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>England</th> <th>SN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>49.3</td> <td>48.0</td> <td>43.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>44.6</td> <td>50.8</td> <td>47.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>50.1</td> <td>55.1</td> <td>52.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Halton	England	SN	2008/09	49.3	48.0	43.2	2009/10	44.6	50.8	47.5	2010/11	50.1	55.1	52.3	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council							
	Year	Halton	England	SN																					
	2008/09	49.3	48.0	43.2																					
	2009/10	44.6	50.8	47.5																					
2010/11	50.1	55.1	52.3																						
Responsible Officer:	Gill Bennett																								
Good is:	Higher percentage																								
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																									
Percentage of all children who attain at least five A* - C including English and Maths. Data is taken from KeyPas performance system and is available on an annual basis.																									
Rationale: This indicator is a key attainment indicator, the data is readily available and we should be able to benchmark data against other areas and previous performance.																									
This attainment indicator is included as part of the new floor standards.																									
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016																	
Halton Target	44.0	49.0	52.3	54.0	55.5	56.0	56.5	57.0																	
Halton Actual	49.3	44.6	50.1																						
Benchmarking:																									
All England	47.9	50.8	55.1																						
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A																						
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ³	43.2	47.5	52.3																						
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																									
Trend for performance has been positive since 2006, with a dip in performance in 2009. Halton performed well against our statistical neighbours although remains slightly below the comparators.																									
These are highly ambitious targets to bring Halton in line with the national trend. Performance for this indicator must also be considered in combination with the progress indicators which also form part of the new floor standards.																									

³ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted.

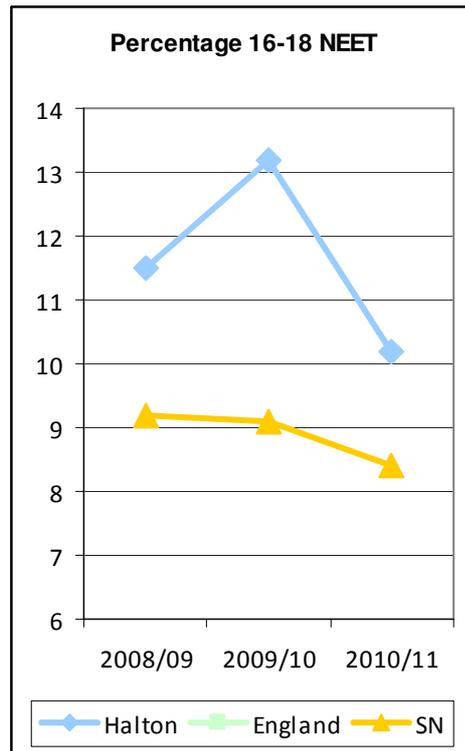
APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of young people achieving Level 3 at 19																									
<p>Percentage achieving level 3 by 19</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Percentage achieving level 3 by 19</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>England</th> <th>SN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>33.6</td> <td>47.4</td> <td>40.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>33.9</td> <td>49.4</td> <td>42.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>42.3</td> <td>52.1</td> <td>45.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Year	Halton	England	SN	2008/09	33.6	47.4	40.3	2009/10	33.9	49.4	42.1	2010/11	42.3	52.1	45.5	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council						
		Year	Halton	England	SN																				
		2008/09	33.6	47.4	40.3																				
		2009/10	33.9	49.4	42.1																				
2010/11	42.3	52.1	45.5																						
Responsible Officer:	Simon Clough																								
Good is:	Higher percentage																								
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																									
Percentage of all young people attaining level 2 by age 19 in Halton. $(X/Y) * 100$. The calculation is performed at Local Authority level, where: X=The number of young people that were studying in the local authority at academic age 15, that have passed the level 3 threshold (i.e. achieved 100% of a level three)																									
Rationale: Achieving level 3 by the age of 19 increases the skills levels of the economy and allows participation into Higher Education and higher skilled employment.																									
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016																	
Halton Target	38.9	40.5	42.2	44.0	45.0	50.0	52.0	55.0																	
Halton Actual	33.6	33.9	42.3																						
Benchmarking:																									
All England	47.4	49.4	52.1																						
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A																						
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ⁴	40.3	42.1	45.5																						
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																									
Halton whilst below the comparators has made significant progress in 2010/11. Further increases are likely as the level 3 intake continues to increase in line with the improved level 2 performance.																									

⁴ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the percentage of Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET)



Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council
Responsible Officer:	Simon Clough
Good is:	Lower percentage
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:	
Non-participation in education, employment or training after compulsory education is a major predictor of later unemployment, low income, depression, involvement in crime and poor mental health. Employment opportunities and training offers a number of key options to young people post-16 as they look for the best pathway going forward.	
Rationale:	
Non-participation in employment or training between the ages of 16 and 18 is a major predictor of later unemployment, low income, depression, involvement in crime and poor mental health.	
Definition:	
NEET is monitored using the average percentage of NEET at the end of November, December and January annually. Data source: Connexions NCCIS	

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	9.9	8.8	7.7	10.5	9.5	8.5	8.0	7.0
Halton Actual	11.5	13.2	10.2					
Benchmarking:								
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ⁵	9.2	9.1	8.4					

Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):

Calculation of this indicator has changed from May 2011, and is now reported by academic year and residency in Halton. Essentially meaning that the number of NEET young people in school years 12, 13 and 14 who reside in Halton are being monitored with the effect that some 19 year olds now fall into the cohort. This has increased the cohort size by over 500 learners and increased NEET by 114 which under the new methodology has risen to 11.6%.

Although Halton has higher percentages than our statistical neighbours, performance is improving with a significant drop to 2010-11. However targets have been adjusted up in line with the change in methodology.

⁵ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the percentage of children who are obese in years 6																												
<p>Percentage obese in Year 6</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Percentage obese in Year 6</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>SN</th> <th>England</th> <th>North West</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>21.8</td> <td>20.7</td> <td>18.3</td> <td>18.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>22.2</td> <td>20.1</td> <td>18.3</td> <td>18.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>21.6¹</td> <td>21.1</td> <td>18.7</td> <td>18.7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Halton	SN	England	North West	2008/09	21.8	20.7	18.3	18.3	2009/10	22.2	20.1	18.3	18.3	2010/11	21.6 ¹	21.1	18.7	18.7	Lead Partner Agency:	PCT						
	Year	Halton	SN	England	North West																							
	2008/09	21.8	20.7	18.3	18.3																							
	2009/10	22.2	20.1	18.3	18.3																							
2010/11	21.6 ¹	21.1	18.7	18.7																								
Responsible Officer:	Eileen O'Meara																											
Good is:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in the proportion of obese children over time, A minimum of 85% of eligible pupils being measured. 																											
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																												
The percentage of children in reception who are obese, as shown by the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).																												
Data is reported one year in arrears.																												
For the purposes of this indicator, children are defined as obese if their body-mass index (BMI) is above the 95th centile of the reference curve for their age and sex according to the UK BMI centile classification (Cole TJ, Freeman JV, Preece MA. Body mass index reference curves for the UK, 1990. 1995; 73 : 25–29). A child's height (in metres), weight (in kilograms), date of birth and sex are needed to calculate their BMI.																												
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016																				
Halton Target	21.3	21.3	21.3	22.0	21.5	21.0	20.5	20.0																				
Halton Actual	21.8	22.2	21.6 ¹	23.7																								
Benchmarking:																												
All England	18.3	18.3	18.7																									
Northwest	18.3	18.9	18.7																									
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ⁶	20.7	20.1	20.9																									
Data collected	Academic Year 2007/08	Academic Year 2008/09	Academic Year 2009/10																									
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																												
Halton's performance for 2010 has show fluctuation with a continued variable trend over the last few years.																												
Halton remains above the national and north west average. Halton shows an increasing obesity rate in line with increasing obesity rates for the England and North West averages.																												
Agreed target should be retained as obesity rates in Halton are still high, now including obesity at reception																												
Targets discussed and reviewed at the Health SSP Performance Group on 1.9.2011 by Eileen O' Meara on 1.9.2011 to 2011/12 to 2015/16 and subsequently updated on receipt of the latest published 2010/11 Obesity rate for September 2010/11 23.7% .																												
Note 1 – Based on September 2009/10 NCMP NHS IC																												

⁶ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

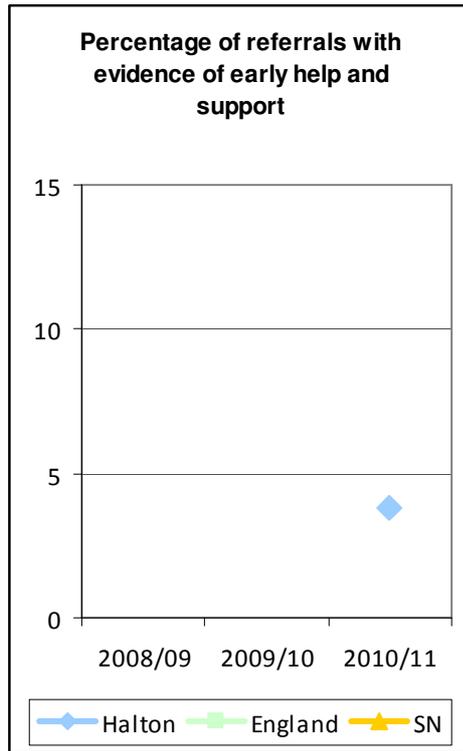
APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the rate of Children & Young People admitted to hospital for substance misuse																							
<p>Rate of hospital admissions related to substance misuse per 10,000⁷</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Rate of hospital admissions related to substance misuse per 10,000</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005/06</td> <td>380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006/07</td> <td>440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007/08</td> <td>480</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>490</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>470</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Rate	2005/06	380	2006/07	440	2007/08	480	2008/09	500	2009/10	490	2010/11	470	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council/ PCT							
	Year	Rate																					
	2005/06	380																					
	2006/07	440																					
	2007/08	480																					
2008/09	500																						
2009/10	490																						
2010/11	470																						
Responsible Officer:	Lorraine Crane																						
Good is:	Lower rate																						
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																							
<p>One of the commissioning priorities for the Children and Families Commissioning Partnership is to reduce substance misuse and this is a key outcome indicator to represent progress.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of the hospital admissions for 0-16 years olds where substance misuse is coded as reason for admission per 10,000.</p> <p>The target is a year on year reduction of 5%.</p> <p>This indicator will include alcohol admissions (Collette Walsh) .</p>																							
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016															
Halton Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%															
Halton Actual	1372	1351	1277																				
Benchmarking:																							
All England	Local measure																						
Northwest																							
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ⁷																							
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																							
<p>There are a number of developments to interventions Halton has implemented around this indicator including restructuring the specialist treatment service, developing treatment processes to ensure current treatment plans are aimed towards successful transition back into education, employment, training and recovery. The mobile outreach service (VRMZ) is actively engaging with young people in 'hotspot' areas, who currently do not access services. A wide range of provision will be delivered from this mobile service including a range of drug and alcohol interventions.</p>																							

⁷ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of referrals where there is evidence of early help and support (CAF)



Lead Partner Agency: Halton Borough Council

Responsible Officer: Emma Taylor

Good is: Higher percentage

Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:

It is expected that through the Team Around the Family work, more children will benefit from earlier help and support, and therefore only escalate appropriately to Children's Social Care once early help and support has been provided and a statutory intervention is required. As a result, more of the referrals to social care will have evidence of this earlier help and support. It is also expected that there will be less families requiring this statutory support as children will have their needs met at an earlier stage.

As a proxy for early help and support this indicator relates to those children and young people who have had a CAF within the previous 12 months of the referral.

Given data quality issues in relation to CAF prior to 2010, no prior data has been provided.

Data is not comparable with other Local Authorities as not reported nationally.

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0	30.0	40.0	45.0	50.0
Halton Actual	N/A	N/A	3.8					
Benchmarking:								
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ⁸	N/A	N/A	N/A					

Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):

Targets set are provisional awaiting more data to see expected trends and whether the trajectory is realistic.

NB targets are adjusted from those set in the Directorate Plan which were set based on inaccurate data.

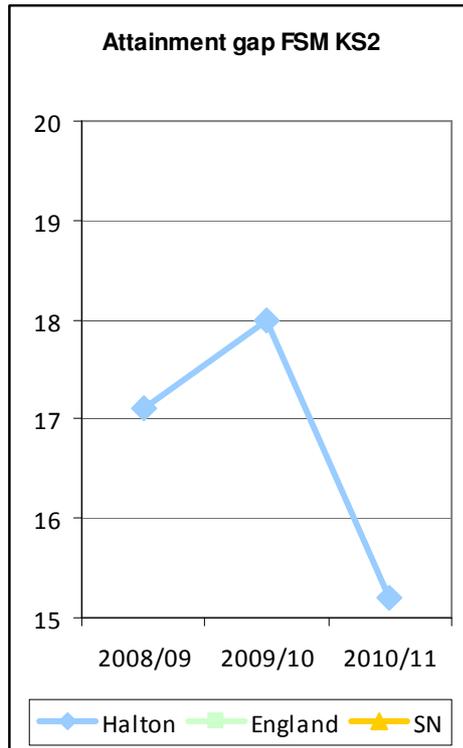
⁸ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of educational settings with overall effectiveness Good or Outstanding																											
<p>Percentage of educational supergroups good or outstanding</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supergroup</th> <th>Aug-10</th> <th>Aug-11</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nursery & Primary Schools</td> <td>84%</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondary Schools</td> <td>60%</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post 16</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Schools and PRU</td> <td>89%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Combined</td> <td>83%</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supergroup	Aug-10	Aug-11	Nursery & Primary Schools	84%	82%	Secondary Schools	60%	60%	Post 16	50%	50%	Special Schools and PRU	89%	90%	Combined	83%	82%	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council							
	Supergroup	Aug-10	Aug-11																								
	Nursery & Primary Schools	84%	82%																								
	Secondary Schools	60%	60%																								
	Post 16	50%	50%																								
Special Schools and PRU	89%	90%																									
Combined	83%	82%																									
Responsible Officer:	Gill Bennett																										
Good is:	Higher percentage																										
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																											
<p>This measure is designed to monitor progress of settings against the Ofsted Inspection framework and is required as part of the Children's Services Assessment. To meet the criteria for Performs Well they need to meet the 65% threshold.</p> <p>This information is the percentages according to the information submitted to Ofsted as part of the factual accuracy notes and does not include all settings as those not inspected since restructure are excluded.</p> <p>Please note due to the numbers of nursery and primary school settings they have a disproportionate effect on the overall figure provided below.</p>																											
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016																			
Halton Target					84.0	84.5	85.0	86.0																			
Halton Actual			83.0	81.5																							
Benchmarking:																											
All England Primary			65%																								
Secondary			60%																								
Special			78%																								
All Schools			65%																								
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																											
<p>Target is challenging, given the number of nursery and primary provision included in the denominator, however improving performance is specifically to be focussed on Secondary and Post 16 settings.</p>																											

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the attainment gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and the Halton average at Key Stage 2 (NI102a)



Lead Partner Agency: Halton Borough Council

Responsible Officer: Gill Bennett

Good is: Lower number

Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:

Free school meals is a proxy measure to identify poverty and given deprivation levels in Halton this measure seeks to monitor and narrow the attainment gap between those in receipt of free school meals and the Halton average at Key Stage 2.

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	N/A	N/A	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.5	11.5	11
Halton Actual	17.1	18.0	15.2					
Benchmarking:								
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbour ⁹	N/A	N/A	N/A					

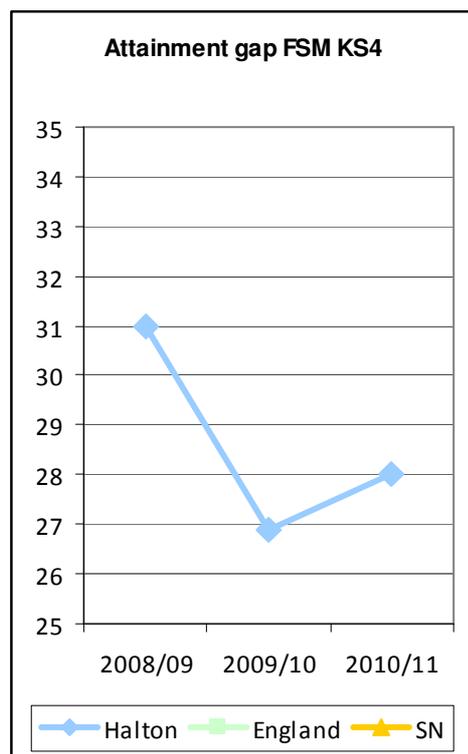
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):

Targets set are to continue the improvement previously seen to reduce the gap by 7 percentage points from the 2009/10 performance

⁹ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the attainment gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and the Halton average at Key Stage 4 (NI102b)



Lead Partner Agency: Halton Borough Council

Responsible Officer: Gill Bennett

Good is: Lower number

Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:

Free school meals is a proxy measure to identify poverty and given deprivation levels in Halton this measure seeks to monitor and narrow the attainment gap between those in receipt of free school meals and the Halton average at Key Stage 4.

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	N/A	N/A	22.0	26.0	24.0	23.0	22.0	20.0
Halton Actual	31.0	26.9	28.0					
Benchmarking:								
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ¹⁰	N/A	N/A	N/A					

Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):

Targets adjusted for 2011/12 in line with latest performance.

The targets represent a significant challenge over the five year period to reduce the gap in attainment for free school meals pupils.

¹⁰ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce the over-identification of Special Educational Needs at School Action and School Action Plus								
<p>Percentage of pupils at SA/SAP</p> <p>30 25 20 15 10 5 0</p> <p>2008/09 2009/10 2010/11</p> <p>—◆— Halton —■— England —▲— SN</p>			Lead Partner Agency:		Halton Borough Council			
			Responsible Officer:		Jennifer John/Gill Bennett			
			Good is:		Lower			
			Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:		Proxy indicator used to measure this is the percentage of pupils with School Action and School Action Plus as measured in the Schools Census.			
			Through reducing over-identification of SEN at these levels individual outcomes for children and young people will be improved as resources are targeted more appropriately for children with additional needs.					
Whilst over-identification is challenging to measure, the overall percentage will reduce should work to reduce over-identification be successful. Please note children who should be identified will still receive the appropriate support.								
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target				21.4	20.2	19.0	18.0	17.0
Halton Actual			22.6					
Benchmarking:								
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ¹¹	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):								
Target has been set to reduce Halton's position in line with the regional average which is anecdotally known as around 17%. Unfortunately due to a lack of published data this is known anecdotally only.								

¹¹ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of Young People progressing to higher education.																	
<p>Percentage 16-19 attending FE</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007/08</td> <td>21.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>21.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>23.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage	2007/08	21.5	2008/09	21.0	2009/10	23.5	Lead Partner Agency:	Halton Borough Council							
	Year	Percentage															
	2007/08	21.5															
	2008/09	21.0															
2009/10	23.5																
Responsible Officer:	Simon Clough																
Good is:	Higher percentage																
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:																	
This indicates the number of students domiciled from Halton aged 16 to 19 at UK Higher Education institutions against the 16 to 19 population in Halton. (HESA Student Returns)																	
No comparator information is available for this return.																	
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016									
Halton Target	N/A	N/A	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0									
Halton Actual	20.8	22.9															
Benchmarking:																	
All England	N/A	N/A	N/A														
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A														
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ¹²	N/A	N/A	N/A														
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):																	
<p>A small increase is expected for 10/11 and 11/12 supported by an increase in level 3 performance. 2011 is the last intake before university fees increase significantly which is likely to impact negatively on further increases. This measure will need revising in 12/12 to include level 4 and level 5 qualifications which will provide a better indicator of the contribution to sustainable communities.</p>																	

¹² NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or receiving enhanced provision achieving two levels progress								
No data until 2011/12 Placeholder	Lead Partner Agency:		Halton Borough Council					
	Responsible Officer:		Jennifer John					
	Good is:		Higher percentage					
	Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:							
	This measure will monitor the progress made by children subject to special educational needs and those receiving enhanced provision as identified by the Local Authority. Measuring their progress is now a requirement of the resource bases and first measurement will commence in 2011/12. Targets will then be set from the baseline position provided from this measurement.							
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target				Baseline Year	Increasing % achieving two levels of progress			
Halton Actual								
Benchmarking:								
All England								
Northwest								
Relevant Statistical Neighbours ¹³								
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):								
<p>This measure has been agreed as a placeholder indicator and targets are to be set once 2011/12 data is confirmed.</p>								

¹³ NFER Statistical Neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

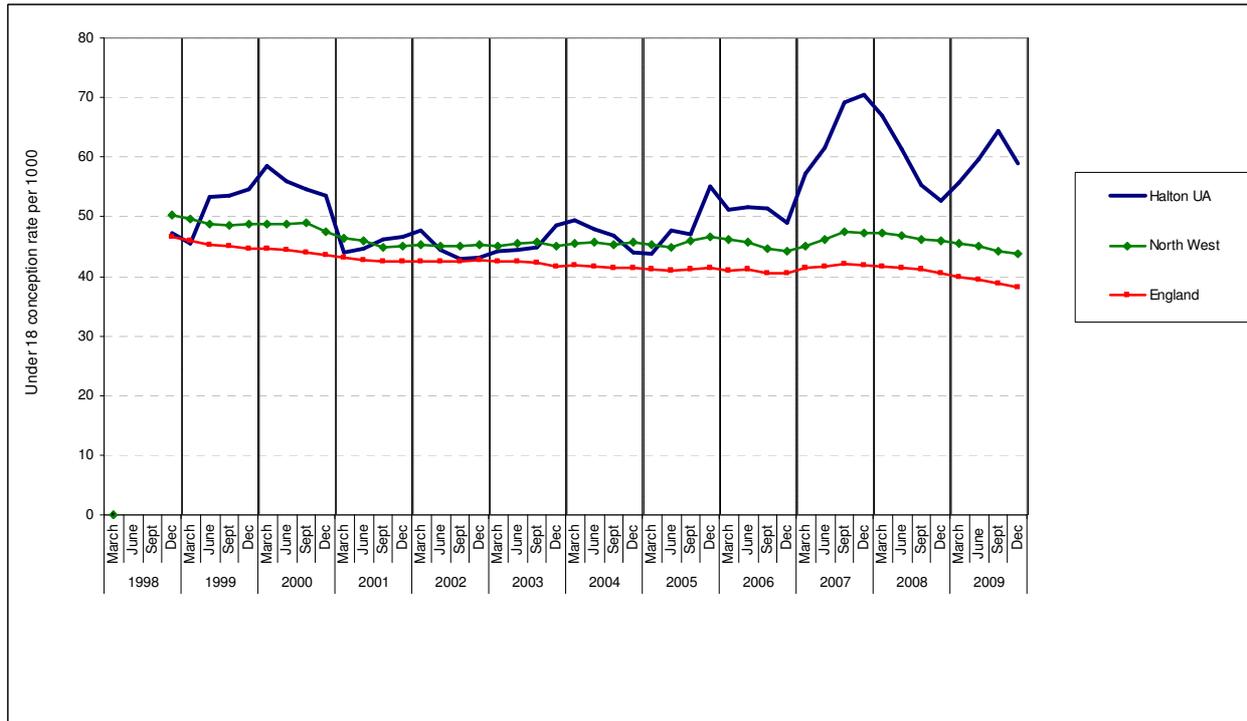
Reduction in the Under 18 conception (new local measure definition for NI 112)								
	Lead Partner		Halton Borough Council					
	Agency:							
	Responsible Officer:		Lorraine Crane/John Bucknall					
	Good is:		A reducing rate from the baseline year.					
Brief Description / Indicator Purpose:								
Previous guidance defines the national target to reduce the under 18 conception % rate by 50% by 2010 (compared to the 1998 baseline rate) as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. (Target shared between the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.) The old definition is graphed opposite .								
To make this measure more meaningful this target will be monitored as a reduction in the rate per thousand rolling quarterly average annual rate from the 2009 baseline, and actual numbers of conceptions								
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target	Previously used a % reduction against the 1998 baseline in line with NI definition			58.1 Rolling Quarterly Av Rate Reduction of 1.43% = Two conceptions	Reduction of 3%	Reduction of 3%	Reduction of 3%	Reduction of 3%
Halton Actual	70.5 Rolling Quarterly Av. Rate (Dec 07)	52.6 Rolling Quarterly Av. Rate (Dec 08)	58.9 Rolling Quarterly Av. Rate (Dec09)= 140 conceptions	NA				
Benchmarking:								
Rate per 100 All England	41.8	40.5	38.2	N/A				
Rate per 1000 Northwest	47.2	45.9	47.3					
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):								
This is still a significant area of concern in Halton and it is therefore recommended that this target be retained.								
The above table has been obtained from the Ofsted Performance Profile, showing the % change from the 1998 baseline of 47.3 conceptions per 1000 in 1998.								
Halton's performance for 2010 has shown a significant drop in performance, with increases noted in the number of conceptions. Good performance is typified by a higher percentage reduction from the baseline year.								
Halton remains considerably above the national average. At December 2009 (last published data) the England average was 38.2 per 1000 and the Regional average was 47.3 per 1000. Thus, a target of 21.3 conceptions per 1000 in 2010/11 (-55% from the 1998 baseline of 47.3 per 1000) was highly stretched.								

