



Cllr. Geoff Logan
Chairman
Children &
Young People
PPB

**ANNUAL REPORT
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
POLICY & PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021**

“My first year as Chair of Children, Young People, and Families PPB has been interesting and challenging as the pandemic continued to affect Halton. However, our staff across Children’s services have risen to the challenge and demonstrated flexibility, creativity and resilience whilst supporting, protecting and educating our children and young people of Halton.

This year has also presented our parents, and children in schools and colleges with unforeseen challenges as they have had to adapt back from virtual school life, hybrid models to a more typical educational offer, whilst coping with the return of exams and statutory assessments such as SAT’s. The children and young people are to be congratulated on achieving such tremendous results and moving on successfully to the next stage in their education, employment and training. Our school staff, governors and wider support services all demonstrated commitment and dedication to ensuring our young people received a bespoke offer to ensure any gaps in lost learning from the pandemic were plugged and young people were able to succeed and achieve.

I would like to thank all of our staff for their dedication, hard work, and selflessness in dealing with the challenges that have arisen in supporting our children in care, our foster carers, our care leavers, and our children in schools during the still ongoing pandemic.

Finally, I would like to thank the board (past and present) for supporting me during this first year as Chair and know that together we will ensure that our children and young people of Halton will be safe, healthy and gain a high quality education that will prepare them to be caring, achieving, contributing citizens of the future.

***Councillor Geoff Logan
Chair – Children, Young People & Families Policy and
Performance Board***

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2021/22 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors G. Logan (Chair); Cllr C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice Chair), J. Abbott; M. Bradshaw, I. Bramwell; C. Carlin, L. Goodall, V. Hill; E. Jones; K. Loftus; and A. Teeling.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the work of the Council (and its partner agencies within Children’s Trust.

Arrangements) in seeking: to ensure that children and young people in Halton have the best possible start in life and opportunities to fulfil their potential and succeed; and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People’s Plan.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met four times during the Municipal Year, and returned post Covid to face to face meetings. Detailed below are some of the main areas of scrutiny the Board has considered at these meetings.

Halton’s response to Ofsted’s review of sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools and colleges

The Board were advised of Ofsted’s review of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in Schools (SVSH) and updated statutory guidance and how Halton had responded to this national review. Safeguarding support, training, advice and support materials were provided to Halton schools, colleges and educational establishments.

Education, Inclusion and Provision

The Operational Director for Education, Inclusion and Provision has provided the Board with summaries of the educational offer and support provided by the Department.

Members were informed that Early Years and primary statutory assessments had been cancelled this year by the government due to Covid and therefore no performance data could be provided. Whilst GCSE and post 16 qualifications did take place, these were not to be benchmarked and were to be used with caution as these grades were informed by

teacher assessed grades. Members received updates in relation to National Tutoring Programme; Catch up Premium and Return to School 2021 arrangements.

Service summaries were provided on the following key service areas:

- Early Years and School Improvement;
- School Improvement;
- Supporting Families
- Social Care
- Cheshire Youth Justice Service
- Halton Virtual Schools;
- Policy, Provision and Performance;
- Inclusion (0-25); and
- Broader Council support.

Annual report from the Headteacher of the Virtual School regarding Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers

The Headteacher of the Virtual School provided Members with a detailed report on the educational outcomes and achievement of Children in care. Included within the report were dashboards identifying attendance data; monitoring progress and achievements; mobility; placements; cohort information including SEND information; exclusions; access to alternative provision (AP); identification of Children and Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET); PEP completion rates; training priorities and plans for 2022 for the Virtual School Population.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Review Autumn 2021- (CSA)

Members received an update on Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). An update was provided as to how the Local Authority were meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. The achievements made since the review last year was outlined and discussed along with Halton's current position. Gaps in provision were highlighted and it was explained how these were being addressed. An update to the response to Covid 19 in the early year's sector and the impact it was having on the sector was explored, along with market rates and quality of educational establishments was celebrated as graded by Ofsted.

Annual Report – Comments, Complaints and Compliments Relating to Children’s Social Care Services from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

This annual report is presented and discussed by members with a focus on the learning from any complaints. An opportunity is also taken to celebrate the compliments many individuals and services receive.

Ofsted Focused Visit of Children’s Services November 2021

The Strategic Director of People shared the findings from an Ofsted focused visit on 13th and 14th November 2021. The visit focused upon the arrangements for children in need, including those who are subject to a child protection plan. The Strategic Director shared Ofsted’s findings and the actions taken in response to the findings including the establishment of an Improvement Board. Members were keen to learn of the impact of actions taken, progress with regard to the action plan and next steps.

HMI Inspectorate of Probation Report of Cheshire Youth Justice Service

A report was shared with members regarding an inspection led by HMI inspectorate, but supported by Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HMI Constabulary and Fire Service Inspectorate, regarding the outcome of the inspection in December 2021. The inspection of the Cheshire Youth Justice Service was graded as good. Members thanked all partners for their ongoing roles and offer to the Cheshire Youth Justice Service which covers Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West Authorities along with fire and police services.

Halton Local Area SEND Strategy 2021-2025

The Board were presented with a detailed presentation on the SEND Strategy and implementation arrangements for 2021-2025. Members were advised that the strategy had been co-produced with other statutory bodies across education and health, including schools, the CCG, parents and carers representatives and children and young people representatives. The vision, principles, priorities and governance were shared as well as the draft of the single page summary.

	<p>As part of its overview, the Policy and Performance Board also considers the Council's Executive Board minutes and Children's Trust minutes as well as the Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports.</p>
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