

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

Directorate: Children's Services

Departments: Children Social Care and Early Help, Education

Period: Quarter 3 - 1st October 2024 – 31st December 2024

1.0 Introduction

This quarterly monitoring report covers the **Children's Services Directorate's** first quarter period up to 31st December 2024.

It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service in line with the Corporate plan.

2.0 Data Quality Statement

The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data.

Where data has been estimated, it has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use, this has been clearly annotated.

3.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones

Appendix 2: Explanation of Symbols





Appendix 3: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Appendix 4: Financial Statement







Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones









Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P1	Safely reduce the number of children needing to be looked after by the Local Authority and improve safeguarding.



Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P1.1	Increase in the number of families accessing support through the Family Hub on a quarterly basis (Source – Early Help)		Attendance remains stable, as it has for last 12 months, after a dramatic increase in 2023. This quarter saw a slight increase of 230 to 11127.
P1.2	Increase the number of successful Public Law Outline/Pre-proceedings outcomes i.e. prevent Children entering care (Source - Rebecca Gamble - Andy Jones)		During this period, Halton concluded the pre-proceeding phase for 25 children. Of these, care proceedings were initiated for six children, while the remaining 19 successfully stepped down from pre-proceedings. This demonstrates that during this period, the pre-proceeding phase was approximately 76% more likely to successfully divert cases away from court proceedings.
P1.3	Decrease the number of Children in Care (CIC) on a quarterly basis (Source – Children in Care)		376 in Care at end of Q3 2024/25 with 374 at the end of Q2 2024/25. Similar numbers.
P1.4	Increase the number of partner led Multi Agency Plans (MAPS) (Source – Early Help)		External held MAPS have not increase according to the data, however upon greater scrutiny of Eclipse lack of appropriate recording of external Lead Professionals could be a contributing factor. Steps have now been taken to address this issue but it is not expected that we will see a huge spike in numbers following this. On a positive note, our Health colleagues are now completing MAPS. The numbers are still low but definitely an improvement. Going forward, all external MAP training will now be offered via the Safeguarding Partnership and we are just in the process of updating the website with all the documents. We also have an Early Help task & Finish group that has met on x1 occasion to look at the barriers around external MAPS and what we can do to improve the uptake.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P2	Improve the stability of care placements.





Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P2.1	Reduce the number of Children in Care (CIC) who moved between placements (Source – Children in Care)		9% at end of Q3 2024/25 with 10% at the end of Q2 2024/25 , 12% at end of Q1 2024/25. Showing a reduction so far this reporting year.
P2.2	Reduce the number of Children in Care who are/were placed in out of Borough in residential care (Source – Children in Care)		Q3 2024/25, 14% in borough (86% out). Q2 2024/25, 16% in borough (84% out), Q1 2024/25, 17% in borough (83% out). Plans are in place to re-establish our in-area provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers throughout 25/26 to manage expectations. The sufficiency strategy and action is being overseen by the re-established sufficiency board.
P2.3	Reduce the costs of out of borough residential placement placements (Source – Children in Care)		Relaunched resource panel which sits weekly providing scrutiny and oversight value for money placement choices. Started to see cost avoidance opportunities. In house provision mentioned in P2.2 will help and looking at partnering with not-for-profit residential provider. High cost placement meeting has been established chaired by Zoe Fearon, Executive Director of Children’s Services.
P2.4	Reduce the number of Children in Care (CIC) who are placed in independent fostering agencies (Source – Children in Care)		Q3 2024/25, 100 children. Q2 2024/25, 94 children placed in Independent Fostering Agencies with 94 in Q1 2024/25. Sufficiency Board will be looking at this area.
P2.5	Reduce the costs of out of borough independent foster placements (Source – Children in Care)		As above (P2.4)
P2.6	Increase the number of Halton Foster Carers and kinship carers (Source – Children in Care)		Q3 2024/25, 18%. Q2 2024/25 17% of all Children in Care are with a Kinship Carer, with Q1 2024/25 being at 16%. Q3 2024/25, 63% maintains same as Q2 2024/25 and Q1 2024/25, 63% of Halton’s Children in Care are with Foster Carers.