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

The target was discussed and agreed by Children’s & Enterprise SMT on 20.7.2011

Halton has made a decision to use 2009 figures as a baseline in setting future targets for this area. Given that data is available in arrears, quarter 1 of 2011/12 relating to the latest information for the quarter ended March 2010, the target is to see a reduction of a reduction of 2 conceptions by Dec 2010. This equates to 1.43% reduction in the total conceptions for 2010 (140 conceptions) of the 2374 girls aged 15-17 in Halton) and then 3% year on year with a caveat to review.

The decision has also been made to monitor under 16’s and 2nd conceptions but the under 18 conceptions will remain the overarching priority.



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Halton UA Total Population	2,537	2,553	2,539	2,492	2,374	2,281 Mar 2010
Average no. of conceptions per quarter (Rounded)	35	31	45	33	35	Not available

The latest ONS for Halton in Quarter 1 of 2010 is 60.7 rolling quarterly average per 1000 girls aged between 15 and 17. This equates to 40 actual births. The impact of seasonal variations will continue to be closely monitored and action targeted.

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Increase the percentage of children in care achieving their expected outcomes at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4								
		Lead Partner Agency:		Halton Borough Council				
		Responsible Officer:		Chris Taylor/ Gill Bennett				
		Good is:		Higher percentage				
		Brief Description / Measure Purpose:						
		<p>This measure has been chosen to ensure that all children in care are supported to achieve their expected outcomes at these key stages of attainment.</p> <p>This is a new local measure and therefore 2011/12 data will be the baseline year from which targets can be set in future.</p>						
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target				Baseline Year	Increasing % of children in care achieving their expected outcomes			
Halton Actual								
Benchmarking:								
All England								
Northwest								
Relevant Statistical Neighbour ¹⁴								
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):								
This is a placeholder indicator and targets to be set once 2011/12 data is confirmed.								

¹⁴ NFER Statistical neighbours used by Ofsted

APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Reduce child and family poverty								
Placeholder 2012/13	Lead Partner Agency:		Halton Borough Council/Job Centre Plus					
	Responsible Officer:		Steve Nyakatawa					
	Good is:		Reducing the level of child and family poverty.					
	Brief Description / Measure Purpose:							
This is a placeholder until a suitable indicator and data source has been identified.								
	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Halton Target					Place holder - measure and target to be determined			
Halton Actual								
Benchmarking:								
All England								
Northwest								
Relevant Statistical Neighbour ¹⁵								
Supporting Commentary & Target Rationale (2011 / 2012 Onwards):								
This measure also links to the Child Poverty Strategy								

¹⁵ NFER Statistical neighbours used by Ofsted



The Sustainable Community

Strategy for Halton

2011 - 2016

Mid-year Progress Report

01st April – 30th Sept 2011

<p>Document Contact (Halton Borough Council)</p>	<p>Hazel Coen (Divisional Manager Performance & Improvement) Municipal Buildings, Kingsway Widnes, Cheshire WA8 7QF hazel.coen@halton.gov.uk</p>
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This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 - 2016.

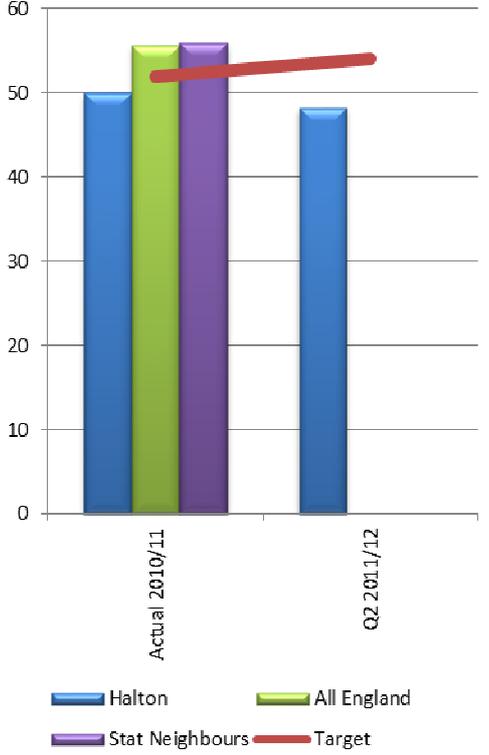
It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 1st April 2011 to 30th September 2011 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.

The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the 2011 target and as against performance for the same period last year.

	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

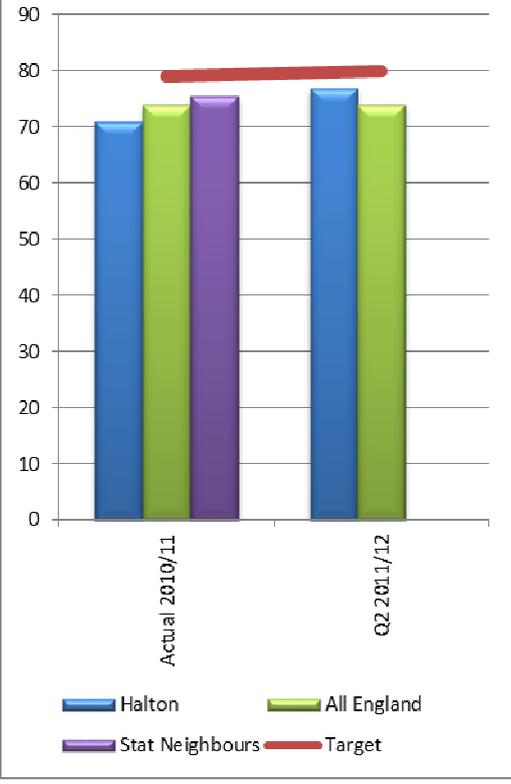
Children and Young People in Halton

Page	Ref	Descriptor	2010 / 11 Target	Direction of travel
	CYP 1	Increase the percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS (6+ CLL and PSE)		
	CYP 2	Increase the percentage of children attaining level 4 or above in English & Maths		
	CYP 3	Increase the percentage achieving 5+ A*-C including English & Maths		
	CYP 4	Increase the percentage achieving Level 3 at 19		
	CYP 5	Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training		
	CYP 6	Reduce the Percentage of children who are obese in Year 6		
	CYP 7	Reduce the rate of CYP admitted to hospital for substance misuse	N/A	New measure
	CYP 8	Increase the Percentage of referrals with evidence of early help and support (CAF)		
	CYP 9	Increase the Percentage of educational settings with overall effectiveness Good/ Outstanding		
	CYP 10	Reduce the Attainment gap between FSM and Halton average KS2		
	CYP 11	Reduce the Attainment gap between FSM and Halton average KS4		
	CYP 12	Reduce over identification of SEN at SA and SAP	N/A	N/A
	CYP 13	Increase the percentage of young people progressing to Higher Education	N/A	N/A
	CYP 14	Increase the percentage of children with SEN or receiving enhanced provision achieving 2 levels progress	Placeholder 2012/13	New measure
	CYP 15	Reduce under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline position		
	CYP 16	Reduction in child and family poverty	Placeholder 2012/13	New measure
	CYP 17	Increase the percentage of children in care achieving their expected outcomes at KS2 & KS4	Placeholder 2012/13	New measure

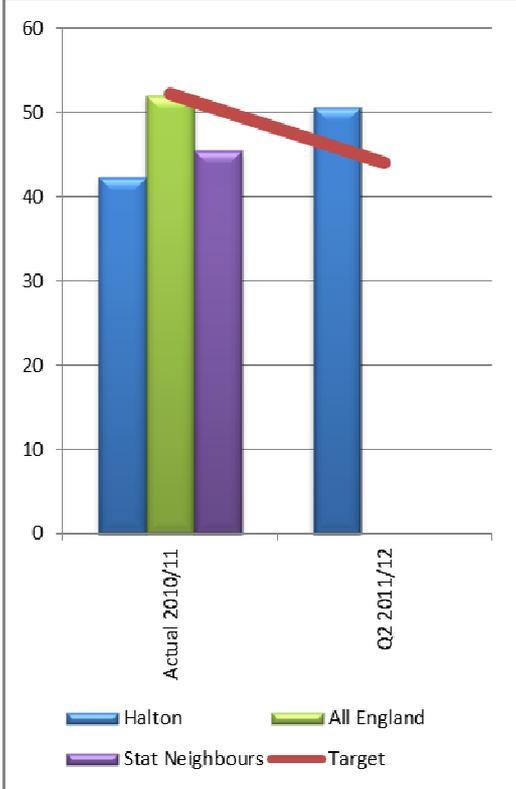
Indicator description:	Increase the percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS with 6+ in CLL and PSE				
 <p>Actual 2010/11</p> <p>Q2 2011/12</p> <p>Halton All England Stat Neighbours Target</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	52.0	54.0	48.3		
	Data Commentary:				
	Data relates to academic results received in 2011.				
Performance Commentary:					
<p>In 2011, 72.6% of the reception cohort achieved 6+ points in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). This is down 3.2% on last year's performance. Looking at data for 2008 and 2009 it would appear that there was a particularly strong cohort in 2010. 51.6% achieved 6+ points in Communication, Literacy and Language (CLL). Again this is down 2.6% on 2010 but is higher than both 2008 and 2009. The average attainment of 9 wards was above this level. This is disappointing given the focus upon developing literacy skills through the implementation of a range of programmes. In 2011 48.3% achieved 6+ points in PSED and CLL. This is down 2.2% on last year but is higher than 2008 and 2009.</p> <p>There are some contextual factors which may account for the drop in attainment this year. This year reception teachers have used child initiated tasks as observation evidence rather than teacher directed, this has had a major impact on scores.</p>					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>Developing communication skills continues to be a high priority in Halton. A team of Early Years Consultant teachers provide advice and support for pre-school settings to support practitioners in improving quality of provision. In addition, local authority staff continue to work very closely with colleagues from the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) service delivering a wide range of support and training for the early years workforce, targeted to enhance children's communication skills.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAN" Supporting Level training • "ICAN" Enhancing Level Training • Every Child A Talker (ECAT) /Communication Cluster groups • Inclusion Development Programme (IDP) • Story basket training • "There's no place like home" Child minder training 					

