

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 4 March 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Communities  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Sector Led Improvement Local Authority Analysis  
**WARD(S):** Borough wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the Sector Led Improvement Report Local Authority Analysis undertaken across the North West region.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the report and associated appendices be noted.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 Background

A desktop review of various information sources that are included in the Sector Led Improvement Trigger Dashboard was undertaken by Dave Burnham. The Sector Led Improvement Trigger Dashboard was created by the North West ADASS Sector Led Improvement Sector Led Improvement Steering Group. The desktop review was completed for each of the 23 local authorities in the North West.

The report produced as a result of this review identified any specific risks to Halton and then identified general risks across the region. In regards to any risks identified, possible actions to be undertaken and types of support available have been suggested. Any risks or challenges identified for the authority as a result of this review, would then be included in an action plan for the authority to identify how they plan to address the risks/challenges identified.

3.2 Risk Analysis  
In regards to the 23 local authorities across the North West region, no evidence was found to indicate that any local authority is at risk of imminent failure. It has also been noted that all authorities will face some element of financial risk in future years.

In Halton's Local Authority report, no risks were identified. (Appendix 1) Areas of good practice were noted which include a good service balance with low reliance on residential care. Halton were found to have made good progress on personalisation and has a comprehensive approach to early response for service users.

3.3 Challenges  
Although no risks were identified for Halton, there are some challenges the authority

may face in the future. These challenges include capacity issues, where the ability to continue and sustain the current levels of performance may be difficult. The hospitals which serve the borough are both “fragile”. It was also highlighted that Halton has an ageing workforce, where the age range of staff is largely between 35-60 years.

3.4

#### Support Available

In order to address any risks or challenges identified in each local authority, a menu of support is available for authorities to access. This menu of support includes:

- Good practice case examples
- Action learning
- Buddy support
- Peer Challenge Process
- Shadowing/Coaching
- Bespoke training
- Annual Sector Led Improvement Conference

3.5

#### Action Plan (Appendix 2)

Although no risks were identified for Halton, certain challenges that may be faced in the future were highlighted. These challenges have been included in an action plan for Halton and how these challenges will be addressed.

The first challenge identified was Recruitment and Retention. This was identified as a challenge due to high numbers of managers in the authority being aged 55 and over. There is also a high proportion of the workforce aged over 40. In order to address this challenge, Halton has completed a draft Workforce Strategy.

The second challenge identified was Financial Concerns. This was identified as a challenge because the proportion of spend between older people and learning disabilities did not follow the North West average. This will be addressed by on-going work being undertaken to reduce unit costs and rebalance the spend appropriately for all user groups.

### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

#### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

#### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The remit of the Health Policy and Performance Board is directly linked to this priority.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Through the appropriate actions taken to address the challenges identified through the report, the risk of receiving a poor judgement in the future should be greatly reduced.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the act.