

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

DATE: 13 November 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Early Years Strategy

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report will be delivered by presentation and aims to provide members with an overview of the Early Years Strategy and Action Plan and the Guide to parents.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: The presentation be noted and a further update report in implementing the Action Plan be submitted to the next meeting on 29th January 2018.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 As the number and percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in Halton remains significantly lower than statistical neighbours, other North West Authorities and national, Child Development remains a key priority for the borough.

3.2 To identify and address the challenges Halton faces an independent Early Years Review was commissioned and undertaken by Early Education and a multi-agency working group was established.

3.3 A revised Early Years Strategy and Action Plan has now been produced along with a guide to parents. These documents will be formally launched in November 2017.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

4.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is important that children get the best possible start as this impacts on their health and wellbeing, educational outcomes and employment prospects in later life.

4.2 Employment, Learning and Skills

See above.

4.3 **A Healthy Halton**

See above.

4.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

4.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

5.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

5.1 Poor outcomes impact on both the health and achievement of children in the Borough, by improving early years we can improve not just children's physical wellbeing but their socio-economic outcomes in later life.

6.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

6.1 It is essential that we improve outcomes in early years and secure the best start in early life for all pupils.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Early Education (The British Association for Early Childhood Education – Review of Early Years Halton Borough Council – April 2016)	Rutland House	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision
Unknown Children destined for disadvantage – OFSTED – July 2016	DFE Website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision