



# Halton Children & Young People's Plan

**2011- 2014**

Annual Review 2012





# Introduction

## Halton Children & Young People's Plan Annual Review 2012

The Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 is the joint, strategic, overarching plan for all partners within Halton Children's Trust, and the services they provide for children and young people in Halton. It describes how partners will work together to improve outcomes for our children and young people, setting out the long term vision for improving their health and wellbeing. This Plan establishes the strategic priorities for Halton Children's Trust until 2014 and supports the development of integrated and effective services to secure the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

This Annual Review document is a supplement that provides an update on:

- Progress towards achieving the Children's Trust's strategic priorities.
- The 14 Children & Young People's Plan promises, that together form the Trust's action plan
- Policy development, in particular focusing on how these affect the journey of the child or young person through services within Halton Children's Trust
- Success stories of Halton Children's Trust over the last 12 months



## What is Halton Children's Trust?

Halton Children's Trust was established in 2008 and is a partnership of all public and voluntary sector organisations, in conjunction with representatives of parents, carers, children and young people, working together to meet the needs of and improve outcomes for all children, young people and families in Halton.

We believe that this can be done more effectively by all agencies and organisations working together. To achieve our aims, the Children's Trust partners need to be able to work in a co-ordinated way. Our Children & Young People's Plan makes this co-ordination possible and focuses this partnership work on our key priority areas.

## Halton Children's Trust Priorities

Halton Children's Trust has three overarching strategic priorities around which the Children & Young People's Plan has been developed. They are:

- *Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support.*
- *Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective integrated commissioning*
- *Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively*

The table overleaf outlines the progress made within each priority during 2011/12, and key areas of work for 2012/13.





**A. Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support**

<p><b>What is it?</b></p>	<p>Delivery of services in an integrated way to ensure children and their families get coordinated help and support when needed at the right level within the Halton Levels of Need Framework.</p>
<p><b>2011-12 Key Achievements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Principles of Early Help and Support have been developed and adopted by all Halton Children’s Trust agencies</li> <li>· Early Help event held and attended by over 120 multi-agency frontline practitioners</li> <li>· Co-location of multi-agency staff at Warrington Road Children’s Centre working within Early Help &amp; Support model.</li> <li>· A new package of Early Help training provision for all Halton Children’s Trust agencies has been launched following review of Early Help/CAF procedures.</li> <li>· Early Help Panel launched to add additional capacity and link to other multi-agency panels in Halton.</li> <li>· Research undertaken into existing Halton Levels of Need Framework and agreement given for framework to be revised.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Work for 2012-13</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Embed new Team Around the Family structures</li> <li>· Further develop and embed Early Help Panel arrangements</li> <li>· Review Halton Levels of Need Framework in light of research findings</li> <li>· Continue to strengthen links with Halton Safeguarding Children Board in scrutinising the development of Early Help and Support.</li> <li>· Ensure all Children’s Trust workforce staff equipped with core skills to develop Early Help.</li> </ul>



## B. Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective integrated commissioning

<b>What is it?</b>	Ensuring all partners within Halton Children's Trust jointly plan and decide which services should be commissioned to meet the needs of children, young people and families in Halton. By securing and monitoring services together we can avoid duplication and get the best value for money.
<b>2011-12 Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mapping of all Children in Care from Other Local Authorities (CiCOLA's) in Halton undertaken and impact of commissioned services evaluated.</li> <li>· Evaluation of 25 nationally recommended early intervention programmes undertaken and mapped against provision in Halton.</li> <li>· Redesign of youth provision to ensure improved, targeted provision by splitting into three elements</li> <li>· Progress against five agreed Halton Children's Trust commissioning priorities monitored and evaluated.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Work for 2012-13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Redesign local early intervention provision from pre-birth to 19 based on research findings</li> <li>· Ensure smooth transition to new commissioning arrangements as Health &amp; Social Care Act 2012 implemented.</li> <li>· Embed and coordinate principles of Troubled Families Initiative across Halton Children's Trust</li> </ul>