Corporate Priority		Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need		
CYP P3		Improve SEND provision		
Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary	
P3.1	Increase the % of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) completed within 20 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – SEND)		Rate at 58.1% at the end of Q3 2024/25. Although down from end of Q2 2024/25, this marks a 31.2% improvement from the formal SEN2 2024 position and is likely to represent the SEN2 2025 formal position. National data on this is not available until June/July 2025.	
P3.2	Increase the % of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) Annual reviews that are carried out within 12 months (Source – SEND)		Rate at 60.8% at end of Q3 2024/25. This is down from Q3 2024/25, but rates vary from month to month and no national or other LA comparators are available until June/July 2025, with the release of SEN2 formal data.	
P3.3	Decrease the proportion of children subject to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) placed in independent and out of borough provisions (Source – Placements and Commissioning)		There were 136 CYPs currently placed in Independent Non-maintained Special Schools and a further 20 open referrals that are awaiting placement. This represents 7.9% of the CYPs with EHCPs in the Borough down from 8.0% in November 2024. Although, there is a slight drop in the percentage of CYPs with EHCPs placed in Non maintained independent special schools (INMSS), the actual number has slightly increased from 133 in November 2024 and 135 in December 2024 compared to the current number at 136. Of this number, 38 CYPs are attending INMISS within the Borough while the remaining 98 CYPs are placed in INMISS out of Borough.	
P3.4	Decrease the spend on independent and out of borough (OOB) provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability Children (SEND) (Source – SEND)		A “High Cost Placement” has previously been considered however the development of a new panel to compliment Resource Panel has meant that referral routes have to be reconsidered alongside financial aspects, the current progress of the child, and any associated detriment to a potential placement move. This is being considered as part of PAP3 within the SEND Improvement Plan.	
P3.5	Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) – Increase the number of assessments done within four weeks of referral receipt (unless assessment to be undertaken within setting/school) (Source – Placements and Commissioning)		The LA and the Integrated Care Board continue to work with the provider to improve across all aspects of the service, and the service has been realigned in terms of their priorities. Improvements have been made across staffing levels and concentrated work has been undertaken in special schools and resource bases. Performance is good around dysphagia, Youth Offending Service and early years cohorts. Targets are in place for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and targets are being reviewed to show improvements with assessment rates. The LA has commissioned additional resources in five independent providers to support Education Health Care Plans-related work with children with speech, language and communication difficulties and ASD need.	
P3.6	Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) – Increase the number where treatment commenced within 12 weeks of referral receipt (Source – Placements and Commissioning)			





Corporate Priority		Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need		
CYP P4		Increase number of children attending schools graded good or outstanding and improve attainment outcomes at all Key Stages.		





Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary	
P4.1	Increase the % of Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter) (Source – Early Years)		Halton State-funded Nursery Schools maintain 100% 99% of all Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) were Outstanding or Met.	
P4.2	Increase the % of schools and settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Schools Secondary (Source - Schools)		Overall grades are no longer available following Ofsted inspections of schools. As at end of Q3 2024/25, including short inspections, eleven schools in Halton have been inspected under the new framework, with all schools achieving good or outstanding across all inspection areas, and schools receiving short inspections maintaining their previous ‘good’ outcomes. Whilst several schools await inspection under the new framework it is difficult to compare against national and other LA positions, however the trend this academic year is positive.	

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P5	Improve pastoral and behaviour support and reduce the need for children to be excluded.



Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary																								
P5.1	Reduce the number of incidents of School Suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education Welfare)		Number suspensions up to December 2024 = 654. (September is the start of a new academic year) Suspensions result in missed learning so impact on a child’s attendance and can impact on academic achievement. Schools have the opportunity to bring to Team around the School (TAS) any children where they are struggling to manage behaviour concerns. TAS is a multi-agency group of professionals including health, early help, education psychologists, SEND and Education Welfare to provide advice and strategies to school to address behaviour concerns.																								
P5.2	Reduce the number of children subject to School suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education Welfare)		Number of children receiving a suspension up to December 2024 = 373																								
P5.3	Reduce the number of permanent exclusions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education Welfare)		<p>Number of permanent exclusions up to December 2024 = 23 (1 post 16 child) which is higher than this point last year which was 16. Drug and alcohol seems to be the main concern with eight this year to date. To compare we had three overall last year.</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="3">Exclusions 2024/2025</th><th rowspan="2">Exclusions to Date</th><th colspan="2">Primary</th><th colspan="2">Secondary</th><th>Post 16</th></tr><tr><th colspan="2">3</th><th colspan="2">19</th><th>1</th></tr><tr><th>KS1</th><th>KS2</th><th>KS3</th><th>KS4</th><th>KS5</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>23</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>7</td><td>12</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Exclusions 2024/2025	Exclusions to Date	Primary		Secondary		Post 16	3		19		1	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	KS5		23	0	3	7	12	1
Exclusions 2024/2025	Exclusions to Date	Primary				Secondary		Post 16																			
		3			19		1																				
	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	KS5																						
	23	0	3	7	12	1																					
P5.4	Increase the % of early Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) reviews for SEND Children subject to school exclusion (Source – SEND)		10 children with EHCP were permanently excluded in 2023/24 academic year, 50% of them had their plan reviewed within the 12-month statutory time limit.																								




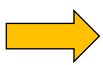
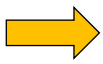
Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P6	Improve attendance at school, college and in Early Years settings including sufficiency of places.

Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary																	
P6.1	Child Care Expansion roll out - Increase the number of eligible working parents who access child care support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds who access 15 hours childcare support.From September 2024, eligible working parents of children from the age of nine months to 3-year-olds who access 15 hours childcare support (Source – Early Years)		474 2-Year-Old of working parents accessed funded hours. 506 Under 2s of working parents accessed funding hours. Figures from September 2024 headcount. Numbers refer to children accessing any funded hours for working parents, up to and including the maximum 15-hour entitlement. Under 2s eligibility began in September 2024. 2-Year-Old eligibility began in April 2024, the number of 2 years old accessing funded hours for working parents was 503.																	
P6.2	Increase number of eligible children for the vulnerable 2- year-old funding accessing Early Years (EY) provision (internally collected termly information – may not match to published data from census) (Source – Early Years)		394 2-Year-Old eligible for the vulnerable 2-Year-Old funding accessed funded hours Figures from September 2024 headcount. 423 out of 437 target placed by 27 th November 2024 (97% placed). 97% attending Good or above Early Years providers																	
P6.3	Increase the % taking up of Early Years Entitlement for 3- to 4-year-olds. (Source – Early Years)		1260 - & 4-year-old children accessed Early Years Entitlement. 90.2% take up 1260 (on September 2024 headcount) out of 1397 (on Primary Care Trust GP registrations list October 2024) are accessing - & 4-Year-Old Early Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year olds in Halton.																	
P6.4	Increased attendance at schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Primaryb) Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)c) Secondaryd) Special Source – Education Welfare)		<table><tr><td>September 2024</td><td>December 2024</td><td>September - December change</td></tr><tr><td>a) 95.58%</td><td>a) 94.74%</td><td>a) -0.84%</td></tr><tr><td>b) 52.65%</td><td>b) 49.20%</td><td>b) -3.45</td></tr><tr><td>c) 92.52%</td><td>c) 91.19%</td><td>c) -1.33%</td></tr><tr><td>d) 91.50%</td><td>d) 90.21</td><td>d) -1.29%</td></tr></table>	September 2024	December 2024	September - December change	a) 95.58%	a) 94.74%	a) -0.84%	b) 52.65%	b) 49.20%	b) -3.45	c) 92.52%	c) 91.19%	c) -1.33%	d) 91.50%	d) 90.21	d) -1.29%		<p>Source: Wonde data – September 2024 (dated 28th), December 2024 (dated 4th Jan 2025)</p>
September 2024	December 2024	September - December change																		
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P6.5	<p>Reduce the number of children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE) including those open to Children in Need or Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)</p> <p>a) Children in need (CIN) b) Children subject to a child protection plan (CP) c) Children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) (Source – Education Welfare)</p>		<table><tr><td></td><td>Sep 24</td><td>Oct 24</td><td>Nov 24</td><td>Dec 24</td></tr><tr><td>EHE</td><td>232</td><td>230</td><td>233</td><td>238</td></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>b)</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>c)</td><td>12</td><td>12</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <p>Source: Synergy</p>		Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	EHE	232	230	233	238	a)	1	1	3	3	b)	3	4	4	5	c)	12	12	10	10
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P6.6	<p>Reduce the number of children who are missing education</p> <p>a) Children in need (CIN) b) Children subject to a child protection plan (CP) c) Children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) (Source – Education Welfare)</p>		<p>0 children confirmed as missing education.</p> <p>Children on the tracking list who currently do not have a school named on the data management system is 71 which is less than the previous quarter. At the start of September 2024 there are a number of children who attend an out of borough school in a neighbouring LA or who have a school place following a transition point who don't turn up for school. All of these children are tracked by the Children Missing in Education Officer within the Education Welfare Service team to identify their whereabouts working together with schools and other agencies. This number tends to reduce after September but reflects movements of children in and out of borough both to neighbouring LAs and other areas. The Children Missing Education officer works closely with other LAs to track and support children back into education.</p>																									
P6.7	<p>Reduce the number of children Not in Receipt of Full time education (NIROFTI)</p> <p>a) Children in need (CIN) b) Children subject to a child protection plan (CP) c) Children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) (Source – Education Welfare)</p>		<p>Children identified as accessing a part time timetable is 114 a slight increase on last quarter.</p> <p>A part time timetable is put in place with the agreement of parent and school for a short time period to support a child who may be struggling for a number of reasons to access a full time offer at that time. This enables school to work with parents, the child and other professionals to support the child and address the barriers to attendance that were identified. A PTT cannot be used for behaviour reasons.</p>																									
P6.8	<p>Reduce the number of children accessing alternative provision or educated other than at school</p> <p>a) Children in need (CIN) b) Children subject to a child protection plan (CP) c) Children with special educational needs or disability (SEND) (Source – SEND)</p>		<p>The information that we have linked to Alternative Provision is children who attend the Bridge School – for future reports this data will be available broken into the groups.</p> <p>We do now have the data available for electively home educated children who are Children in Need (CIN) or Children subject to a child protection Plan (CPP). This is now shared monthly. Latest figures five CPP and two CIN.</p>																									


Corporate Priority	<p>Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence.</p> <p>Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families</p> <p>Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need</p>
CYP P07	Improve professional practice including the quality of children and families social work.

Milestone		Progress Q3	Data and any supporting commentary
P7.1	<p>Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Identifying & Responding to Need, Abuse & Thresholds' (Source – Safeguarding Unit)</p>		<p>October 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% Early Help were graded 'good' 25% Help & Protect were graded 'good' <p>November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% Early Help were graded 'good' 11% Help & Protect were graded 'good'
P7.2	<p>Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Providing Effective Help' (Source – Safeguarding Unit)</p>		<p>October 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% in Early Help were graded 'good' 25% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 20% Care Leavers were graded 'good' <p>November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% Early Help were graded 'good' (33% Outstanding) 11% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 29% Children in Care were graded 'good' 33% Care Leavers were graded 'good'



P7.3	Increase the number of children who benefit from management oversight and supervision graded 'good' through the audit sub section 'Making Good Decisions & Management Oversight' (Source – Safeguarding Unit)		October 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% in Early Help were graded 'good' 25% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 40% Care Leavers were graded 'good' November 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% Early Help were graded 'good' 11% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 29% Children in Care were graded 'good' 67% Care Leavers were graded 'good'
P7.4	Increase the number of children's casefiles receiving an overall grade of 'Good' through the audit process (Source – Safeguarding Unit)		October 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% Early Help were graded 'inadequate' 33% Help & Protect were graded 'inadequate' 20% Children in Care were graded 'inadequate' 0% Care Leavers were graded 'inadequate' November 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% Early Help were graded 'inadequate' 55% Help & Protect were graded 'inadequate' 17% Children in Care were graded 'inadequate' 0% Care Leavers were graded 'inadequate' <p>Similar to Q2 2024/25, the continued number of inadequate gradings may reflect more robust auditing rather than a reduction in the quality of practice.</p> <p>Given the Quality Assurance measures in place, we are confident that this does not reflect a deterioration in practice, rather as an organisation we are beginning to form a shared understanding of what good looks like based on the Ofsted grade descriptors.</p>
P7.5	Increase the number of social workers accessing training through the Social Work Academy (Source – Social Work Academy)		<p>In Q3 2024/25 there has been an increase in the number of Social Workers accessing training through the Social Work Academy.</p> <p>Q2 2024/25, 202 practitioners attended training through the Social Work Academy.</p> <p>Increased to 236 in Q3 2024/25, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma informed practice Plans and planning training Training support with Newly Qualified Social Workers 1:1 training support
P7.6	Increasing the number of permanent staff (Source – Katherine Appleton)		<p>Halton's head of workforce started in September 2024. This role will support the LA around their recruitment strategy, the staff progression offer, will oversee the social work academy and undertake the role of PSW.</p> <p>Since commencement of the post there has been swifter progress on the recruitment process, reducing the delay in getting adverts out and the coordination of interviews. The number of permanent staff has increased and we are progressing recruitment of additional teams to improve the quality of services and reduce numbers of children coming into care.</p>
P7.7	Reduce the number of agency workers and associated costs (Source – Katherine Appleton)		<p>Children's Social Care continue to serve notice on agency workers when the posts are appointed to. We have remained firm on adhering to the regional payrates. Connect2 Halton was launched and agency staff are all logged through Connect2. Agency staff numbers continue to follow a downward trajectory</p>

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P8	Reducing Child obesity



Milestone		Progress Q3	Data and any supporting commentary
P8.1	Increase % breast feeding and initiation and maintenance at 6 – 8 weeks (Source – Health)	Refer comment	** Data due early - mid February 2025** Target is an annual increase of 0.5% at 6-8 weeks.
P8.2	Maintain/increase the number of schools engaging in the Healthy Schools Programme which includes whole School approaches to tackling obesity. (Source – Health)		37 schools were signed up by the end of Q3 2024/25. Q3 is the busiest quarter for school sign ups every year once the new school year is under way. Aim is for 100% of schools to engage by July 2025.

P8.3	Increase the number of parents if children age under 5 accessing the 'HENRY' Programme (Source – Health)		17 referrals received this quarter. Eight commenced on a course, nine did not engage. Huge majority of referrals are self-referral. This is the only evidence-based obesity prevention programme for children in Halton and is relatively new, so there is a focus on embedding this in to the Start for Life pathway.
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CYP P9	Improve access to positive opportunities.

Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P9.1	Increase the number of care leavers accessing the Care leavers group (Source – Inclusion & Participation)		We have seven committed members to the care leaver forum, the group is seeing some challenge due to work commitments and personal circumstances, Care Leavers Principal Officer and) Head of Service Commissioning and Placements have decided on a maximum capacity of 10 to the care leaver forum group. We have provided more activities through the drop-in service which has attracted more of the unaccompanied asylum seekers to events and support available. We will increase capacity of this cohort when we establish point of contact/hub in Liverpool as the transport can be challenging factor. Both social media links have strong on-going usage for support.
P9.2	Increase the engagement for Children in Need, Children in Care and Care Leavers via Barnardo's contract (Source – Placements and Commissioning)		Barnardo's continue to manage a waiting list, however this is being proactively progressed within the resources available. We have held very productive meetings with Barnardo's and other providers of emotional health and wellbeing services to map out the mental health landscape, with a view to formally collaborating with the Integrated Care Board to scope a cohesive system-wide approach. A report concerning the future of the contract has been generated outlining the contributing factors, the financial situation including funding deficits, and options available in relation to long term service delivery.



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CYP P10	Improve Mental Health provision.

Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P10.1	Increase the numbers of Primary and Secondary school educators being trained as 'Thrive' Licensed Practitioners. (Source – SEND)		In summary to date 75% of schools have engaged regarding the project. We don't foresee any great further rise in the %. Induction trainings for Halton staff have now been delivered with 474 staff taking part. In addition we have also trained Educational Psychologist team, Early Years Foundation Stage Team and Specialist teachers team, so that they can support schools through their work.
P10.2	Increase the number of strengths and difficulties questionnaires completed for Children in Care and Care Leavers (Source – Children in Care / Health)	Refer comment	This is an annual indicator and collected after the 903 Annual Return for children in care 12 months at the end of the reporting year (31/03/2025)
P10.3	Increase the number of health assessment (initial and review) for Children in Care (Source – Children in Care Health)	Refer comment	This is an annual indicator and collected after the 903 Annual Return for children in care 12 months at the end of the reporting year (31/03/2025)
P10.4	Reduce the number of children who are accessing education under Section 19 (Source – Education Welfare)		Autumn Term 2024 – there is now a process in place for Section 19 applications to be considered. A Section 19 Inclusion panel has been established; legal support is part of this. A range of recommendations have been put in place for children following the panel meetings including short term tuition (2 weeks) whilst a school is supported to develop a suitable plan.
P10.5	Reduce the % waiting time for Children in Care (CIC) to access Mental Health provision (Source – Children in Care / Health)	Refer comment	There is an identified escalation process in place for children in Care accessing CAMHS is required. Emotional wellbeing panel takes place monthly and Halton CAMHS attend to review any referrals.

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CYP P11	Strengthen the voice of children and young people.

Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P11.1	Increase the number of ‘good’ gradings within Children Social Care casefile audits for the child’s voice and how it informs their plans (Source – Safeguarding Unit)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2024 -75% in Early Help were graded ‘good’ -8% Help & Protect were graded ‘good’ -0% Children in Care were graded ‘good’ -40% Care Leavers were graded ‘good’ November 2024 -75% in Early Help were graded ‘good’ -10% Help & Protect were graded ‘good’ -29% Children in Care were graded ‘good’ -50% Care Leavers were graded ‘good’
P11.2	Increase the number of children and young people involved with the Children in Care Council (Source – Inclusion & Participation)		<p>We have a further two children attending the Children in Care Council, with meetings both informal and formal going ahead in February 2025 with new members.</p> <p>It was agreed while more involvement is needed we are limited due to ratios per adult to child for informal and transport of the children to the meetings can sometimes be a challenge for foster parents. We have a fix 10 members at this point.</p>

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P12	Improve pathways into meaningful employment with training and both Further and Higher Education

Milestone		Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
P12.1	Reduce the percentage of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment or training or whose activities are not known to the council (Source – 14-19 Team)		Q3 2024/25 = 5.6% which is identical to Q3 2023/24. The rate is remaining steady compared to last year, therefore the target to reduce the figure will not be achieved by Q3 2024/25.
P12.2	Increase the number of good quality path way plans as identified through the audit process for Care Leavers (Source – Care Leavers Service)		This remains in progress as there has been some minor improvements and training completing, but remains a longer piece of work due to high caseloads. This will be a focus area when we have fully recruited to the team

Appendix 3: Progress Against Performance Indicators

For Q4 only




Appendix 4: Financial Statements

Education, Inclusion & Provision Department – Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2024

Children & Families Department - Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2024

Most recent available at Q3

Progress Symbols are used in the following manner

	Performance indicator
	Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u> .
	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.
	Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.