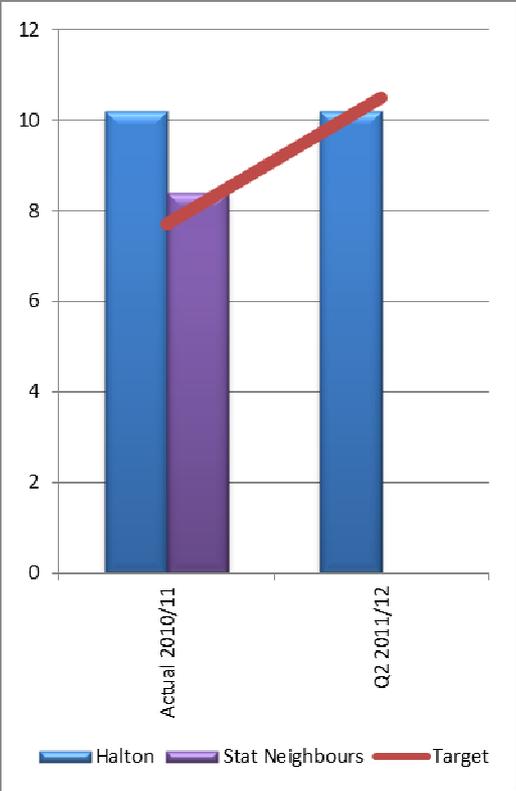
- Training workshops at 2 year old conference
- Training workshops at Child minder conference
- SALT Conference 'Join the Communication Train'
- Training at EYFS Conference
- Speak, listen & play training
- "You make the difference training" for parents/carers of families with young children
- "Referrers Workshop" training for practitioners
- "Visual supports" training for practitioners
- "Communication workshop" INSET delivered in setting/school bespoke to that context
- Provided written training packs and support such as "Foundations for Understanding" & other information leaflets/posters/tips
- "Moonbeams"; "Little Stars" and "Little Explorers" workshops/activity sessions to support children with complex needs and social communication disorders.
- "ICAN" Specialist level training for EYCT and wider Early Years work force

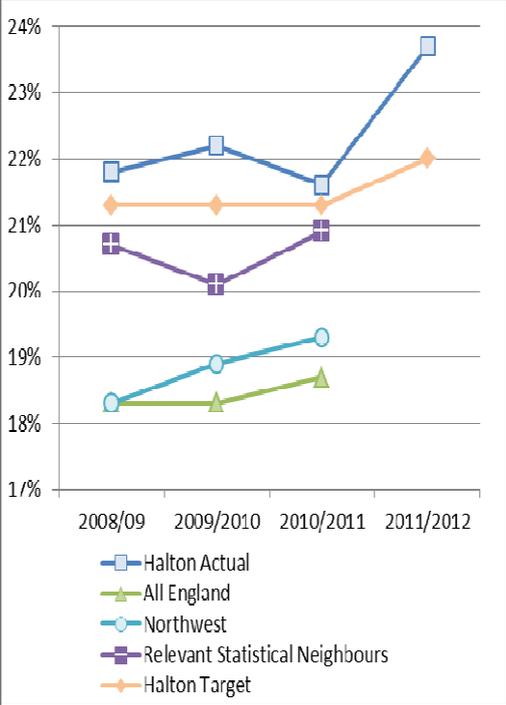
There has also been a significant investment in funding for vulnerable two year olds. This is enabling our most vulnerable two year olds to access 10 hours a week of pre-school education. Those children who have been funded at two haven't yet reached reception classes. We are hopeful of future impact upon assessment outcomes as a result of this early intervention.

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in English and Maths																			
 <p>The chart displays the percentage of children achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in English and Maths. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 90. The X-axis shows two periods: Actual 2010/11 and Q2 2011/12. For each period, three bars are shown: Halton (blue), All England (green), and Stat Neighbours (purple). A red horizontal line represents the Target at 80%. In 2010/11, Halton is at 70%, All England at 74%, and Stat Neighbours at 75%. In Q2 2011/12, Halton is at 77%, All England at 74%, and Stat Neighbours at 75%.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>All England</th> <th>Stat Neighbours</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual 2010/11</td> <td>70</td> <td>74</td> <td>75</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2011/12</td> <td>77</td> <td>74</td> <td>75</td> <td>80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Halton	All England	Stat Neighbours	Target	Actual 2010/11	70	74	75	80	Q2 2011/12	77	74	75	80	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	Period	Halton	All England	Stat Neighbours	Target															
	Actual 2010/11	70	74	75	80															
	Q2 2011/12	77	74	75	80															
	77.0	80.0	77																	
Data Commentary:																				
Data relates to academic results received in 2011.																				
Performance Commentary:																				
Halton has once again exceeded national outcomes in the Key Stage 2 tests with 77% of children in the Borough attaining the national expectation in English and Maths at age 11, compared to 74% nationally.																				
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:																				
<p>The government introduced a raised floor standard for attainment in both English and mathematics combined with a minimum expectation that 60% of children within the cohort attain the level 4 threshold,</p> <p>Whilst the majority of schools in Halton meet this standard, there are some schools, where despite their meeting or exceeding nationally expected rates of progress, attainment remains below the floor standard.</p> <p>Following changes to the delivery of school improvement services in Halton, resulting from the national reduction in grant funding, schools are now required to purchase school improvement support. This support is targeted at improving the quality of learning and this in turn will secure rapid progress for pupils</p> <p>Where schools are identified as requiring significant improvement they will receive support and challenge from a small retained team of local authority personnel. School to school support is also being provided through the deployment of National and Local Leaders of Education.</p>																				

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage achieving 5+ GCSE's grades A*-C including English and Maths																			
<p>The bar chart displays the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSE grades A*-C. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 60. The X-axis shows 'Actual 2010/11' and 'Q2 2011/12'. For 'Actual 2010/11', Halton is at 50%, All England is at 55%, and Stat Neighbours is at 52%. For 'Q2 2011/12', Halton is at 56%, All England is at 52%, and Stat Neighbours is at 51%. A red target line is drawn at 54.0%.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Bar Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Halton</th> <th>All England</th> <th>Stat Neighbours</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual 2010/11</td> <td>50.1</td> <td>55.0</td> <td>52.0</td> <td>54.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2011/12</td> <td>56.0</td> <td>52.0</td> <td>51.0</td> <td>54.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Halton	All England	Stat Neighbours	Target	Actual 2010/11	50.1	55.0	52.0	54.0	Q2 2011/12	56.0	52.0	51.0	54.0	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	Period	Halton	All England	Stat Neighbours	Target															
	Actual 2010/11	50.1	55.0	52.0	54.0															
	Q2 2011/12	56.0	52.0	51.0	54.0															
50.1	54.0	56																		
Data Commentary:																				
Data relates to academic results received in 2011.																				
Performance Commentary:																				
<p>The target was exceeded by 2% and this was an increase of 6% on 2010 results for both Halton and the NFER Statistical Neighbours for which Halton is compared. This is the highest proportion Halton has ever reported, and should place Halton broadly in line with the 2011 national average by this indicator.</p> <p>5+ A* - C at 85% is also the highest ever, a three percentage points increase on 2010 and should place Halton well above the 2011 national average by this indicator.</p>																				
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:																				
<p>The government introduced a raised floor standard for attainment with a minimum expectation that 35% of pupils within the cohort attain 5+ GCSE's including English and mathematics. In 2011 all schools in Halton were above this standard.</p> <p>Following changes to the delivery of school improvement services in Halton, resulting from the national reduction in grant funding, schools are now required to purchase school improvement support. This support is targeted at improving the quality of teaching. It is through the highest quality of teaching that outcomes for pupils will improve and standards will be raised.</p> <p>Where schools are identified as requiring significant improvement they will receive support and challenge from a small retained team of local authority personnel. School to school support is also being provided through the deployment of National and Local Leaders of Education.</p>																				

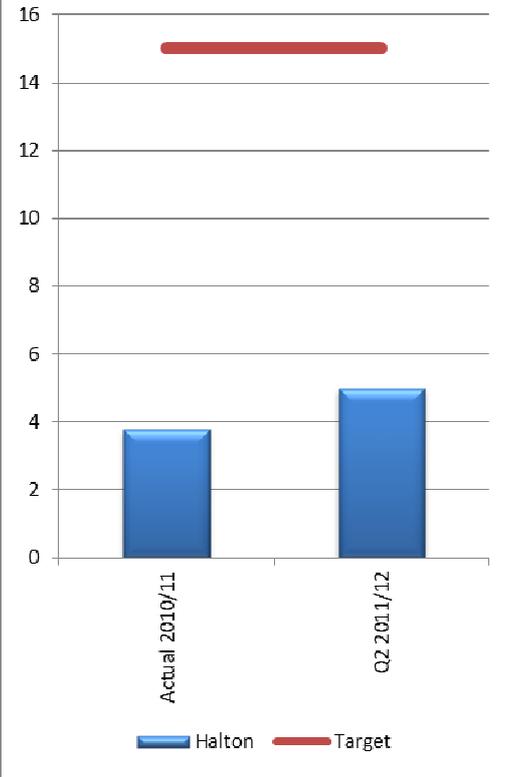
Indicator description:	Increase the percentage achieving Level 3 at 19				
 <p>The chart displays the percentage of learners achieving Level 3 at 19. For the 2010/11 period, Halton's actual performance was 42.3%, All England's was 50.7%, and Stat Neighbours' was 45%. The 2011/12 target is set at 44.0%. A red line indicates the target trend, which is slightly below the 2010/11 actual performance.</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	42.3	44.0	50.7% (provisional)		
	Data Commentary:				
<p>Validated data will be available in March 2012. An interim position has been produced from the Local Authority EPAS exams analysis system. This analysis identifies the proportion of Halton learners who were aged 19 by 31/08/2011 that achieved a Level 3 qualification.</p>					
Performance Commentary:					
<p>In 2011, 50.7% of Halton learners had achieved a Level 3 qualification by age 19. This is an 8.4% increase upon the 2010 recorded figure for this indicator and represents a significant improvement. The interim figure is also well above projected targets for 2011/12.</p> <p>Given the provisional nature of the data, the national and statistical neighbour position figure is not yet available.</p>					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>The analysis highlights the importance of achieving 5+ English & Maths at age 16 as a major factor in increasing performance of Level 3 by age 19. A breakdown of the 2011 Level 3 by 19 cohort reveals that 77.7% of learners who achieved 5+A*-C Inc. E&M at age 16 progressed to achieve this measure by age 19.</p> <p>In addition, the analysis shows that there is a fairly even split between Halton learners achieving a level 3 through an academic or vocational route. 24.9% achieved level 3 through either A/AS Level combinations including double award subjects and 25.8% achieved level 3 through other exam types.</p> <p>The 14-19 Team continues to have termly monitoring visits with Halton School Sixth-Forms, both of which have developed action plans to raise learner achievement and value added performance using the 'ALPS' school improvement tool. Subject to available funding it is intended to continue to use the ALPS in 2011/12.</p> <p>The performance at Level 3 of the borough's largest FE provider, Riverside College Halton continues to improve with 100% vocational pass rate and 99.7% A-Level pass rates in 2011. The College is also continuing to work with the LA in identifying any gaps in provision.</p>					

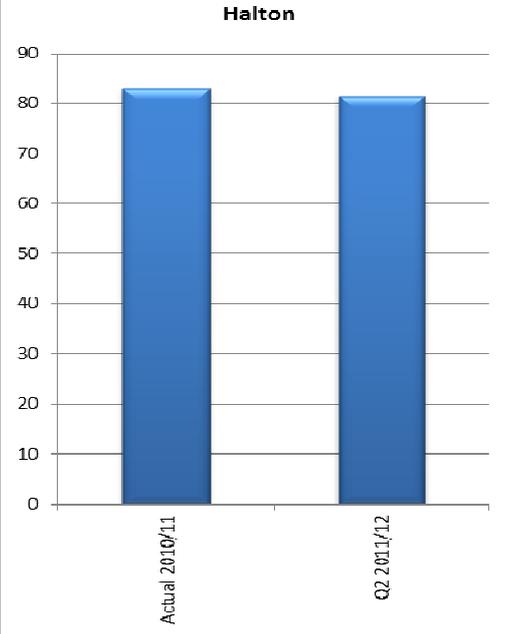
Indicator description:	Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)				
 <p>The chart displays the percentage of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) for Halton and Stat Neighbours. The Y-axis represents the percentage from 0 to 12. The X-axis shows 'Actual 2010/11' and 'Q2 2011/12'. Halton's NEET percentage is 10.2% in both periods. Stat Neighbours' NEET percentage is 8.0% in 2010/11. A red target line is drawn at approximately 7.5%.</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	10.2	10.5	10.2% (Dec-11)		
	Data Commentary:				
	<p>This data is based on December 2011 information. Final data for 2011/12 is calculated based on a three-month average from November/December/January and will be available in February 2012.</p>				
Performance Commentary:					
<p>10.2% equates to 457 16-18 year old NEET young people from a total 16-18 cohort of 4459. The actual number of 16-18 NEET young people has reduced from 519 in July 2011.</p> <p>This NEET % breakdown by each age group is as follows; 16 year old NEET = 6.1% 17 year old NEET = 8.0% 18 year old NEET = 16.9%</p> <p>The counting methodology used to report the National Indicator is now calculated on a residency basis and as such cannot be directly compared to NEET statistics published prior to April 2011.</p>					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>There are currently 243 NEET 18 year olds in Halton compared to 90 sixteen year olds and 126 seventeen year olds. The issue of long-term NEET within the borough is being addressed through two separate multi-agency case-conferencing meetings. The meetings enable professionals to discuss individual cases of NEET young people with education and training providers to match young people with suitable available provision to reengage them in EET.</p> <p>Data sharing protocols are currently being amended to enable practitioners and providers to freely discuss the specific barriers individual young people have which are preventing them from progressing back into learning.</p>					

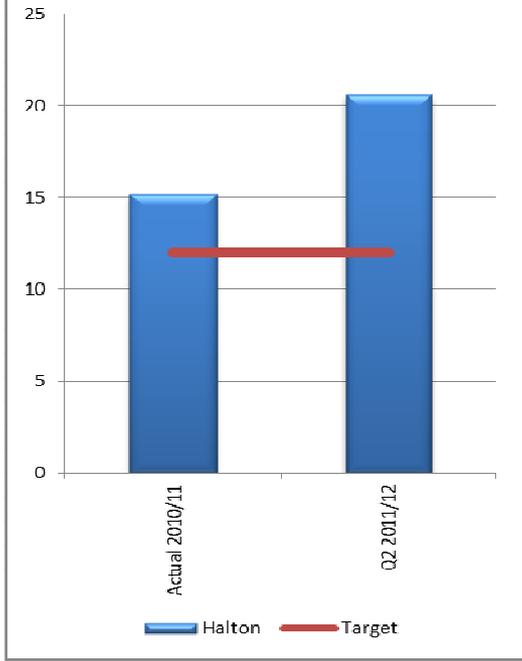
Indicator description:	Reduce the percentage of children who are Obese in Year 6																									
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel																					
	21.6	22.0	23.8																							
	Data Commentary:																									
	<p>The percentage of children in year 6 (aged 11) who are obese, as shown by the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Data is reported one year in arrears.</p> <p>Q3 data is newly released official data.</p>																									
Performance Commentary:																										
<p>New data is recently released official data for 2010/11. Halton has once again exceeded the 85% target for Reception and Year 6 children with height and weight recorded with 95.3% of children being measured in year 6.</p> <p>Childhood obesity in Halton is fluctuating</p>																										
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:																										
<p>Halton's performance for 2010 has show fluctuation with a continued variable trend over the last few years. Halton remains above the national and north west average. Halton shows an increasing obesity rate in line with increasing obesity rates for the England and North West averages.</p> <p>The school Fit4Life Programme which tackles overweight and obesity for children aged 6 to 13 years was rolled out in June 2011 and the results are not therefore reflected in this latest National Child Measurement Programme result. The Fit4Life programme targets schools with the highest obesity rates. It offers education for teachers and children and their parents in cooking, healthy eating and the importance of exercise. It runs fun exercise classes for all children in the school. Data from the pilot programme shows a reduction in obesity amongst those schools that participated as the figures below demonstrate. We anticipate that with further roll out school age obesity figures will fall.</p> <p>Fit4Life Pilot School Results</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="97 1720 560 2011"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>2009 Halton</th> <th>2010 Halton</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>51%</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>49%</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>46%</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>45%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>45%</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>42%</td> <td>31%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						School	2009 Halton	2010 Halton	1	51%	26%	2	49%	38%	3	46%	34%	4	45%	40%	5	45%	23%	6	42%	31%
School	2009 Halton	2010 Halton																								
1	51%	26%																								
2	49%	38%																								
3	46%	34%																								
4	45%	40%																								
5	45%	23%																								
6	42%	31%																								

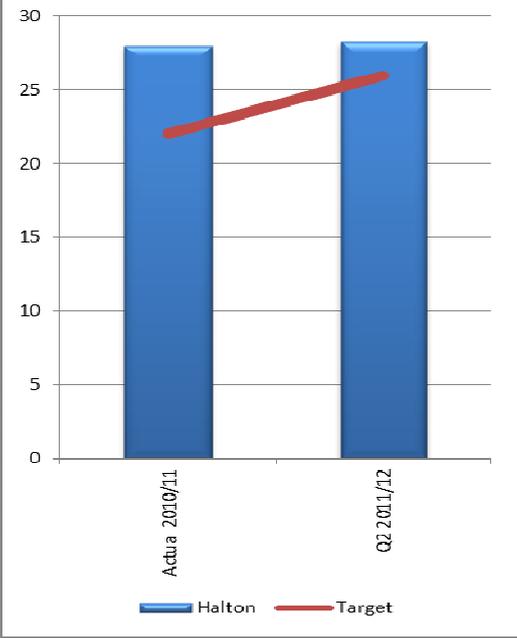
Teenage weight management is being tackled via the Alive and Kicking Programme for all 14 to 19 year olds. This programme offers a personal trainer style programme for all teenagers across Halton. It is now embedded in the colleges and some of the secondary schools. It also runs classes teenagers can access at Halton Stadium and is proving popular. The 2010/11 results show 75% of teenagers participating have lost weight and 70% are now fitter. Unfortunately these figures do not contribute to the target as it is based on the weight of 11 year olds.

Indicator description:	Reduce the rate of children and young people admitted to hospital for substance misuse																													
<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Substance Misuse Admissions Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Fiscal Year</th> <th>No of admissions (substance misuse)</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005/06</td> <td>110</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006/07</td> <td>102</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007/08</td> <td>105</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008/09</td> <td>110</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/10</td> <td>85</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>62</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12 Forecast</td> <td>68</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fiscal Year	No of admissions (substance misuse)	Target	2005/06	110		2006/07	102		2007/08	105		2008/09	110		2009/10	85		2010/11	62		2011/12 Forecast	68		2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	Fiscal Year	No of admissions (substance misuse)	Target																											
	2005/06	110																												
2006/07	102																													
2007/08	105																													
2008/09	110																													
2009/10	85																													
2010/11	62																													
2011/12 Forecast	68																													
	5% reduction	N/A		N/A	New measure																									
Data Commentary:																														
<p>Data currently subject to query as targets set against previous data provided, however data accuracy has been called into question. This performance therefore is being presented for the first time and target setting will need to be revisited to ensure targets are appropriate. Targets will be revisited during Quarter 3 once data investigations are complete.</p>																														
Performance Commentary:																														
<p>Forecast performance represents a slight increase on the previous year, however the general trend remains lower than had previously been seen.</p>																														
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:																														
<p>We have built upon the specialist treatment and targeted outreach services for young people in Halton by ensuring a range of interventions are available and increased the number of young people successfully completing treatment are engaging in positive activities.</p> <p>We have establish effective links with acute wards and A&E to ensure all young people admitted due to self-harm or overdose are aware of specialist treatment services. Young people have been involved in reviewing and designing marketing and information materials to target young people at risk of misusing alcohol.</p> <p>In partnership with Mentor UK and Young Addaction we have trained key voluntary and community groups in carrying out brief interventions with young people who have disclosed alcohol misuse. Through the Skills for Change programme we are delivering projects in high schools aimed at children and young people affected by substance misuse.</p>																														

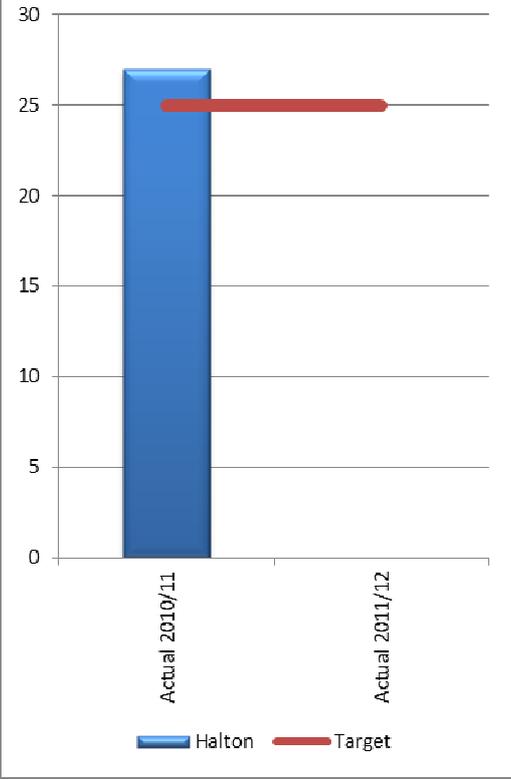
Indicator description:	Increase the percentage of referrals where there is evidence of early help and support					
 <p>A bar chart comparing Halton's performance against a target. The y-axis represents the percentage of referrals, ranging from 0 to 16 in increments of 2. The x-axis shows two data points: 'Actual 2010/11' and 'Q2 2011/12'. The 'Actual 2010/11' bar is blue and reaches a value of 3.8. The 'Q2 2011/12' bar is also blue and reaches a value of 5. A red horizontal line is drawn at the 15 mark, representing the target. A legend at the bottom indicates that blue bars represent 'Halton' and a red line represents 'Target'.</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	3.8	15	5		?	↑
	Data Commentary:					
<p>Data is taken from the CareFirst system and matched against the CAF data taken from Synergy CYP, however as unique identifiers are not used across both systems the matching can be flawed and therefore this performance may be an under representation of the percentage. Methods of calculating this in a more robust manner are currently being identified.</p>						
Performance Commentary:						
<p>15 referrals had been subject to a CAF in the previous 12 months.</p>						
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:						
<p>Pathways between Integrated Working Support (IWST) and the Children in Need teams are established and working well. In addition the work with the Police to improve and develop CAVA (Children and Vulnerable Adults) pathways is positively impacting on ensuring those families who require a service at Level 3b and 4 are appropriately referred.</p> <p>There has been a 134% increase on the number of open and active CAF's over the past 18 months and there has been a continued increase in the numbers of consultations carried out by IWST assisting agencies to put support into place for families lower on the levels of need.</p> <p>It is expected that given the number of referrals to social care in a year that it will take some time for CAF to be in place for even a quarter of the children referred.</p>						

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage of educational settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding										
 <p>Halton</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual 2010/11</td> <td>83.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2011/12</td> <td>81.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Percentage	Actual 2010/11	83.0	Q2 2011/12	81.5	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	Period	Percentage									
Actual 2010/11	83.0										
Q2 2011/12	81.5										
83.0	81.5	81.5									
Data Commentary:											
Data taken from the Annual Children's Services Assessment measured as at August 2011.											
Performance Commentary:											
Very few inspections of schools took place during the first month of the academic year, and therefore there is limited change expected. Target for 2012/13 (based on the August 2012 position of 84%) is still expected to be achievable.											
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:											
<p>The new Ofsted inspection framework for schools was introduced in January 2012. The changes to inspection are designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise expectations especially for teaching and pupil achievement • give greater priority to early reading and literacy • focus in more depth on the quality of teaching and pupils' behaviour and safety • give greater priority to the impact of school leadership on improving teaching and achievement • focus inspection more on schools that need to improve most. <p>All satisfactory schools are considered to be vulnerable and retained school improvement personnel continue to carefully monitor their progress, providing support and intervention as appropriate.</p> <p>An analysis of performance data is completed for all schools by members of the School Improvement Team in Autumn and Spring as data becomes available. As a result of this analysis schools are 'categorised' to identify those schools that are at risk of not achieving a good or better Ofsted outcome. Where appropriate Warning Notices have been issued to challenge underperformance.</p> <p>This information has resulted in the allocation of link improvement officers to those schools that are considered to be vulnerable or a school causing concern. In addition to the support and challenge provided by the LA, schools are expected to purchase a range of school improvement support targeted at raising quality of teaching and as appropriate, leadership and management.</p>											

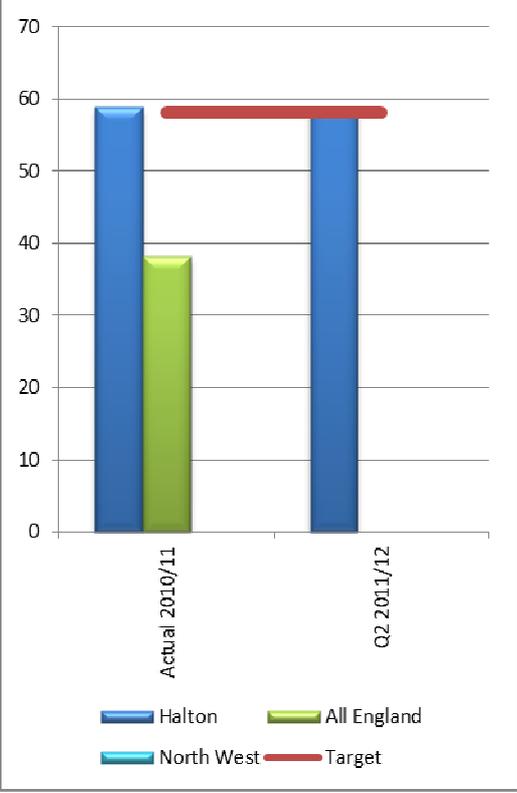
Indicator description:	Reduce the attainment gap between free school meals pupils and the Halton average at Key Stage 2				
 <p>Actual 2010/11: 15.2 Q2 2011/12: 20.6 Target: 12.0</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	15.2	12.0	20.6		
	Data Commentary:				
	Data relates to academic results received in 2011.				
	Performance Commentary:				
Attainment of Free School Meals pupils was 62.8% compared to non-Free School Meals pupils 83.4%. The overall average attainment was 77%.					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>The Council is carefully monitoring the use of the pupil premium, which is a per pupil allocation of additional funding for schools to be distributed to the more vulnerable pupils. It is for schools to determine how this additional funding is spent but the expectation is that it will have a positive impact upon raising rates of progress for example through the purchase of one to one or small group targeted support.</p> <p>Two of the priorities within the Child and Family Poverty Strategy are Cultural challenge and realising aspirations and Early intervention. Raising educational outcomes for our most vulnerable children is key to this realising this ambition.</p> <p>For more information on the Child and Family Poverty Strategy follow the links below: http://www3.halton.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/childrenandfamilycare/192380/ http://www3.halton.gov.uk/lqn/pages/86821/86827/174277/HALTON_CHILD_FAMILY_POVERTY_STRATEGY_2011-13.pdf</p> <p>One of the priorities of the Children and Young People Plan is to Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively.</p> <p>For further information follow the link to the Children Trust website: http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust/</p>					

Indicator description:	Reduce the attainment gap between free school meals pupils and the Halton average at Key Stage 4				
 <p>Actual 2010/11: 28.0 Q3 2011/12: 26.0 Target: 28.3</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	28.0	26.0	28.3		
	Data Commentary:				
	Data relates to academic results received in 2011.				
Performance Commentary:					
The performance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals at 5+ A* - C including English & Maths at 34.4% is the highest ever and up 5 points from 2010. However, since non Free School Meals pupils improved by some 7 points from 2010 the gap has slightly widened.					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>The Council is carefully monitoring the use of the pupil premium, which is a per pupil allocation of additional funding for schools to be distributed to the more vulnerable pupils. It is for schools to determine how this additional funding is spent but the expectation is that it will have a positive impact upon raising rates of progress for example through the purchase of one to one or small group targeted support.</p> <p>Two of the priorities within the Child and Family Poverty Strategy are Cultural challenge and realising aspirations and Early intervention. Raising educational outcomes for our most vulnerable children is key to this realising this ambition.</p> <p>For more information on the Child and Family Poverty Strategy follow the links below: http://www3.halton.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/childrenandfamilycare/192380/ http://www3.halton.gov.uk/lgnl/pages/86821/86827/174277/HALTON_CHILD_FAMILY_POVERTY_STRATEGY_2011-13.pdf</p> <p>One of the priorities of the Children and Young People Plan is to Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively.</p> <p>For further information follow the link to the Children Trust website: http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust/</p>					

Indicator description:	Reduce the over-identification of Special Educational Needs at school action and school action plus				
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	22.6	21.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Data Commentary:				
	This data is taken annually from the Spring Schools Census and will not be available for measurement until the quarter 4 report cycle.				
	Performance Commentary:				
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage of young people progressing to Higher Education				
 <p>A bar chart comparing Halton's performance in 2010/11 against a target for 2011/12. The y-axis represents the percentage of young people progressing to higher education, ranging from 0 to 30. A blue bar for 'Actual 2010/11' reaches 27.0. A red horizontal line for 'Target' is set at 25.0. The x-axis labels are 'Actual 2010/11' and 'Actual 2011/12'. A legend at the bottom identifies 'Halton' with a blue square and 'Target' with a red square.</p>	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	27.0	25.0		n/a	n/a
	Data Commentary:				
<p>This data is provided by the HESA Student Returns and data provided in arrears with the latest data available for 2010/11.</p>					
Performance Commentary:					
<p>A small increase is expected for 2011/12 supported by an increase in level 3 performance. 2011 is the last intake before university fees increase significantly which is likely to impact negatively on further increases.</p>					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					
<p>Performance for 2010/11 represents a five percentage point increase on the previous year.</p>					

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage of children with SEN or receiving enhanced provision achieving two levels progress				
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Actual	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
				Placeholder measure	N/A
	Data Commentary:				
	This measure has been agreed as a placeholder indicator and targets are to be set once 2011/12 data is confirmed.				
	Performance Commentary:				
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:					

Indicator description:	Reduce the under 18 conception rate from the 2009 baseline					
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	58.9	58.1	59.0			
	Data Commentary:					
	Performance is based on ONS data releases and Qtr 2 performance is based on the ONS release covering the rolling 12 months Q3 2009 to Q2 2010.					
Performance Commentary:						
During the rolling 12 months (Q3 2009 – Q2 2010) there have been 136 conceptions. Representing a 4 less conceptions on the previous rolling 12 months.						
Whilst these numbers indicate that progress is positive this measure also takes into account the reduction in the population base of 15-17 year old females in the Borough (from 2392 to 2295) and therefore reflects a slight increase in the rolling quarterly rate. This is however an improvement upon the same period last year, and represents good progress.						
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:						
<p>We are continuing to work with school governors to extend sexual health services and projects such as Teens and Tots delivered in schools. Workforce training on prevention and support has been increased to frontline staff and parents.</p> <p>We are increasing the support to young people at risk of teenage pregnancy by offering the DfE funded Teens and Toddlers programme to more high schools in Halton.</p> <p>We continue to improve access to contraceptive services and provision for young people, including LARC and condoms.</p> <p>Robust care pathways are in place for prevention and support in all high schools and we continue to support pregnant young women of school age to remain in education, employment and training.</p> <p>A comprehensive co-ordinated packages of support is available for teenage parents through Children's Centres which include; antenatal and postnatal care, access to education and training, advice on childcare, benefits, housing.</p>						

Indicator description:	Increase the percentage of children in care achieving expected outcomes at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4						
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	
					Placeholder 2012/13	N/A	
	Data Commentary:						
	This is a placeholder indicator and targets to be set once 2011/12 data is confirmed.						
	Performance Commentary:						
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:							

Indicator description:	Reduce child and family poverty					
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
					Placeholder measure 2012/13	N/A
	Data Commentary:					
	This is a placeholder until a suitable indicator and data source has been identified.					
	Performance Commentary:					
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:						

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20th February 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for Quarter 3 of 2011/12

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of performance management of the Children and Young People's Directorate for the third quarter to December 2011. The report details progress against service objectives/ milestones and performance targets, and describes factors affecting the service.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the third quarter performance management reports;**
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what the services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

3.2 Following discussion with the Chair, the Board has been provided with an overview report which identifies the key issues arising from the performance in Quarter 3 for the Directorate.

3.3 The full departmental quarterly reports are available on the Members' Information Bulletin to allow Members access to the reports as soon as they have become available. This also provides Members with an opportunity to give advance notice of any questions, points or requests for further information that will be raised to ensure the appropriate

Officers are available at the PPB meeting. The three departmental quarterly monitoring reports are also available via the following link <http://intranet/documents/qmr/201112/childrenandent/CE3Reports/>

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Directorate Overview report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross - cutting activities being reported, means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Not applicable		

Thematic Performance Overview Report

Directorate: Children and Enterprise, Children and Young People Thematic Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 3, Period 1 October 2011 – 31 December 2011

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred within Quarter 3. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix.

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Ofsted Inspections

Unannounced inspection of Children's Social Care Contact, Referral and Assessment Service

An unannounced inspection of initial contact, referral and assessment took place on the 7th and 8th December 2011. This inspection by Ofsted was undertaken alongside an inspection of the Police Child Protection Unit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). This was a pilot of joint inspections and Halton was only the fourth area in the country where such inspections have been undertaken. It was a very thorough and challenging inspection. Ofsted identified a number of strengths where the service was exceeding statutory requirements, and highlighted 11 areas where statutory requirements were being met. There were no aspects of the service which required priority action. However inspectors confirmed that some social workers' caseloads were too high and this was impacting on the completion of initial assessments. Proposals to realign the Children in Need and Children in Care services to reduce workloads are currently being consulted on with staff. An action plan to address the areas where improvements are needed has been drawn up. Overall the outcome of the inspection was extremely positive.

Children's Centre Inspections

During the quarter Ofsted also carried out inspections of Halton Lodge and Ditton Children's Centres. Again the inspections were forensic and thorough in nature, and therefore it was great news that both centres were graded as 'Good' overall, with 'Good' capacity for sustained improvement. Certain aspects of health and economic well-being, including access to adult learning require further improvements at Halton Lodge, and therefore working closely with key partners will continue. Children's Centres are located within the Team Around the Family structure and it is critical that our 'Early Help' to families has a real impact and improves outcomes for children.

Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit, The Gateway

An Ofsted inspection of the KS4 Gateway was undertaken on 8th and 9th February. The overall effectiveness of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was graded as 'Satisfactory'. The main findings indicated that the PRU provides a sound quality of education and good care, guidance and support for its students. The PRUs capacity to improve was also graded as 'Satisfactory'.

2.2 Statutory Testing and Assessment 2012

In 2012 there are three major alterations to the statutory assessment requirements in the primary phase. Two of these relate to end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) testing and assessment of writing in particular, and the third relates to the introduction of a phonics screening check in Year 1. The teacher assessment of attainment in writing will be published, contribute towards an overall English level and will be used for accountability purposes in performance tables. Some schools in each Local Authority are required to administer the externally marked test as part of a sample to monitor national standards in writing. A sample of schools will be visited by an LA-appointed moderator in dealing with the moderation of teacher assessment judgements of writing. In relation to the phonics check which will confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard

and, as such, will identify those pupils who need extra help. The LA will undertake monitoring visits to a sample of schools.

2.3 Post-16 Proposal

Members received a briefing from Wade Deacon High School on their proposal for post-16 provision and a response from Riverside College at a seminar in October 2011. Further to the briefing and following a consultation carefully conducted with the views of all partners and especially Riverside College, Wade Deacon High School have advised that they do not intend to proceed to the formal stage at this time.

2.4 Commissioning

In October 2011 Senior Managers considered a list of recommendations for each of the current commissioned contracts for Children's Services. There have been many changes both locally and nationally, which is leading to changes around the type and quality of service delivery needed, both in conjunction with needs of children and young people and their families in light of the current economic climate. As most of the current contracts were due to end on 31st March 2011 the decision was made to serve 90 day notice to all providers and review and revise our provision in line with the Children and families priorities.

2.5 The Education Act 2011

The Education Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The key changes for the local authority within the act include;

- A new entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds to 15 hours free early years education;
- Independent appeals for exclusions with independent review panels;
- The duty on LAs to appoint a School Improvement Partner for every school removed;
- Precedence to academies given, where a LA identifies the need for a new school, and expands the academies programme to allow 16-19 and alternative provision academies;
- Extension of Secretary of State's powers to intervene in underperforming schools;
- Provision for the closure of the Local Government Ombudsman's school complaints service, and removes the duty to consider complaints about the curriculum from LA's. General complaints about schools will now be made to the Secretary of State;
- Pilots for direct payments for SEN education services allowed;
- LA powers over sixth form colleges changed; and
- The abolition of five arm's length bodies.

