Progress against the Business Plan objectives for 2018/19

Information available for the first six months will be confirmed once the quarter two monitoring report has been finalised. This is expected in the next few weeks, however information already provided and collated demonstrates the following progress against the service objectives.

Service Objective: PED01

Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective multiagency early intervention

The work of iCART was thoroughly tested and evaluated through the focused inspection of the front door in July 2018 and found to be working well. This included the processes in place for notifications of children missing and the follow up interventions. Change in commissioned service around missing from home and child sexual abuse has been introduced.

Exclusions protocol has been implemented, along with the introduction of the Behaviour Support Team to ensure that children are being appropriately supported within the school environment by schools and other professionals.

Number of children supported by a CAF has continued to increase, and a review of CAF and early intervention assessments across the Children's Trust is planned.

Service Objective: PED02

Keeping Children and Young People safe by improving practice

The Children and Families Service have seen an increased demand on services with neglect, domestic abuse and support for behaviour and parenting shown as the presenting issues for the increase. There continue to be children brought into care, and a resulting increase in the population of children in care is continuing to impact on budgets. Sufficiency of placements for children in care is a key area of focus, and a new placement team has been established to assist in driving forward this agenda. In addition involvement in the Fostering collaboration to improve foster carer recruitment is starting to see some increases in enquiries.

The model of systemic practice continues to be implemented, with staff being trained across the Department. A review of Children in Need services has led to changes in processes to ensure that social care intervention is having an impact and plans are clear for families supported at this level of need.

The revised Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) outlines the timeline and processes to dis-establish the local Safeguarding Children Board. Work is ongoing to establish the new performance framework for Safeguarding with the key safeguarding partners and the relevant agencies.

Service Objective: PED03

Improve the offer for children and young people with SEND

A serious of conferences and workshops are planned to develop more inclusive approaches in schools and the build capacity. The first conference took place in October. Further support and development opportunities will be offered throughout the year.

A review of SEND High Needs Strategic planning is being undertaken. This will assist the local authority and partners in improving the approach to assessing, planning and developing sustainable support to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Provision is also being reviewed, and bids being placed for increased provision to be made available locally for children with SEMH.

Service Objective: PED04

Improve progress and attainment across all key stages and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers

Attainment performance is currently being analysed. Provisional information suggests that at Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing, Maths combined measure, the gap has diminished by 2%. Key Stage 4 data will be available in January 2019

Service Objective: PED05

Raise achievement in early years

The Good Level of Development (GLD) performance indicator increased by 4% this summer on 2018 results and is now -7% to national. The percentage of children attaining individual Early Learning Goals increased in all 17 areas.

Service Objective: PED06

Raise Attainment across all Key Stages: Key Stage One, Key Stage Two, and Key Stage Four

Attainment increased in all areas this summer. The percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in Key stage One increased in Reading by 7%; in Writing by 9% and in Maths by 9%. The percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard at KS2 increased in Reading by 6%; in Writing by 3% and in Maths by4%. Key Stage Four attainment measure cannot be compared with previous years figure due to the change of most subjects now being graded 9-1 rather than A*-G. Attainment 8 figure this year was 44.

Service Objective: PED07

Improve participation and skills for young people to drive Halton's future

The annually reported data around NEET has seen a further reduction in the proportion of 16-17 years olds who are recorded as NEET, with Halton reporting below that of the England and North West average. Key to the success of this measure is the low level of young people whose activity is not known as a result of the significant amount of work undertaken to track these young people and offer support and guidance. Those Year 11 at risk of NEET has identified an increase for this year, and the work to engage these young people is now underway.