

Priority Based Report

Priority: Children and Young People

Reporting Period: Quarter 2, Period 01 July 2014 – 30 September 2014

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).
- 1.2** Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Children's Social Care Restructure (TC)

The restructure was implemented in September, and the department is in the process of recruiting permanent staff. In the interim, agency workers are covering vacant posts. The principle behind in the reform has already been put into practice and this includes the introduction of practice leads in the service, whose primary responsibilities include supervising a small cohort of 5 social workers, and allocating and authorising work, also additional social work posts have been introduced. All child care cases will be managed either in a Children in Need service or in a Children in Care Service. In the short term, to prevent too many changes for children and families and to allow some work to conclude, there will be cases that are managed by previous workers irrespective of their teams. The Children in Care Service is almost fully staffed with the exception of a Practice Lead and a Community Support Worker. The restructure will enable a learning culture within children's services to strengthen and will give staff more support, with an emphasis on staff development, this will ultimately lead to a skilled workforce that provides a high quality service to children and their families.

2.2 Early Intervention Teams (TC)

Three Locality Early Intervention teams were established in September 2014. The Inspiring Families work and approach is now embedded in the teams. The next phase is now underway, working with partner agencies to identify further staff to join the teams to support our multi-agency, team around the family approach to early intervention. The Contact And Referrals Team (CART) has been enhanced with the addition of 2 CAF support workers and a police resource and is now the one front door for both early intervention and children's social care.

2.3 Implementation of the Alternative Provision strategy (AMc)

The Alternative Provision (AP) strategy is being implemented with Halton's schools. An AP group of senior leaders will review the AP cohorts, identify those not meeting expectations (rates of progress and attendance) and agree interventions. This group will also monitor any Children in Care (CIC) in AP as a priority, safeguarding and Health and Safety. The process will flag poor performing providers to schools. A database will be held centrally in the LA of all young people attending AP and a directory of quality assured AP will be produced for schools.

2.4 Partnership With Schools Support for Troubled Families (AMc)

A selection of schools both primary and secondary have been approached to pilot a school family support project. The project will be a part of the early intervention model with named early intervention workers linking with schools to offer support to identify families that required additional support. This will provide support with the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process and ensure quick and easy access into early intervention services.

2.5 The Children and Families Bill (SN)

The Bill received Royal Assent on the 13th March 2013 and key aspects will come into force from September 2014. The new Children and Families Act will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance.

2.6 Revised Ofsted Framework (SN)

A revised Ofsted framework came into effect on the 1st September 2014. This has been forwarded to all schools and shared with headteachers. This framework includes a new separate judgement for Early Years and Sixth Form provision which may have an influence on the overall effectiveness grading based on the quality of the Early Years or Sixth Form provision.

2.7 2014 Secondary National Curriculum (SN)

The new secondary Curriculum came into place in September 2014 alongside the primary curriculum. There is no statutory document to say 'how' to teach the new national curriculum; rather the programmes of study in the curriculum set out the 'what', with a high level of core knowledge and content understanding. As a result it allows greater freedom; how it is implemented will be down to individual schools. The Programmes of Study are generally shorter, setting out the core content, especially in foundation subjects. They are fuller for key stage 3 Maths and English; this is because of the wider specified subject content that is considered to be especially important.

The National Curriculum defines the minimum that schools must teach – there is an expectation that each school will establish its own 'school curriculum' which includes the statutory requirements and more. This means that schools can still cover topics that are of particular interest to the children even though they are no longer in the national curriculum. All state funded schools must deliver a curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school, and prepare pupils at school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Link to the New National Curriculum:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

Link to national curriculum resources to support implementation:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/358070/NC_assessment_qualifications_factsheet_Sept_update.pdf

2.8 Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care (SN)

The new practice guidance detailing the format for schools to access the Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care has now been issued and schools have been briefed. The model adopted in Halton is an individual child needs led model to ensure that each child in care has access to the level of additional funding according to their identified needs. In accordance with the grant conditions set out by the DfE, this fund will be managed by the Virtual School Head and

be used to close the attainment gap between children in care and their peers. Schools can request the funding via a high quality and effective Personal Education Plan and the impact of the funding will be reviewed on a termly basis.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Youth Provision Contract End (AMc)

Halton Early Intervention and Targeted Outreach Youth Provision contract ends in March 2015 and there is a need to ensure any future provision continues to target young people involved in risk taking behaviour.

3.2 Proportion of 16-18 year olds identified as Not Known (AMc)

Since April 2014 the Local Authority has been responsible for the tracking of young people aged 16-18 resident within Halton. This information is reported to DfE on a monthly basis. Whilst a high proportion of 16-18 year olds are identified as 'Not Known', it is not unusual at this point during the academic year. The arrangements to identify the activities of these young people are different than in previous years. It may therefore initially it may take longer to establish client destinations.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2013/14 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

4.2 As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks was undertaken during the reporting period with no issues to report.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

5.1 The local authority must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.

5.2 As a result of undertaking Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate during the reporting period.

6.0 Performance Overview

6.1 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.

Priority: INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING OF SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN HALTON

Key Milestones and Measures

| CYP07 Hospital Admissions for Substance Misuse & Alcohol | | | | CYP15 Teenage conceptions rolling quarterly rate | | | | SH04 Incidents of Missing from Home or Care | | | |
|--|--------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--------|--------------------|---------------------|---|--------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Current progress | Target | Quarterly progress | Direction of Travel | Current progress | Target | Quarterly progress | Direction of Travel | Current progress | Target | Quarterly progress | Direction of Travel |
| 17.26 | 26.2 | | | 43.9 | 56.3 | | | 78 / 56 Home / 111/14 CIC | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Supporting commentary

SCS CYP07 Hospital Admissions - Current data available during 2011/12 to 2013/14 shows a rate per 10,000 of 17.26, which equates to an yearly average of 27 admissions, compared to an average of 24 during 2010/11 to 2012/13.

SCS CYP15 Under 18 conception rate - In Q2 2013 the rolling rate was 43.9 compared to 44.0 in Q2 in 2012 showing a slight reduction and remaining below the target.

SCS SH04 Missing From Home – 56 young people went missing from home for a total of 78 incidents. 3 young people went missing on more than one occasion. 14 young people went missing from care for a total of 111 incidents.

| Ref | Milestones | Quarterly progress |
|-------|--|---|
| LAS1 | Evaluate the outcomes of school inspections through the School Development Panel, and summarised within the Ofsted summary reports, to ensure that learning resulting from the inspection process is effectively shared with schools |  |
| LAS1 | Undertake categorisation process for all schools and identify actions, including levels of support and intervention, required to improve inspection outcomes by October 2014 |  |
| LAS1 | Review the performance of all schools and Early Years settings with a specific focus on those currently graded as satisfactory/ requiring improvement by October 2014. |  |
| LAS2 | Conduct the annual analysis of school performance data for all primary, secondary and special schools during September – December 2014 (with further reviews undertaken at key points in the performance data release cycle). |  |
| LAS2 | Ensure appropriate deployment of School Improvement support for identified schools and settings, including school to school support as appropriate. |  |
| COPS1 | Complete the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) which provides a comprehensive review of Early Years provision in Halton by April 2014, and implement the action plan to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and age groups. |  |
| COPS1 | Review and improve the quality of childcare provision, in particular child minders through targeted training and support by August 2014. |  |
| COPS1 | Ensure that priorities in capital spend are in line with the Government Guidance and agreed by all representative bodies |  |
| COPS2 | Evaluate and monitor the sustainability on current school provision following the transfer of maintained schools to academies and the introduction of Free Schools, working in partnership with all schools to ensure diversity for parents by March 2015. |  |
| COPS2 | Evaluate and monitor the impact on current post-16 provision sufficiency and sustainability through the development of Academies and Free Schools by March 2015. |  |
| COPS3 | Strengthen the understanding and links with colleagues in Health and Adult services to ensure effective commissioning by March 2015. |  |
| COPS3 | Support Public Health in the commissioning of a new comprehensive open access sexual health services and ensure young people's sexual health needs are met by October 2014. |  |
| COPS3 | Facilitate up to 12 Teens and Tot programmes in hotspot schools by March 2015. |  |

Supporting commentary

LAS1: School Development Panel - 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. The invitation is issued to Head teachers and Chairs of recently inspected schools, including academies and free schools.

LAS1: Improve School Inspections - Following the initial completion of the school categorisation process for 2013 in October a further refresh of categories was completed in December based upon the most recent RAISE online data and Ofsted inspection judgements. Proposals for category changes were shared at January's Cross Service Monitoring Group (CSMG) meeting and schools have

been informed of any changes to categories and invited to discuss. A school's category is used to determine the amount of LA support that will be deployed to a school. This includes the brokerage of support from high performing schools including Local and National Leaders of Education and Governance and the support of specialist leaders in education.

LAS1: Review Performance - The performance of all schools is monitored as new data becomes available. Following the publication of 2013 test and assessment outcomes a detailed analysis of school performance has been undertaken. Ofsted outcomes are included as part of the data set, as well as feedback from the Early Years Consultant Teachers and school improvement officers. In providing levels of support the categorisation of private and voluntary settings is undertaken by the Early Years Consultant Teachers (EYCTs). This is an on-going process with categories subject to change depending upon the context of the setting at the time that the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating is undertaken. This categorisation of settings informs the level of support provided. Currently 71.88% of Early Years settings that have been inspected are good or better.

LAS2: School Analysis - Following the publication of the validated 2013 test and assessment outcomes a detailed analysis of school performance has been undertaken. This includes analyses of validated RAISE online data. This has enabled officers to benchmark performance of schools' end of key stage attainment and progress against national outcomes.

LAS2: School Improvement Support - Support for schools has been reviewed in light of the above analysis. This analysis has informed the deployment of school and setting improvement support. This includes the deployment of Local and National Leaders of Education, National Leaders of Governance and Specialist Leaders in Education and other support through the Teaching School. Officers continue to broker school to school support.

COPS 1: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Review undertaken and action plan currently being progressed.

COPS 1: Childcare Provision - Training has been provided for childcare providers and a further training programme of support has been identified.

COPS 1: Capital Spend - Capital programmes continue to be identified via the methodology agreed by School Forum and the Executive Board.

COPS 2: School Provision - Termly review of provision is undertaken in both primary and secondary schools.

COPS 2: Post 16 Provision - Increasing numbers of small sixth forms within the borough which impacts on the quality and sustainability of provision.

COPS 3: Effective Commissioning - This has now been completed and the new service is up and running. We are developing participation working with a new C Card Co-ordinator ensuring more young people's needs are met in Halton.

COPS 3: Public Health Commissioning - This has now been completed and the new service is up and running. We are developing participation working with a new C Card Co-ordinator ensuring more young people's needs are met in Halton.

COPS 3: Teens & Tots Programme - There are five projects currently up and running and a further seven due to start in February 2015.

| Ref | Measure | 13/14 Actual | 14/15 Target | Current | Direction of Travel | Quarterly progress |
|-----------|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---|---|
| LPI06 LAS | Percentage of primary schools below the floor standard (60% achieving L4+ English and Maths at KS2) | 12% | 8% | Q3 onwards | N/A | N/A |
| LPI07 LAS | Percentage of secondary schools below the floor standard (40% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths) | 0% | 0% | Q3 onwards | N/A | N/A |
| COP L105 | Under 18 conception rate, reduction in conceptions from 2009 baseline (140 conceptions) | 92 conceptions | 136 conceptions | 25 conceptions |  |  |
| CYP09 | Percentage of educational settings graded good or better | 73% | 78% | 73% |  |  |

Supporting commentary

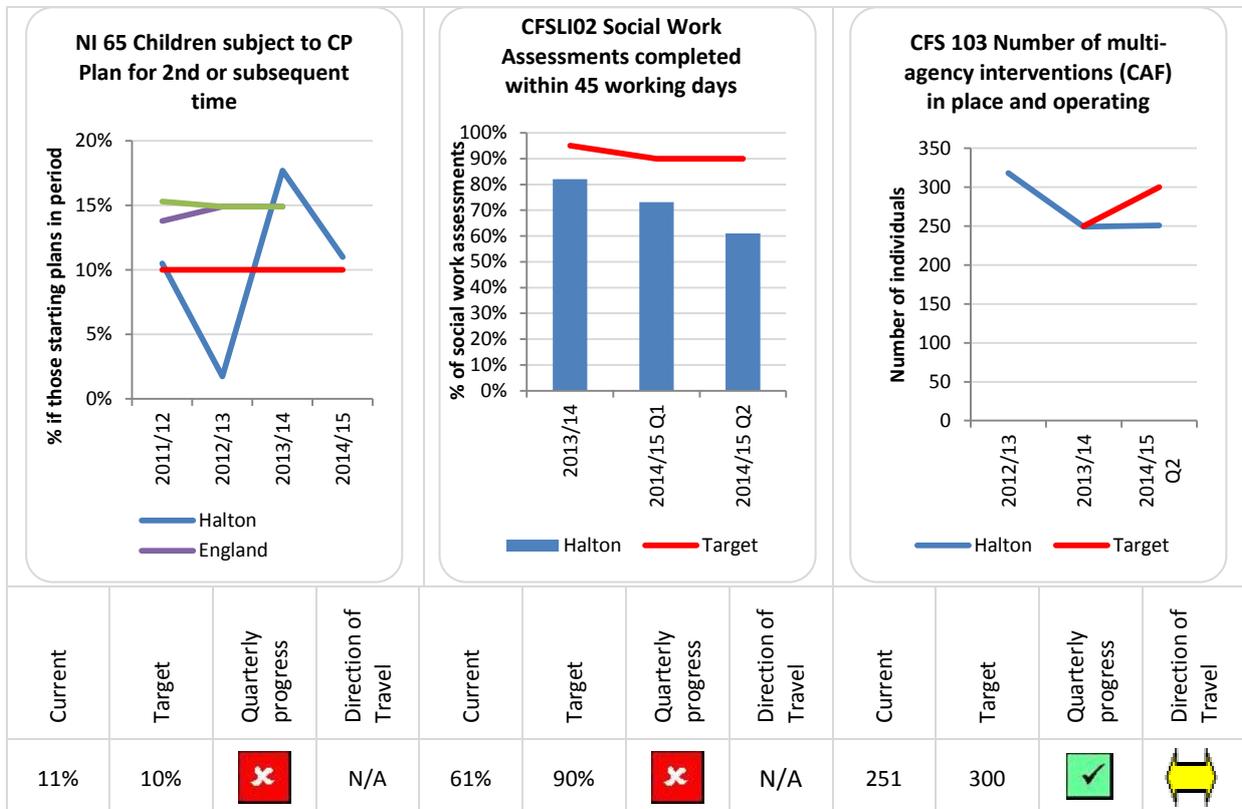
LAS LPI06: The 2014 data is not yet published. Un-validated data will be available September 2014.

LAS LPI07: The 2014 data is not yet published. Un-validated data will be available September 2014.

COPS L105: In Q2 2013 there were 25 conceptions, this is consistent with the previous year.

Priority: EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTING THE CHILD'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE HALTON LEVELS OF NEED FRAMEWORK WHEN ADDITIONAL NEEDS ARISE

Key Milestones and Measures



Supporting Commentary

NI 65 CPP for second time - 24/210 in order to understand the increased number it is agreed that every request for a second period of CP planning within a 12 month period will prompt a review by all agencies of their involvement in the case in order to identify any themes.

CFS L102 SAP within 45 days - A lot of work has gone into completing overdue assessments, this has affected overall performance, however it is anticipated that as there are now no overdue assessments, performance in the next quarter will improve, as the teams have added in new processes and systems to review closely the check points in relation to single assessments.

CFS 103 Number of CAF - Numbers now stabilised following steady reductions over a period. Expected to rise again over remainder of year as new locality team's work on earlier and more proactive identification

| Ref | Milestones | Quarterly progress |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| CFS1, CFS3 | Implement revised social work service structure supported by career pathway and training strategy | |
| CFS2 | Implement multi-agency early help teams supported by revised performance framework | |

Supporting Commentary

CFS1,3: Social Work Service - This was implemented from 1 October 2014 and has been completed.

CFS2: Early Intervention Locality Teams – This was implemented from 1 September 2014.

| Ref | Measure | 13/14 Actual | 14/15 Target | Current | Direction of Travel | Quarterly progress |
|-------|--|--------------|--------------|---------|---|---|
| NI 64 | Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more | 2.3 (prov) | 0% | 0% |  |  |
| NI 66 | Children in Care cases reviewed within timescale | 97% | 100% | 100% | N/A |  |
| NI 67 | Child Protection cases reviewed within timescale | 100% | 100% | 98.7% |  |  |

Supporting Commentary

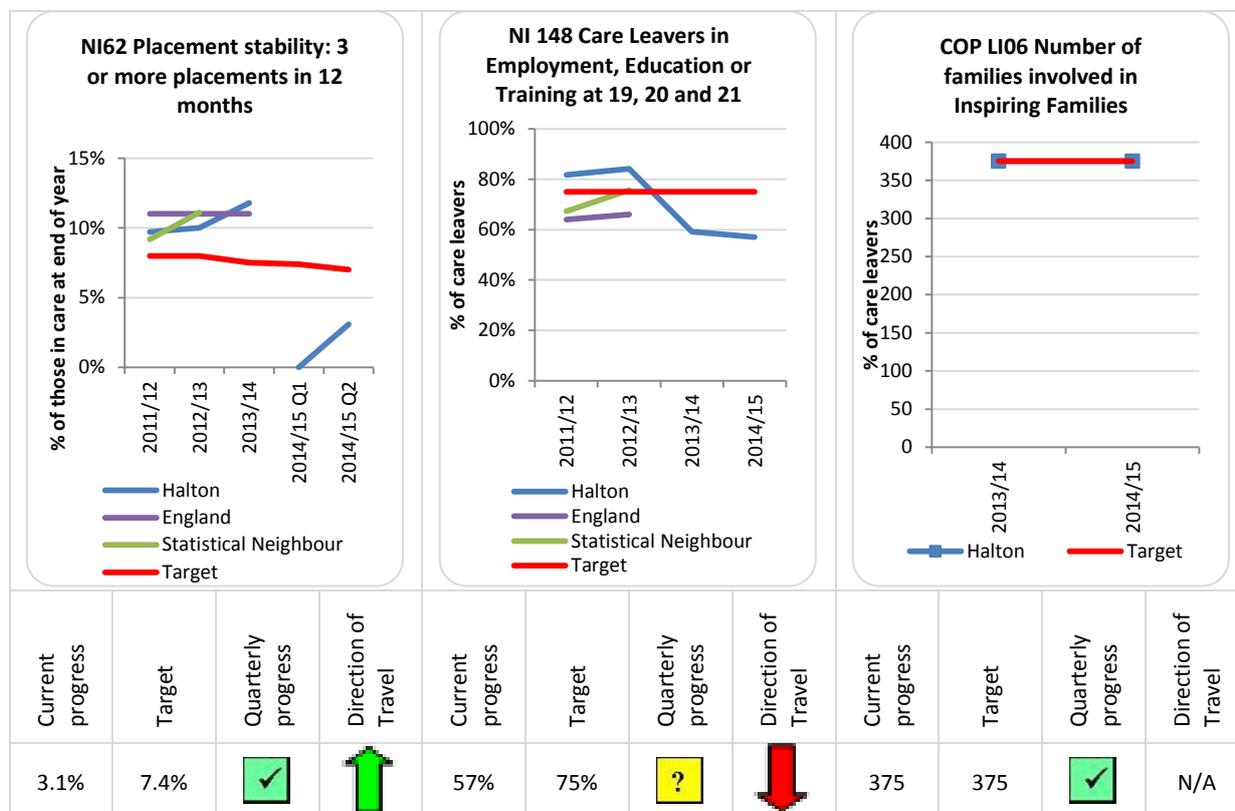
NI 64 CPP lasting 2 years or more – Showing continued good performance at 0%.

NI 66 CIC Reviews – Showing continued good performance at 100%.

NI67 CP Reviews - Two Conferences have gone out of timescales equating to 3 children. The issues relate to an error in calculations and this has been addressed.

Priority: IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNIEIS FOR ALL THROUGH CLOSING THE GAP FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Key Milestones and Measures



Supporting Commentary

NI62: 3+ Placements 9 out of 224 children have had more than 3 moves. These children present with some challenging behaviours and it can be difficult to meet their needs and find the right placement for them.

NI 148: Care Leavers- 18 young people are NEET due to a range of issues such as their emotional health, pregnancy or child care, and illness. Some young people continue to make a choice not to access EET options.

COP LI06: Inspiring Families - All families have been allocated workers and are currently being worked with.

| Ref | Milestones | Quarterly progress |
|------|---|--------------------|
| CFS4 | Implement the Care Leaver Action Plan. | ✓ |
| CFS4 | Revise and implement a multi-agency strategy for children in care. | ✓ |
| LAS3 | Analyse, evaluate and report end of Key Stage attainment outcomes for Children in Care by December 2014. | ✓ |
| LAS3 | Through data analysis RAG rate with schools the end of Key Stage attainment gaps between FSM and non-FSM pupils and identify areas of need and support required by December 2014. | ✓ |
| LAS3 | Analyse the levels of absence, including persistent absence, across all phases on a termly basis. | ✓ |
| LAS3 | Ensure families in Halton can access an education and healthcare plan by September 2014. | ✓ |

| Ref | Milestones | Quarterly progress |
|-------|---|---|
| COPS4 | Analyse, evaluate and report on performance outcomes for both national and local criteria measures on 20% Inspiring Families by September 2014. |  |

Supporting Commentary

CFS4: Care Leaver Action Plan - Action plan implemented. Additional actions identified and a revised plan being developed.

CFS4: Multi Agency Strategy for CIC - Revised strategy to be developed and agreed at the Children in Care Partnership Board in December 2014.

LAS3: CIC Attainment - Following analysis of the 2012/13 data priority areas for intervention and support have been identified for each key stage in order to close the attainment gap between children in care and their peers: Early Years – Literacy and Maths, KS1 – Writing and Maths, KS2 – Reading, Writing and Maths combined, KS4 – English and Maths. Using a personalised approach the following interventions can be used to improve the outcomes within the above priority areas:

LAS3: FSM GAP - School improvement colleagues, through discussion with their link schools, include a focus upon vulnerable groups. All schools are advised to pay close attention to any gaps in performance of different groups, including FSM / non FSM. A number of schools are currently engaged in an action research project group focused upon closing the attainment gap.

LAS3: Absence - analysis is completed for all school on a monthly basis. National comparison is completed on a termly basis when data is available. Absence is also benchmarked against Halton statistical neighbours.

LAS3: Healthcare plan - This target has been met. The Local Offer was published by the 1st September 2014 deadline and advice on how to apply for a plan and the application form were published. We have to date had four Partnership meetings where applications have been considered.

COPS 4 Inspiring Families 38 randomly selected families have been reported upon Nationally in relation to the Family composition and performance at the start of intervention, at the point of Payment by result claims and intervention closure. 29 of these families have been turned around (76%) and achieved the Governmental criteria for Payment by results. This percentage of families turned around is consistent with the remaining cohort of 337 families.

| Ref | Measure | 13/14 Actual | 14/15 Target | Current | Direction of Travel | Quarterly progress |
|--------|---|--------------|--------------|------------|---|---|
| NI 58 | Emotional and behavioural health of Children in Care, average SDQ score | 13.8 | 14 | Q4 onwards | N/A | N/A |
| NI 61 | Timeliness of placement for Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption | 80% | N/A | 100% | N/A |  |
| NI 63 | Stability of placement of Children in Care; long-term placement | 84% | 80% | 74% |  |  |
| NI 87 | Secondary school persistent absence rate | | 5% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| NI 104 | SEN/non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths | | 33% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| NI 105 | SEN/non-SEN achievement gap at GCSE 5+ A*-C including English and Maths | | 27% | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| Ref | Measure | 13/14 Actual | 14/15 Target | Current | Direction of Travel | Quarterly progress |
|-----------|---|--------------|--------------|------------|---|---|
| NI 114 | Rate of permanent exclusions from school | | 0.35% | 0.02% |  |  |
| NI 147 | Care Leavers in suitable accommodation at 19, 20 and 21 | 92% | 90% | 93% |  |  |
| CYP10 | Achievement gap at KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths FSM and peers | 14% | 11.5% | 18% (prov) | N/A | N/A |
| SCS CYP | Early Years Foundation Stage percentage good level of development | 37% | 42% | 46% |  |  |
| SCS CYP02 | Proportion achieving level 4 KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths | 78% | 81.5% | 79% |  |  |
| SCS CYP11 | Achievement gap at KS4 FSM and peers | 26% | 23% | 24% |  |  |
| SCS CYP16 | Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4 | | N/A | Q3 onwards | N/A | N/A |

Supporting Commentary

NI 58: Data will be available quarter 4.

NI 61: This represents high performance with three out of three children adopted in timescales

NI 63: Stability has been impacted by the breakdown of some placements due to carers inability to manage young people's behaviour.

NI 87: This data is not available until quarter 3

NI 104 and NI 105: The 2014 data is not yet published.

NI 114: The % is similar in comparison to the same period last year and at this stage of the reporting year looks set to achieve its target.

NI 147: Accommodation Suitability - Only three young people are in unsuitable accommodation, often due to the choices they make.

CYP10: Provisional data indicates that the gap has widened in 2014. This is being unpicked at school level. There is no national gap data currently available for comparison.

SCS CYP: Early Years data has been moderated for July 2014. Halton saw a 9% increase in its Good Level of Development (GLD) attainment and the target was exceeded. However, following an 8% increase National data indicates GLD 60%. An analysis of pupil outcomes has revealed that 87 Halton children, representing 6% of the cohort, missed GLD by one area. Analysis shows that much of this was due to not achieving the level required for writing. Intensive training is being delivered to the EY sector and reception teachers. Briefings are being delivered to headteachers to explain the Early Years assessment process and Good level of development in further detail.

SCS CYP 02: Following a slight increase Halton attained 79%. This compares well to national at 78%.

SCS CYP 11: There has been a further closing of the gap compared to 2013 and Halton's gap is narrower than national based upon proxy data which indicates a 27% gap nationally compared to 24% in Halton.

SCS CYP16: Of the 5 children in the KS2 cohort 80% achieved 2 levels of progress in Reading (a decrease of 20% from 2013); 60% achieved 2 levels of progress in Writing (decrease of 40% from 2013) and 80% achieved 2 levels of progress in Maths (increase of 9% from 2013).

Of the 9 young people in the KS4 cohort 56% achieved at least 3 levels of progress in English (decrease 11% from 2013) and 44% achieved at least 3 levels of progress in Maths (decrease of 23% from 2013).

7.0 Financial Summaries

Children's Organisation & Provision Department

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

| | Annual Budget £'000 | Budget to Date £'000 | Expenditure to Date £'000 | Variance to Date (overspend) £'000 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | | |
| Employees | 3,782 | 1,721 | 1,662 | 59 |
| Premises | 611 | 154 | 152 | 2 |
| Supplies & Services | 2,530 | 928 | 896 | 30 |
| Transport | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| School Transport | 916 | 317 | 311 | 6 |
| Commissioned Services | 2,750 | 1,103 | 1,081 | 22 |
| Agency Related Expenditure | 1,636 | 979 | 974 | 5 |
| Nursery Education Payments | 2,419 | 1,875 | 1,875 | 0 |
| Schools Contingency | 496 | 88 | 88 | 0 |
| Special Education Needs Contingency | 746 | 714 | 714 | 0 |
| Early Years Contingency | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 15,892 | 7,882 | 7,758 | 124 |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| Fees & Charges | -380 | -108 | -116 | 8 |
| Rent | -55 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HBC Support Costs | -79 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer to / from Reserves | -1,022 | -984 | -984 | 0 |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | -7,013 | -3506 | -3506 | 0 |
| Reimbursements & Other Income | -576 | -438 | -465 | 27 |
| Schools SLA Income | -202 | -192 | -196 | 4 |
| Total Income | -9,237 | -5,228 | -5,267 | 39 |
| Net Operational Budget | 6,565 | 2,654 | 2,491 | 163 |
| <u>Recharges</u> | | | | |
| Premises Support Costs | 181 | 92 | 92 | 0 |
| Transport Support Costs | 288 | 76 | 76 | 0 |
| Central Support Service Costs | 836 | 338 | 338 | 0 |
| Asset Rental Support Costs | 4,940 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Recharges | 6,245 | 506 | 506 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 12,810 | 3,160 | 2,997 | 163 |

Comments on the above figures

Employees is below budget to date due to vacancies across Divisions, including Integrated Youth Support Services and Children Organisation Provision (the majority of the underspend relates to vacancies re case workers which have not been filled as yet). Recruitment activity is taking place in relation to IAG (Information & Guidance) service provision; however any saving until this happens has been earmarked to provide funding for IAG service provision. The remaining underspend is due to reduction in staff hours and staff on maternity.

Supplies & Services expenditure is below budget to date as there has been a conscious effort to limit spends on controllable budgets.

Commissioned Services expenditure within contracts expenditure is below budget to date, due to re-commissioning of contracts.

School Transport is projected a small underspend at year end due to offsetting contract costs against the Rights to Sustainability Grant. This is the last year of the grant and these monies will not be available in 2015-16.

Agency Related Expenditure is below budget to date due to reduced claims for Childcare Sustainability grant.

Reimbursements & Other Income is showing an overachievement of income due to extra monies received within Place Planning & Provision Division's Technical Services.

Income relates to payment for services such as Health & Safety training. Other income has been achieved from other Authorities in relation to fleet charges for out of borough transport costs.

Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year and it is expected that net spend will remain below budget at year end.

CHILDREN & ENTERPRISE CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

| | 2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000 | Allocation To Date £000's | Expenditure to Date £'000 | Variance to Date (overspend) £'000 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Schools | | | | |
| Asset Management (CADS) | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Capital Repairs | 1,150 | 706 | 706 | 0 |
| Fire Compartmentation | 39 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Asbestos Management | 25 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Schools Access Initiative | 100 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Education Programme General | 88 | 30 | 30 | 0 |
| Lunts Heath - Basic Need | 28 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Inglefield – Basic Need | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fairfield - Basic Need | 983 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Halebank | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St Bedes Junior – Basic Need | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| School Modernisation Projects | 683 | 132 | 132 | 0 |
| Ashley School -ASD Provision | 369 | 328 | 328 | 0 |
| Beechwood Primary | 93 | 73 | 73 | 0 |
| Two Year Old Capital | 334 | 160 | 160 | 0 |
| Universal Infant School Meals | 256 | 202 | 202 | 0 |
| | 4,264 | 1,666 | 1,666 | 0 |

Comments on the above figures

All Capital projects are progressing as planned with the Capital Repairs programme anticipated to be completed by end of 2014-15. Education Programme (General Works) continue with any Emergency Health & Safety issues on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

Schools Access Initiative and Schools Modernisation bids have been received and approved and schools are now procuring work. Tendering and surveys are progressing in relation to Asbestos Management and Fire Compartmentation.

Basic Need projects For St Bedes and Beechwood have been completed, but await final payments and Inglefield will complete by December 2014. Remaining Basic Need Project allocations were agreed at Executive board 4th September and were committed to Fairfield Primary.

Universal Free School Meals works will be completed in October, and a steering group is considering more targeted capital spend for Two Year Old Capital monies.

Children and Families Department

| SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014 | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | Annual Budget £'000 | Budget to Date £'000 | Expenditure to Date £'000 | Variance to Date (overspend) £'000 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | | |
| Employees | 8,407 | 4,575 | 4,599 | -24 |
| Premises | 375 | 196 | 174 | 22 |
| Supplies & Services | 1,284 | 512 | 494 | 18 |
| Transport | 33 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| Commissioned Services | 342 | 128 | 124 | 4 |
| Agency Related Expenditure | 258 | 198 | 255 | -57 |
| Residential Placements | 1,969 | 1,080 | 1,881 | -801 |
| Out of Borough Adoption | 80 | 36 | 26 | 10 |
| Out of Borough Fostering | 414 | 278 | 414 | -136 |
| In house Foster Carer Placements | 1,721 | 913 | 989 | -76 |
| In house Adoption | 552 | 367 | 695 | -328 |
| Care Leavers | 316 | 185 | 224 | -39 |
| Family Support | 113 | 27 | 25 | 2 |
| Capital Financing | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 15,870 | 8,504 | 9,908 | -1,404 |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| Fees & Charges | -113 | -45 | -50 | 5 |
| Adoption Placements | -43 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer to / from Reserves | -204 | -204 | -204 | 0 |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | -76 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reimbursements & Other Income | -224 | -170 | -167 | -3 |
| Adoption Reform Grant | -60 | -60 | -60 | 0 |
| Total Income | -720 | -479 | -481 | 2 |
| NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET | 15,150 | 8,025 | 9,427 | -1,402 |
| <u>Recharges</u> | | | | |
| Premises Support Costs | 349 | 175 | 175 | 0 |
| Transport Support Costs | 72 | 30 | 30 | 0 |
| Central Support Service Costs | 2,864 | 1,422 | 1,422 | 0 |
| Asset Rental Support Costs | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Recharges | 3,329 | 1,627 | 1,627 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 18,479 | 9,652 | 11,054 | -1,402 |

Comments on the above figures

Employee expenditure is above budget to date, which is in the main due to agency staff being utilised, particularly within Child Protection & Children in Need. It is expected that the use of agency staff will reduce during the second half of the financial year, due to vacant posts now being filled, staff returning from maternity leave and a new staffing structure taking effect from the end of September.

Agency related expenditure is above budget to date, which in the main relates to the individual budgets for Children with Disabilities. There has been an increase in children who now receive individual budgets and fewer are joint funded, due to Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) tightening their criteria for Continuing Healthcare eligibility.

Expenditure relating to Out of Borough Residential placements is above budget to date, which is expected to be the trend for the remainder of the financial year. This is a volatile budget which is influenced by a number of factors, such as, unforeseen emergency placements and some long term placements ending earlier or continuing longer than originally anticipated. Although every effort is made to utilise in-house services, this is not always possible, so at present, there is a high demand for long term, Out of Borough Residential placements, which are at a higher cost than in-house placements.

We have also seen an increase in demand for Out of Borough Fostering placements, which has resulted in expenditure being above budget to date. As with Residential placements, every effort is made to utilise Foster Carers within the borough. Depending on the needs of the individual child this is not always possible, which results in Out of Borough places being sought at a much higher cost. This is likely to be the trend for the rest of the financial year.

Expenditure relating to In-house Adoption is currently above budget to date, which is due to increased demand, particularly around Special Guardianship and Residence Orders. We have also seen an increase in a number of Special Guardianship allowances, which has resulted in a rise in the actual cost. There has also been an increased demand for In-house Fostering as more children enter the service, resulting in the costs for the Basic Allowance, going above budget to date. This is likely to be the trend for the rest of the financial year.

Expenditure relating to Care Leavers is slightly above budget to date. This is due to an increase in the number of children who have left care continuing to need a package of support until their 18th birthday. This has resulted in them living in Semi Independent Residential Care.

Senior Management are aware of the large budget pressures and an action plan has been formulated to review various options to try and reduce the burden. This includes continuous focus on high cost Residential Placements ensuring value for money is achieved through better commissioning of placements.

In addition the Managers will continue to try and reduce budget pressures throughout the year, by utilising In-house services where possible and by keeping controllable expenditure to a minimum. Based on existing service use we envisage net expenditure for the Department overall to exceed annual budget by approximately £3m.

Learning & Achievement Department

| SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014 | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Annual Budget £'000 | Budget to Date £'000 | Expenditure to Date £'000 | Variance to Date (overspend) £'000 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Employees | 3,409 | 1,582 | 1,506 | 76 |
| Premises | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Supplies & Services | 690 | 314 | 259 | 55 |
| Agency Related Expenditure | 44 | 19 | 3 | 16 |
| Independent School Fees | 1,541 | 1,107 | 1,107 | 0 |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 752 | 35 | 28 | 7 |
| Speech Therapy | 120 | 60 | 0 | 60 |
| Capital Financing | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 6,567 | 3,117 | 2,903 | 214 |
| Income | | | | |
| Fees & Charges | -156 | -34 | -43 | 9 |
| Transfer to / from Reserves | -76 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | -3,708 | -1,854 | -1,854 | 0 |
| Government Grant Income | -176 | -63 | -63 | 0 |
| Reimbursements & Other Income | -110 | -55 | -56 | 1 |
| Inter Authority Income | -578 | -1 | -1 | 0 |
| Schools SLA Income | -39 | -33 | -33 | 0 |
| Total Income | -4,843 | -2,040 | -2,050 | 10 |
| NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET | 1,724 | 1,077 | 853 | 224 |
| Recharges | | | | |
| Premises Support Costs | 157 | 79 | 79 | 0 |
| Transport Support Costs | 15 | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Central Support Service Costs | 727 | 363 | 363 | 0 |
| Asset Rental Support Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Recharges | 899 | 449 | 449 | 0 |
| Net Expenditure | 2,623 | 1,526 | 1,302 | 224 |

Comments

Staffing is under budget to date as there are a number of vacancies within the Department. There is an Early Years Consultant and a Primary Support & Intervention Lead vacancy within the 0-19 Division as well as various vacancies within the Inclusion Division relating to Education Psychologists.

Supplies & services budget is showing an under spend compared to the budget to date due to a conscious effort by staff to limit non-essential controllable spend. This budget will be monitored throughout the financial year and it is expected the trend will continue.

Agency related expenditure is currently showing an under spend against budget to date as there has again been a conscious effort to spend only what is deemed as essential in these areas.

Speech Therapy is below budget to date and will continue to be so for the remainder of the year. A limited contract is currently in place which it is planned will be extended to provide greater services.

Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year and it is expected that net spend will remain below budget at year end.

8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

8.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

| Progress | Milestone | Measure |
|----------|---|---|
| Green |  Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. | Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved. |
| Amber |  Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. | Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved. |
| Red |  Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. | Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken. |

8.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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

8.3 Key for Operational Directors

AMc Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children’s Organisation and Provision Service (COPS)

SN Steve Nyakatawa, Operational Director, Learning and Achievement Service (LAS)

TC Tracey Coffey, Operational Director, Children and Families Service (CFS)