## C. Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively

<b>What is it?</b>	Targeting of services towards the needs of our most vulnerable children to ensure they are getting the right support. Vulnerability could be caused by characteristics or by circumstances.
<b>2011-12 Key Achievements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Analysis of Children in Care's educational needs undertaken and additional support implemented.</li> <li>· Development of Early Years Strategy</li> <li>· Agreed relevant indicators to monitor child and family poverty in Halton.</li> <li>· Analysis of vulnerability factors undertaken to agree method of weighting importance of and links between each.</li> <li>· Agreement with schools for universal minimum bursary payment for low income families.</li> <li>· Redesign of Information, Advice &amp; Guidance provision from 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Work for 2012-13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support development of new curriculum offer</li> <li>· Development of database that filters vulnerability factors in each case.</li> <li>· Research into the causes of the gap in achievement between those young people that are and are not on free school meals.</li> <li>· Establishment of integrated Early Years Team</li> </ul>



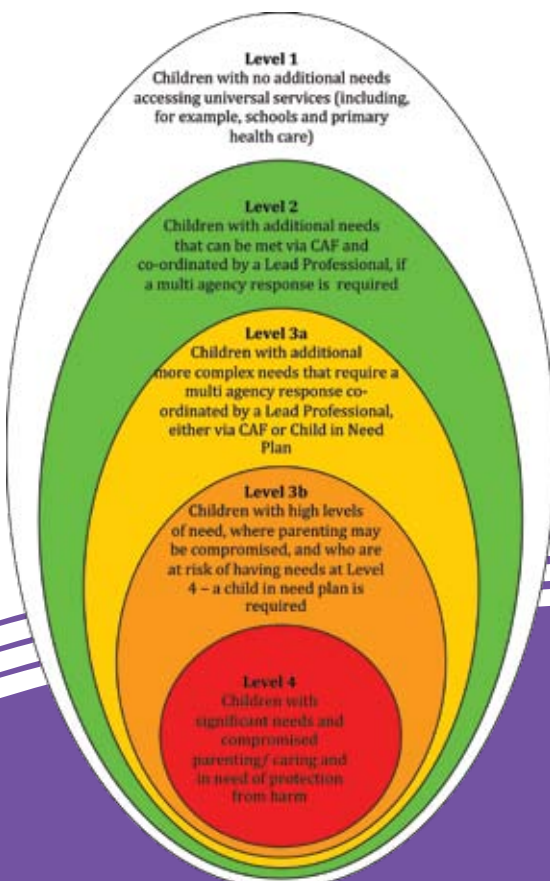
## The Journey of the Child

From 2012, Halton, like all local authority areas, will need to be familiar with a new Ofsted inspection framework. A key element of this framework is a focus on the journey and experience of the child through services. As part of its everyday work within this framework, Halton Children's Trust will focus on ensuring that the views of children, young people and their families are captured at every opportunity to inform future commissioning, priority setting and inspection processes.

As a Children's Trust we ensure that each step on that journey involves a seamless experience of multi-agency working and an unrelenting focus on the outcomes we need to achieve.

To give context for this work, the diagram overleaf outlines the services that a child, young person and their family might encounter on their 'journey' through childhood. This is set against the Halton Levels of Need Framework. The diagram is not an exhaustive list but tries to highlight some of the main services and agencies that could be involved with a child, young person and their family, depending on the nature of their needs. The journey is split into sections for the purposes of the diagram but the joint working by partners through Halton Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board ensures support for all children, young people and their families across the full age range at each stage of the Framework is as seamless as possible to give the best possible outcomes for all.

The Halton Levels of Need Framework is explained in full within the Halton Children & Young People's Plan but the diagram below provides a useful summary.



In essence, the work of the Children's Trust focuses on levels 1 – 3a of the framework. Levels 3b and 4 are the remit of Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB). The two work closely together to ensure a smooth transition between each level and this relationship is outlined in the Children's Trust/HSCB Joint Working Protocol, which is available on the Children's Trust website.

([www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust](http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust)).

**Level 1** – Children and young people whose needs are being met through universal services available to all

**Level 2** – Additional needs that have been identified that can be met through a CAF or discussions within or across agencies.

**Level 3a** – More complex needs have been identified. A co-ordinated multi agency approach to addressing these can be facilitated by the Integrated Working Support Team

**Level 3b** – Higher levels of need which require contact to be made with Children's Social Care

**Level 4** – Children and young people identified as being in need of immediate protection





## Supporting a child's journey through the continuum of need

	Pre-birth – 4	Age 5 - 9	Age 10 - 14	Age 15 - 19
<b>Key Statistics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population - 8,200 (0-4 year olds, 2010) 26.8% of young people</li> <li>6.9% of Halton population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population - 7,300 (2010) 23.9% of young people</li> <li>6.1% of Halton population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population - 7,300 (2010) 23.9% of young people</li> <li>6.1% of Halton population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population - 7,800 (2010) 25.5% of young people</li> <li>6.5% of Halton population</li> </ul>
<b>Level 1 – universal services</b>  <i>Halton Children's Trust lead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Midwifery</li> <li>Health Visitors</li> <li>GP services</li> <li>Early Years</li> <li>Children's Centres</li> <li>Primary Child &amp; Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools</li> <li>School Nursing</li> <li>GP services</li> <li>Healthy Schools</li> <li>Children's centres</li> <li>Primary CAMHS</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools</li> <li>School Nursing</li> <li>GP services</li> <li>Healthy Schools</li> <li>Youth Provision</li> <li>Primary CAMHS</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools/ college</li> <li>School Nursing</li> <li>GP services</li> <li>Healthy Schools</li> <li>Connexions</li> <li>Youth Provision</li> <li>Sexual Health/ TP Services</li> <li>Primary CAMHS</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2 – additional needs</b>  <i>Halton Children's Trust lead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Around the Family (TAF)</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Health Visitors</li> <li>Additional Health/education needs</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Youth provision</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Additional Health/education needs</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Youth provision</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Additional Health/education needs</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Youth provision</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Connexions</li> <li>Additional Health/education needs</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Youth provision</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3a – more complex needs</b>  <i>Halton Children's Trust lead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Health Visitors</li> <li>More complex health/education needs</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>More complex health/education needs</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>Youth Offending Team (YOT)</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>More complex health/education needs</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAF</li> <li>YOT</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Probation</li> <li>Substance Misuse Services</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>More complex health/education needs</li> <li>Voluntary/Faith/Community Sector</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3b – higher levels of need</b>  <i>HSCB lead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Health Visitors</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Persistent, complex health/education needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Persistent, complex health/education needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YOT</li> <li>Probation</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Persistent, complex health/education needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YOT</li> <li>Probation</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>Persistent, complex health/education needs</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4 – child protection</b>  <i>HSCB lead</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Health Visitors</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Social Care</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Primary/Tier 3 Specialist CAMHS</li> </ul>



## Children & Young People’s Plan Promises

Halton’s Children’s Trust agreed the following collective promises that will be achieved during the lifespan of the current Children People’s Plan. A summary of progress so far against each is outlined below. For more information please visit [www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust](http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust) or email [childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk](mailto:childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk).

Promise	2011-12 Progress
<p><b>Consultation</b> – We will engage with our children, young people and families around all issues that affect them, in ways that meet their needs and ensure their views are heard and communicate back how their involvement has been acted upon.</p>	<p>Halton Children’s Trust has continued to improve levels and ways of engaging with children, young people and families. Examples of improved engagement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· More opportunities to join groups within the Trust to represent themselves and their peers</li> <li>· Ensuring all relevant issues are taken to groups and the outcomes are fed back.</li> <li>· Opportunity to develop a film to show stakeholders how young people want to be consulted with.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participation</b> – We will endeavour to support throughout Halton active children, young people and parent/ carer action groups in schools and within the community, supported by partners who provide a network of children, young people and parent/ carer voice. This will ensure there is effective two way communication to shape services through, for example social networking sites, action groups, inclusive interview and commissioning panels, community events and drama and arts activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The development of the Joint Children’s Trust and HSCB Participation &amp; Engagement Group has given an additional opportunity for young people to participate.</li> <li>· More young people accessing youth provision from CRMZ in Widnes and Grangeway Youth Hub.</li> <li>· Redesign of youth provision from 2012 to increase the amount of activities available for young people in Halton.</li> <li>· The appointment of a new Parent Participation Coordinator has led to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A rebranding exercise of the Halton Parent &amp; Carer Forum, with universal support for new Halton Family Voice name for the Forum.</li> <li>o Strengthened links with community groups across Halton with identified links between each local group and Halton Family Voice Forum.</li> <li>o More regular Halton Family Voice Forum meetings at a wider range of times</li> <li>o Development of a Halton Family Voice page on the Halton Children’s Trust website</li> <li>o Establishment of more ways to get involved, including a Facebook discussion group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





<p><b>Safeguarding</b> – We will look to ensure all aspects of equality and diversity are captured in the reporting processes within the Children’s Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Quarterly reports on safeguarding activity now include additional detail on disability.</li> <li>· The Board has commissioned research analysing referrals to Children’s Social Care that considers aspects of equality and diversity with, for example, vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and children from the Traveller community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safeguarding</b> – We will seek to further encourage and support children and young people’s participation in informing and challenging the work of the Children’s Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 790 children and young people responded to the Board’s E-Safety survey. The responses are being used to inform E-Safety work in the borough.</li> <li>· Young people from the Youth Service IT Crowd designed the HSCB E-Safety leaflet.</li> <li>· Work is underway to set up a Young People’s Governance Structure to continue to develop the Joint Children’s Trust and HSCB Young People’s Participation Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce development</b> - We will, in these challenging times, continue to invest in our workforce at every opportunity to help us to achieve a more dynamic, knowledgeable and skilled workforce for the future.</p>	<p>Progress made within the following 4 of the 7 Key Strategic Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Acquisition of key workforce data</li> <li>· Introduction of an Equality &amp; Diversity Scheme</li> <li>· Introduction of a number of Leadership &amp; Management schemes</li> <li>· Formulation of a multi-agency Induction Programme.</li> </ul> <p>These will be built upon during the next 12 months, when key areas of work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Launch and implementation of the multi-agency Induction Programme</li> <li>· Design and introduction of Children’s Trust             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Skills Analysis</li> <li>o Competency Framework</li> <li>o Recruitment &amp; Retention Charter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>Vulnerable groups</b> – We will intervene at the right time to prevent problems for our vulnerable children and young people from developing and where problems are already present we will deliver timely interventions to prevent these getting worse.</p>	<p>An analysis is being undertaken to identify and target specific vulnerable groups to ensure that we intervene at the right time to prevent problems from escalating. Using current and historical analysis of vulnerable groups, a method of mapping and weighting indicators of vulnerability in terms of importance on a case-by-case basis is being developed.</p> <p>Using the learning from this work, the 2012/13 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement includes analysis and achievement of vulnerable groups.</p>
<p><b>Independent advocacy</b> – We will ensure that independent advocacy is in place for all vulnerable groups, and in particular children in care, children with disabilities and complex needs to ensure full involvement in decision making for all our children and young people.</p>	<p>Halton’s Children’s Rights, Advocacy and Independent Visitors Service aims to provide independent advocacy support, advice and information to children and young people so their views and wishes are heard, their rights are respected, and that they are assisted if they wish to give feedback or make a complaint. The service is for children and young people aged up to 25 years who are Children in Care, Care Leavers, Children in Need, Children with Complex Needs or on a Child Protection Plan, as well as young people placed out of borough.</p>
<p><b>Child &amp; Family Poverty</b> – We will work to improve the life chances of children and families living in poverty by actively supporting the implementation of the Halton Child &amp; Family Poverty Strategy and encourage our partners to contribute towards the delivery of the key objectives in the Child &amp; Family Poverty Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Halton Child &amp; Family Poverty Strategy has been launched and there is strong Halton Children’s Trust involvement in both its implementation and meeting the agreed objectives contained within the Action Plan. Performance is monitored on a quarterly basis through agreed indicators.</p>
<p><b>Equality &amp; Diversity</b> – We will recognise and celebrate the diversity of our children and young people as well as aspects of commonality.</p>	<p>Halton Children’s Trust Equality &amp; Diversity Group now has representatives from all Trust partners. A comprehensive action plan has been agreed that recognises and highlights current issues. Progress in working towards equality and diversity for children and young people is reported quarterly to the Children’s Trust Executive Group.</p>
<p><b>Performance</b> – We will scrutinise and challenge all agencies working with Children, Young People and their families to improve outcomes using robust performance management.</p>	<p>A new performance report card has been developed in line with the priorities of the Trust. This enables each sub-group to monitor performance, challenge and support agencies to improve performance and share good practice. This is reported to the Children’s Trust Executive Group and Trust Board, enabling challenge and scrutiny at a strategic level. The report card is aligned against outcomes, allowing all agencies to understand the link to improving outcomes for children and families from the services they commission and deliver.</p>



<p><b>Levels of Need Framework</b> – We will review Halton’s Levels of Need Framework utilising the learning from Team around the Family.</p>	<p>Independent research has been undertaken into the existing Halton Levels of Need Framework and this will be used to inform the development of a new Framework for Halton Children’s Trust. The new Framework will be launched by April 2013.</p>
<p><b>Early Help and Support</b> – We will endeavour to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as early as possible using local services that are sensitive to all issues.</p>	<p>Halton Children’s Trust’s model of early help and support is Team Around the Family. All partners are committed to providing support to families in need, as soon as additional needs are identified, and have signed up to a set of values and principles regarding early help. The overall aim is to identify needs early and deploy the right resources to help prevent needs from escalating. This is achieved via close partnership working and using holistic assessments where appropriate, that address the needs of the whole family.</p>
<p><b>Early Help and Support</b> – We will ensure that children, young people and their families can access the additional and specialist services they require through the same initial point of access.</p>	<p>A key feature of Team Around the Family is the ‘front door’ to early help through universal services and Integrated Working Support Teams. Professionals can contact these Teams for advice and guidance when working with families with additional needs. Social Work capacity has been secured within these teams, meaning that when needs arise, families can access more specialist services smoothly. A key priority of the Social Work role is to ensure a smooth transition, with no requirement to go through another point of access.</p>
<p><b>Integrated Commissioning</b> – We will ensure that our Children’s Trust priorities and the wishes of our communities are at the heart of all integrated commissioning decisions</p>	<p>As one of the key strategic priorities for Halton Children’s Trust, all commissioning decisions are taken with the needs of our communities in mind. Integrated commissioning has been undertaken with a particular focus on the agreed Halton Children’s Trust commissioning priorities but has extended into more areas of focus and will continue to do so.</p>
<p><b>Play</b> – We will support all children and young people to be able to participate in and enjoy play in their local area.</p>	<p>The redesign and development of challenging and stimulating play areas during the last few years has greatly improved play opportunities throughout Halton. By having access to a broader range of good quality play throughout the year for all children &amp; young people we have been able to support and develop participation across the full age range.</p>





## Success Stories

Below are just some examples of success stories from across Halton Children's Trust over the last 12 months. More detail can be found on the Halton Children's Trust website –

[www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust](http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust)

### The Hive Transport Debate

The Young People's Travel Forum organised an event in December 2011 to discuss access to The Hive Leisure Park in Widnes. The debate involved young people from across the borough, and was attended by representatives from Transport Policy, Highways and local bus companies. Among the key issues discussed were the lack of public transport access to the development, and safety issues with pedestrian road crossings. As a direct result of the campaign, a new bus service has been implemented linking The Hive with the main terminal in Widnes town centre and improvements have been made to signage for the pedestrian routes. The Young People's Travel Forum has made a real difference not only for their peers but for the wider population accessing the park.

### Integrated working at Warrington Road Children's Centre

A successful pilot project for co-location of services has been implemented at Warrington Road Children's Centre. Health visiting services, together with speech and language therapy, midwifery, school nursing, health improvement and family support are being delivered from one location, improving access for children and families. The project has also improved partnership working between organisations and helped teams to engage with vulnerable families, providing early help and support

### Prince's Trust Success in Halton

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service supported 11 Halton young people to successfully complete The Prince's Trust Programme during 2011-12. All have since progressed to positive destinations, with two enrolled at college and nine having found full-time employment

### Halton Bright Sparks

Halton's Bright Sparks Group is a group of young disabled people involved in working with agencies to develop services for disabled children in Halton. They are supported by Halton Speak Out and have been involved in number of consultation and development sessions in the last 12 months on issues such as the Disability Green Paper, the Halton Short Breaks Statement, the tender process for new short breaks services contracts and development of Halton's Children and Young People's Plan.

The group have developed a kite mark system to enable disabled young people to assess the suitability of services provided in the Borough to meet the needs of disabled children and young people including those who have more complex needs. The group have received training to deliver the scheme and have chosen leisure services as the first area to assess. Certificates will be awarded to those providers who they assess as delivering disability friendly quality services. Any providers who may not meet the required standard will be offered an opportunity to work with the group to improve their service and gain the award.



### Young People's Success in National Citizen Service Awards

Young people involved in the National Citizen Service pilot project attracted two national awards under the Catch 22 banner – best NCS project and best NCS DVD: they were also announced regional winner for best NCS project and, through vInspired, Paul Wright, one of the Canal Boat Adventure Project's young founder members, was announced best youth worker – regional. CBAP was the lead organisation for NCS Halton, working in partnership with Halton Youth Offending Team and Young Addaction Halton.

