

**REPORT TO:** Children, Young People & Families  
Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**PORTFOLIO:** Children & Young People

**SUBJECT:** Ofsted Focused Visit

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Members of the Board to receive a presentation following the Ofsted focused visit which took place in October 2021 and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board:**

- i) **Note the steps that have been taken and the role of the Improvement Board;**
- ii) **Agree with the future reporting arrangements to this Board.**

## 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Halton received a focused visit to its children's services department on 13 and 14 October 2021 and inspectors looked at the arrangements for children in need, including those who are subject to a child protection plan.

3.2 This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. However, the delivery model was adapted to reflect the COVID-19 context. The lead inspector and the Strategic Director, People agreed arrangements to deliver this visit effectively while working within national and local guidelines for responding to COVID-19. This visit was carried out fully on site. Inspectors used video calls for some discussions with social workers.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

## 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

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

Having a strong and robust framework for identifying and responding across all agencies is the key to ensuring that children and young people are safe and protected, and partners are clear about their responsibilities and role in working together.

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

None identified.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Children and young people whose health needs and level of development is potentially compromised are identified early and multi-agency support is in place to support them.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Children who are at risk of harm are identified quickly and services work together to minimise the risk of harm and take action to formally protect children in a timely way.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 All key stakeholders are committed to working together to ensure a robust and consistent approach to protect children in Halton.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Issues arising from a child's equality and diversity needs will inform the decision-making at the point of contact and it will be ensured that the voice of the child is to the forefront.

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

None.