In relation to the disadvantaged two year old programme, Halton currently supports around 100 vulnerable 2 year olds per year via around £200k of funding and this initiative will expand incrementally to 500 places for 2013/14 rising to 1000 places by 2014/15 with anticipated funding of circa £2.8m. Halton's priority over the coming months will be to identify and secure sufficient, high quality provision for the children to access throughout the phased increase up to 2014.

2.6 Inclusion

There have been a number of key developments in relation to inclusion, detailed below:

- The establishment of an Annual Conference to promote the health and well-being of pupils with hearing impairment (HI) that will provide training for staff and role models, to develop and maintain self-confidence within that client group. It has been organised through Halton Service for Hearing Impaired Children and will be free to all Halton Schools;
- Recent establishment of parent support across the borough called Light Relief. This is a pilot programme, designed to provide a link service of support for parents of children with a range of SEN;
- Strengthening the development of the Visual Impaired (VI) parent support group, providing further opportunities for children with VI to meet socially, at local venues to reduce isolation;
- Operational guidelines supporting resource bases, which linking into national requirements outlined through NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) ICAN (charity supporting children with Speech & Language and communication difficulties) and the National Deaf Children Society;

- Expansion of the Photo voice (photography programme) to support Pupil voice and transition planning across the Borough;
- CASPA (a national a system to report on progress of children with additional needs, placed within resource bases and Special schools) training delivered across the Resource bases to monitor progress and demonstrate Value added, in line with the New Ofsted Framework requirements;
- Redevelopment of Inclusive Learning Division website to provide information to Parents and schools, known as The Source; and
- The establishment of local mobility orientation service in the Borough. The Service is based at Brookfields School and deployed by the LA to ensure self-sufficiency in children and young people with VI.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 New Ofsted Inspection Framework for schools 2012

The new Ofsted Inspection framework for schools was introduced in January 2012 The changes to inspection are designed to:

- raise expectations especially for teaching and pupil achievement
- give greater priority to early reading and literacy
- focus in more depth on the quality of teaching and pupils' behaviour and safety
- give greater priority to the impact of school leadership on improving teaching and achievement
- focus inspection more on schools that need to improve most.

There will be an even greater focus on:

- narrowing gaps in performance for groups of pupils
- quality of teaching and its impact on learning and progress
- reading and literacy
- behaviour and safety.

Under the new inspection framework schools will be judged on a smaller number of core aspects than before, but those areas will be examined in greater depth:

- the achievement of pupils at the school;
- the quality of teaching in the school;
- the quality of the leadership in and management of the school; and
- the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.

The changes are expected to result in more streamlined inspections, with fewer judgments and grades, leading to sharper reports on the quality of education provided by schools and the most important aspects of their performance.

3.2 Department of Work and Pensions/European Social Fund

As part of the government's commitment to 'turning around' the estimated 120,000 families with multiple problems who have the poorest outcomes and make significant and costly demands on local services. Reed in Partnership have been awarded the contract for Halton and neighbouring LA's with the delivery of progress measures to be through a supply chain of subcontracted agencies, predominately from the private and voluntary/community sectors. LA's are required to refer families to the programme. Since the contract award there has however been a change in emphasis to the type of families who will be supported through Reed in Partnership. It is now clear that the programme will be predominantly targeted at families with less complex needs. As a consequence of this change, Halton is currently reassessing its approach to identifying the most appropriate families for referral.

3.3 Troubled Families

The Government has announced that almost £450m has been made available in a cross-government drive to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families. The money is being made

available to local authorities to fund a national network of Troubled Family trouble shooters and family intervention projects. This is one of several 'payment by results' initiatives that the government have announced to tackle worklessness and anti-social behaviour. . The 375 families calculated for Halton were based on an analysis from the 2005 Family and Children survey using the child welfare index and indicators of multiple deprivation. Scoping work has commenced to understand how we identify Halton's 'real' troubled families and how current services, including our own Children's Services, could be used to address the needs of these families .

3.4 Shared Services

Governors Shared Services

Halton is working in partnership with Cheshire East, Knowsley and Wirral Local Authorities to provide a revitalised Governor Training and Support Service Level Agreement through a shared service. Cheshire East are the lead authority for this service and the service will offer greater/more accessibility to face to face training, improved quality of service provided to governors supported by external providers, access to high quality e-learning, and the ability to create bespoke e-learning modules and greater value for money via group procurement. The service will be available from April 2012 with a review of the Governors Clerking and Administrative SLA being undertaken during 2012 for implementation in 2013.

Commissioning Support for Cheshire West and Chester LA

Approval has now been given for the Commissioning Division to provide dedicated commissioning support to Cheshire West and Chester which will bring in additional income to the authority. The support package will focus on areas to assist with the introductions of foundations that will ensure a collective understanding of commissioning and what it can deliver. In addition, work is also being undertaken to explore the opportunity to develop a shared service for commissioning across the two authorities during 2012/13 with Halton as the lead.

3.5 School Improvement: SIMS team

During Quarter 3 a set of IT servers were built and installed in the Municipal Building which have the sole function of hosting the School Information Management System (SIMS) for all Halton schools. The SIMS Team will migrate all Schools to the Central Server Farm, this will complete the programme of moving all key school data into a single safe server that can be accessed from any site. The new server will allow primary schools to benefit from improved functionality and will be a more secure system for all schools.

3.6 Admission Arrangements

The Department for Education has issued revised codes for School Admissions and School Admission Appeals. One key change in the revised codes is the removal of the requirement for LA's to co-ordinate the in-year school admissions process from 2013/14. However, most schools have recognised the benefits, particularly in terms of safeguarding and pupil tracking, of having a centrally managed service, and the LA will undertake a consultation with schools during 2012 to establish a revised process for the 2013/14 academic year.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Where a 'Key' Service Objective has been assessed and found to have an associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of this risk treatment measures will be reported in quarters 2 and 4.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Where a Key service objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' priority equality actions, progress against the application of this risk treatment measures will be reported in quarters 2 and 4.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Standards in Education

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
LAS1	Improve standards in education through improved Ofsted inspection grading's and supporting schools through inspections by July 2011 (LAS1a & LAS1b)	
LAS1, LAS2, LAS3	Use appropriate data analysis for schools to align appropriate support and challenge to improve standards by December 2011 (LAS1c, LAS2a, LAS2b, LAS3a, LAS3b, LAS3c, LAS3d)	
LAS4	Plan, implement and review the resource bases for SEN provision across Halton by August 2011 (LAS4a, LAS4b, LAS4c)	

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

LAS1: Improve standards in education through improved Ofsted inspection grading's and supporting schools through inspections

All satisfactory schools are considered to be vulnerable and retained school improvement personnel continue to carefully monitor their progress, providing support and intervention as appropriate. The most recent review of RAISEonline data was undertaken in December, a risk assessment undertaken and where appropriate Warning Notices have been issued to challenge underperformance. The Operational Director for Learning and Achievement attends the regular meetings of the School Development Panel, providing an opportunity to carefully monitor schools' experience of the inspection process, areas for celebration and areas for development. Schools will be offered the opportunity to share best practice through the web based Mutual Learning Bank for Schools that have bought into Aspire, our traded services partnership with Serco and Warrington. In addition, in November Halton hosted a Learn Together Partnership Masterclass where an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) briefed a number of officers, head teachers and governors on the new inspection framework. A number of LA briefings are planned in Spring Term.

LAS1, 2, 3: Use appropriate data analysis for schools to align appropriate support and challenge to improve standards

The membership of the cross service monitoring group (CSMG) has increased during the past quarter and there are now at least 10 services represented. This forum is used to share intelligence across a broad range of school related matters. The categorisation of schools was completed in September and a review of these will be conducted in the Spring term following analyses of validated progress data.

LAS 4: Plan, implement and review the resource bases for SEN provision across Halton

The new structure and service delivery model was successfully implemented 1st September 2011. Evaluation is on-going and is monitored through a performance monitoring framework through the Service Level Agreement.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI01CYP	Percentage gap between Children in Care attainment	New indicator	N/A	37%	N/A	N/A

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	at Key Stage 2 and their peers (English and Maths)					
LPI02CYP	Percentage gap between Children in Care attainment for 5+ GCSE's grades A*-C including English and Maths and their peers	New indicator	N/A	39%	N/A	N/A
LPI03CYP	Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4	New indicator	N/A	83% (KS2)	N/A	N/A
NI075	Proportion achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths	50%	54%	56%		
LPI02LAS	Percentage of primary schools inspected in the period graded good or better	New indicator	100%	33%		N/A
LPI03LAS	Percentage of secondary schools inspected in the period graded good or better	New indicator	100%	None inspected in Qtr 3	N/A	N/A
LPI04LAS	Percentage of maintained primary schools in Halton with latest inspection grade of good or better	New indicator	85%	76%		N/A
LPI05LAS	Percentage of maintained secondary schools in Halton with latest inspection grade of good or better	New indicator	67%	60%		N/A
NI102a	Achievement gap at Key Stage 2 English and Maths between Free school meals and their peers	15.2%	12%	20.6%		
NI102b	Achievement gap at Key Stage 4 between Free School meals at their peers	28%	20%	28.3%		
NI104	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 English and Maths	50% (2008/09 latest data)	35%	53.3%		
NI105	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths	48.6% (2008/09 latest data)	28%	46.2%		
NI072	Percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS (including 6 at CLL and PSE)	50%	54%	48.3%		
NI073	Percentage achieving level 4+ at KS2 in English and Maths	77%	80%	77%		
NI080	Percentage achieving Level 3 at 19	42.3%	44%	Available March 2012	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

The majority of the measures in this theme are related to attainment which was reported in the quarter 2 report. Measures updated during this quarter relate to Primary school inspections. A primary school was inspected in October 2011 and was judged to require special measures. The Local Authority is working with the school to support the delivery of the school's improvement plan.

Continuum of Need: from Early Help and Support to Safeguarding

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
COPS 4	Refresh the IYSS Strategy and implement the agreed action plan by March 2012 (COPS4a & COPS4b)	
CFS2 CFS4	Improve effectiveness of support to children at all levels of need by March 2012 (CFS2a, CFS2b, CFS2c, CFS4a, CFS4b, CFS4c)	
CFS3	Revise the facilitation of the Children in Care Council to improve the engagement of young people by December 2011 (CFS3a)	
CFS3	Develop and commence implementation of a revised multiagency Children in Care strategy and undertake and audit of outcomes for Children in Care by March 2012 (CFS3b, CFS3c)	

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

COPS4: Refresh the IYSS Strategy and implement the agreed action plan

Currently the IYSS Commissioning Division are undertaking a tendering process for new services for young people. The decision was made by Executive Board to disband the current youth service and redesign service. This has enabled us to also reduce the age range to 10 years old from 13 year olds. Four providers have been shortlisted and are to be interviewed by a panel of young people in January and interview panels with Commissioners and key partners will take place later in the month. Following the appointment of the successful applicant a transition plan will be implemented to ensure service provision is not disrupted.

CFS2, 4: Improve effectiveness of support to children at all levels of need

The research report from Glyndwr University into the levels of need was reported to the Children's Trust to inform the review of the levels of need. The Children's Trust Executive Board agreed in November to consult partners on a new framework for levels of need.

CFS3: Revise the facilitation of the Children in Care Council to improve the engagement of young people

Additional resources are in place and will be part of the revised service specification for a Children's Rights and Advocacy Service. The format and the mechanism for facilitating Speak Up (Children in Care Council) has been significantly improved. This has already led to an increase in the number of young people engaged in Speak Up.

CFS3: Develop and commence implementation of a revised multiagency Children in Care strategy and undertake and audit of outcomes for Children in Care

The revised strategy is now agreed and in place. Implementation of the actions has commenced.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI06CFS	Child in Need plans are independently reviewed	New indicator	50%	100%		N/A
NI059 adjusted	Initial Assessments completed within 10 working days	88.5%	85%	75.1%		
NI060	Core Assessments completed within 35 working days	89.6%	92%	81.7%		

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI08CFS	Percentage reduction in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care generated by Police CAVA notifications and closed within 3 months of referral from baseline 2009-10	New indicator	-10%	-15.2%		N/A
LPI09CFS	Percentage of CIN Cases that require a multi-agency co-ordinated plan at level 2- 3a (CAF) on closure have a named lead professional and a clear plan to take forward	New indicator	100%	100%		N/A
NI062	Stability of placements of Children in Care: number of moves	7.9%	7.5%	7.4%		
NI063	Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	87%	90%	78.6%		
NI117 adjusted	Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) – residency calculation comparison with historic not applicable	Adjusted indicator	10.5%	10.2% (Dec 2011)		
LPI12COP	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (140 conceptions)	New	-2 conceptions	-5 conceptions on the 12 months to date		N/A
NI112 – adjusted for SCS Indicator	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (58.9 rolling quarterly average rate)	58.9 Rolling quarterly average rate	-1.43% reduction 58.1 Rolling quarterly average rate	+0.1% increase 59.5 rolling quarterly average rate		
LD LI 07	Average time taken to complete Child Care Cases (calendar days)	336	225	190		

Supporting Commentary

Stability of Children in Care placements continues to improve with a small proportion of children having had three or more placements in the first half of the reporting year. Whilst the performance for the long term stability will not meet the very challenging end of year target, the vast majority of children in care enjoy good stability. In comparison with the national average, Halton has a significantly higher percentage in long term, stable placements.

Work around children in need and ensuring their needs are met appropriately is progressing well as demonstrated for indicators (LPI06CFS, LPI08CFS, LPI09CFS) with performance either meeting the targets set of exceeding them.

Assessment timescales (NI059, NI060) is more uncertain however with the increase in referrals and child protection activity. Additionally this quarter the Children in Need teams went live with the CareFirst6 system and whilst it is anticipated this will have a positive impact in the long term, it will take some time to bed in as people become familiar with the new system.

There are currently 243 NEET 18 year olds in Halton compared to 90 sixteen year olds and 126 seventeen year olds. The issue of long-term NEET within the borough is being addressed through two separate multi-agency case-conferencing meetings. The meetings enable professionals to discuss individual cases of NEET young people with education and training providers to match young people with suitable available provision to reengage them in EET. Data sharing protocols are currently being amended to enable practitioners and providers to freely discuss the specific barriers individual young people have which are preventing them from progressing back into learning.

During the rolling 12 months (Q4 2009 – Q3 2010) there have been 135 conceptions. During Q3 2010, there were 37 conceptions. Halton has had 5 less conceptions than the 2009 baseline. Whilst the numbers above indicate that progress is positive and therefore there is a potential to meet the end of year target, the rolling average rate is used for the Sustainable Community Strategy measure to enable Halton to benchmark against the national picture. This measure takes into account the reduction in the population base of 15-17 year olds females in the Borough (from 2392 to 2259 by 133) and therefore reflects a slight increase in the rolling quarterly rate. This is however an improvement upon the same period last year, and represents good progress.

The indicator around Legal Services timescales to complete child care cases has been included to provide oversight of this measure. Commentary from the service indicates that child care cases are complex and lengthy and resultant timescales are not always within the control of the legal staff involved. As such, the indicator is a very difficult one to deal with, and can be quickly affected by the volume of cases and the time taken to progress matters through the court process as the profile of safeguarding has been raised. The Legal team work well with colleagues in the Children & Enterprise Directorate.

Managing Resources Effectively

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
COPS3	Implement a strategic commissioning framework for 14-19 across the priorities for commission from September 2011 according to the appropriate action plans from September 2011 (COPS3a)	
COPS3	Implement the action plan from the review of quality and sustainability of The Gateway by March 2012 (COPS3c)	
COPS1	Implement the actions from the Children in Care sufficiency assessment by March 2012 (COPS1a)	
COPS1	Complete a comprehensive review of Early Years provision informed by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment by August 2011 (COPS1b)	
CFS1	Ensure the social care workforce are appropriately supported and developed to meet future demands by March 2012 (CFS1a, CFS1c, CFS1d)	
CFS3	Implement actions from the Placement Strategy to increase accommodation for care leavers and the number of foster carers by March 2012 (CFS3d)	

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

COPS3: Implement a strategic commissioning framework for 14-19 across the priorities for commission from September 2011 according to the appropriate action plans

The six priorities agreed by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership are due to be taken to Executive Board Sub-Committee in January and action plans around the six priorities are being drafted in consultation with partners.

COPS3: Implement the action plan from the review of quality and sustainability of The Gateway

An Ofsted inspection of the KS4 Gateway was undertaken in November. The overall effectiveness of the PRU was graded as Satisfactory. The main findings indicated that the PRU provides a sound quality of education and good care, guidance and support for its students. The areas for improvement highlighted as part of the inspection process will be addressed by the Gateway Management Committee.

COPS1: Implement the actions from the Children in Care sufficiency assessment

The Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan is reviewed quarterly in Senior Management Team. A full review of the CSA, including the Action Plan will be completed and published by April 2012.

CFS1: Ensure the social care workforce are appropriately supported and developed to meet future demands

Further to the audit of supervision files in the summer, an action plan has been developed to further improve the quality of supervision. The bespoke programme of training for frontline operational managers has been developed and commenced in November 2011.

CFS3: Implement actions from the Placement Strategy to increase accommodation for care leavers and the number of foster carers

There has been an increase in both Care leaver accommodation and placements within foster care.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI01CFS	Newly qualified social workers (NQSW) receiving the level of supervision as set out in the supervision policy	New indicator	100%	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
LPI05CFS	Increase the units of accommodation for care leavers	New indicator	4	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

LPI05CFS: Increase the units of accommodation for care leavers: Additional accommodation is in place and a further four young people are being supported in their own accommodation.

7.0 Financial Statement

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2011

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	2,902	2,205	2,169	36
Premises	22	10	6	4
Supplies & Services	2,340	1,280	1,227	53
Transport	5	4	4	0
Commissioned Services - Youth Service	1,369	1,030	1,030	0
Commissioned Services – BSF	480	432	432	0
Commissioned Services– Other	1,271	834	779	55
Schools Transport	1,008	670	567	103
Agency Related	343	155	155	0
Connexions	1,323	891	891	0
Total Expenditure	11,063	7,511	7,260	251
<u>Income</u>				
Reimbursements and Other Income	-778	-386	-409	23
Dedicated Schools Grant	-822	-199	-199	0
Schools SLA	-559	-7	-7	0
Transfer from BSF	-611	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-414	-351	-351	0
Total Income	-3,184	-943	-966	23
Net Operational Expenditure	7,879	6,568	6,294	274
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	273	208	208	0
Transport Support	268	192	192	0
Central Support	2416	1629	1629	0
Asset Charges	3148	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	6,105	2,029	2,029	0
Net Departmental Total	13,984	8,597	8,323	274

Comments on the above figures:

Employee expenditure is below budget to date due to a number of reasons including maternity leave and vacancies within the Place Planning and Provision Division. In addition to this there has been a reduction in contracted hours for staff within Transforming Children's Environment Division on the SIMS and VLP cost centre.

Supplies and Services is below budget due to the renegotiation of IT software license contracts.

Commissioned Services – Other is below budget to date as efficiencies have been achieved due to the renegotiation of commissioned services contracts.

School Transport – This is currently below budget to date as a result of the retendering of contracts. Also grant monies (Extended Rights and General Duty to Promote Sustainable Travel Grant) totalling £95k have been used to offset some of the transport contract expenditure, and other areas of spend within the transport budget.

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2011 - Schools Related

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	557	418	418	0
Premises	431	34	34	0
Schools Redundancy	698	448	448	0
Schools Contingency	142	39	39	0
Special Educational Needs Contingency	588	26	26	0
Schools Contingency Carry forward	2,285	0	0	0
Schools Non Delegated Support	375	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	5,096	965	965	0
<u>Income</u>				
Dedicated Schools Grant	-2,465	-2,389	-2,389	0
Pupil Premium	-64	0	0	0
YPLA	-2,397	0	0	0
Additional Grant For Schools	-84	0	0	0
Total Income	-5,010	-2,389	-2,389	0
Net Operational Expenditure	86	-1,424	-1,424	0
<u>Recharges</u>				
School Recharges	111	83	83	0
Net Total Recharges	111	83	83	0
Net Departmental Total	197	-1,341	-1,341	0

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2011

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,247	2,680	2,552	128
Premises	34	10	8	2
Supplies & Services	2,137	693	665	28
Transport	13	0	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	2,382	1,684	1,684	0
Independent School Fees	1,689	1,105	1,105	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	779	-498	-498	0
Speech Therapy	120	120	123	(3)
Total Expenditure	11,401	5,794	5,639	155
<u>Income</u>				
Transfer from reserves (11/12 budget savings)	-305	-312	-312	0
Government Grant	-24	-28	-28	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-6,898	-930	-930	0
Reimbursements	-938	-113	-113	0
Schools SLA's	-38	-17	-17	0
Total Income	-8,203	-1,400	-1,400	0
Net Operational Expenditure	3,198	4,394	4,239	155
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	221	166	166	0
Central Support Services	980	735	735	0
Transport Recharge Income	25	28	28	0
Net Total Recharges	1,226	929	929	0
Net Departmental Total	4,424	5,323	5,168	155

Comments on the above figures:

Revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is below budget.

The employee budget is currently under budget due to a number of staff vacancies.

Supplies & Services are currently under budget to date due in the main to a reduction in overall demand for supplies & services in localised areas following reduced staffing levels and streamlined workflows. This is expected to be under budget at year end.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2011

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	8,107	6,025	5,863	162
Premises	400	273	187	86
Supplies & Services	1,655	818	571	247
Transport	46	34	11	23
Agency Related Expenditure	384	263	183	80
Residential Placements	1,854	1,608	1,681	(73)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	60	14	46
Out of Borough Fostering	500	332	301	31
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,614	1,210	1,086	124
In House Adoption	357	268	304	(36)
Care Leavers	316	237	262	(25)
Commissioned Services	500	398	397	1
Family Support	161	39	23	16
Total Expenditure	15,974	11,565	10,883	682
<u>Income</u>				
Early Intervention Grant	-8,226	-3,818	-3,818	0
Government Grants	-356	-398	-398	0
Transfer from Reserves (11/12 Budget Savings)	-300	-300	-300	0
Fees & Charges	-690	-444	-444	0
Adoption Placements	-40	-16	-16	0
Total Income	-9,612	-4,976	-4,976	0
Net Operational Expenditure	6,362	6,589	5,907	682
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises	441	340	340	0
Transport	123	87	87	0
Central Support Services	3,198	2,378	2,378	0
Asset Rentals	44	0	0	0
Total Recharges	3,806	2,805	2,805	0
Net Department Total	10,168	9,394	8,712	682

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 3 is showing an underspend.

The Employee budget is currently under budget to date due to a number of staff vacancies predominantly in the child care and think family teams and is expected to be under budget at year end.

The premises budget is currently under budget to date due a reduction in overhead costs and is expected to be under budget at year end.

Supplies & Services are currently under budget to date due in the main to a reduction in overall demand for supplies & services in localised areas following reduced staffing levels and streamlined workflows. This is expected to be under budget at year end.

Transport is currently under budget due to a reduction in the use of volunteer drivers and this is expected to be under budget at year end.

Overall the fostering service and out of borough adoption is currently under budget to date whilst the residential, in-house adoption and care leavers budgets are over budget to date. This is mainly due to a change in the dynamics of children currently in care. However the overall position across all these children in care services is under budget to date and this is expected to remain that way at year end.

7.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Objective	Performance Indicator
Green		Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber		Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red		Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green		<i>Indicates that</i> performance is better <i>as compared to the same period last year.</i>
Amber		<i>Indicates that</i> performance is the same <i>as compared to the same period last year.</i>
Red		<i>Indicates that</i> performance is worse <i>as compared to the same period last year.</i>
N/A		<i>Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.</i>