Young people from Halton enjoyed both award ceremonies in London and they have stayed together as a group and are making a great impact on young people's lives across the borough.

### Halton Children Play Smoke Free

Halton was the first area in Cheshire and Merseyside to sign up to a voluntary code that discourages people from smoking in play areas designed for children. 71 play areas are covered by the Play Smoke free Code, which was developed by local heart health charity Heart of Cheshire in partnership with the Health Improvement Team, NHS Halton and St Helens, Cheshire and Merseyside Tobacco Alliance and Halton Borough Council. The code already has strong support from local residents. Research shows that reducing child exposure to smoking decreases the uptake of smoking amongst young people in the long-term.

### Substance Misuse Treatment Plan.

During summer 2011 Halton Children's Trust received commendation from the National Treatment Agency on the recent work on Substance Misuse. This highlighted the effective partnership work which had taken place across the Trust with regards to provision and delivery of substance misuse treatment services, and the effectiveness of planning and commissioning arrangements.

### High Performing Halton Schools

A report by 'The Times' ranked three Halton schools in the top 100 nationally. The publication ranked schools taking SATs at Key Stage 2, level 3 between 2008 and 2010 based on their aggregate scores in Maths and English. Pewithall Primary School in Runcorn came in at number 22 - just three points below top, with Castle View at number 30 and St Bedes at number 72.

### GCSE Results

In 2011, Halton's GCSE results continued the trend of improvement over the last six years, again achieving the best ever results for the Borough. Overall, 86.6% achieved 5 A\*-C's, with 56.3% achieving 5 A\*-C's including English and Maths. The latter figure is a rise of six percentage points on 2010 levels. The 5+ A\*-C grades has increased by 34% since 2005/06 and continues to perform well above both Regional and National averages. The increase including English & Maths has been by 23% since 2005/06.



### **Supporting voluntary and community groups**

Since 2011 Halton Children's Trust has provided funding to local voluntary and Community groups via Halton Integrated Youth Support Services, to enable young people aged 10-19 in Halton to have access to positive activities and events. Grants awarded have been for a variety of activities, including sports, after school clubs, educational trips, youth advice projects, restoration of buildings and purchase of equipment for short breaks. Funding is aimed at sustainable activities, which provide a springboard to longer-term provision, particularly where there are service.

### **Level 2 and Level 3 Attainment**

Halton has continued to achieve significant improvements in attainment at Level 2 and Level 3 by age 19. At Level 2, Halton recorded the highest annual increase anywhere nationally in 2010, and this level of achievement was exceeded in 2011, with 82.8% of the cohort achieving a Level 2 qualification. At Level 3, Halton again had record levels of achievement by the cohort in 2011, with 51.2% achieving this Level, a 9% increase on 2010.

### **Young People's Involvement DVD**

Following feedback from practitioners, young people from groups across Halton worked together to produce a DVD on engagement and involvement for the annual Children's Trust/HSCB Joint Event for frontline practitioners in March 2012. The DVD, produced in a Big Brother diary room-style format, looked at the methods of involving young people that work well, which methods should be avoided, what young people are looking for when engaging with professionals and what could be improved. All young people involved in the production of the DVD were extremely enthusiastic and the film was well received at the Joint Event. The ideas and advice given will be put into practice during 2012-13. The video can be viewed online via the Halton Children's Trust website or directly at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLGBeWOs0DI>.

### **Halton Blitz Programme Helps Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Halton Blitz programme was developed to provide a range of positive activities for children and young people during school holidays. The programme includes sport, art, drama and educational sessions provided from bases including youth centres, CRMZ in Widnes and HRMZ in Runcorn, plus the Canal Boat Project and the VRMZ outreach bus.

Activities take place from 9am until 10pm each day during school holidays and are free. Antisocial behaviour by young people has dropped significantly during the programme, according to analysis by Cheshire Police, which made a direct correlation between the provision of youth services and a drop in incidents.

### **Riverside College is one of the top ten colleges in the country!**

The Department for Education have published the 2012 performance tables showing that Riverside College is rated 4<sup>th</sup> overall nationally, and the number 1 college in the area on their quality measure!

#### **This Review was completed by:**

Mark Grady and Karen Hickey  
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Halton Borough Council on behalf of Halton Children's Trust

**For more information please contact Halton Children's Trust in any of the following ways:**

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