Directorate Performance Overview Report Quarter 4

Directorate: Children's Services

Departments: **Children Social Care and Early Help, Education**

Period: Quarter 4 - 1st January 2025 – 31st March 2025

1.0   Introduction

This quarterly monitoring report covers the **Children's Services Directorate's** fourth quarter period up to 31 March 2025.
It describes commentary and progress against 'key' milestones for the service in line with the Halton children and young people's 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

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Supporting Halton's residents to live in decent and affordable homes, surrounded by safe and thriving communities.

Encouraging good quality health, wellbeing and social care, by involving everyone in our community. To support the people of Halton to feel safe, be active, happy and lead their best lives.

Working with everybody to keep our neighbourhoods clean and tidy, and create a sustainable environment for current and future generations.

Fostering a strong, diverse local economy where there is access to good jobs and successful businesses in our community, providing opportunities for all.

Addressing inequalities by helping the people of Halton to receive the good quality and accessible advice, information and services that they need to achieve their aspirations and ambitions.

Supporting families to nurture and protect every child and young person and raise their aspirations. We will invest in Early Years, education and youth provision to ensure they reach their full potential and help Halton families flourish.

Resilient & Reliable Organisation

- 01 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence
- 02 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy
- 03 Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- 04 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need
- 05 Working Towards a Greener Future
- 06 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

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.**

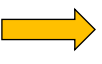| Milestone		Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
P1.1	Increase in the number of families accessing support through the Family Hub on a quarterly basis (Source – Early Help)	⬆	There has been an increase of 9% in attendances at the family hubs since Q3 from 11,176 to 12,444. There have been 129 individual sessions delivered in Q4. Work continues to ensure all partners, children and families in the borough fully understand the support on offer and where families can go for help to their local family hub. Family hub link workers will strengthen this partnership with schools, early years settings and health services in the borough. Since we launched family hub online services this has widened our offer and accessibility of resources this has been really successful and since launching in July over 19,000 users have registered, 36, 000 pages have been accessed the most popular pages accessed are timetable, SEND, Babies and start for life information. Halton was recently invited to share the work we have started of father inclusive practice and baby showers at a recent ADCS good practice forum.
P1.2	Increase the number of successful Public Law Outline/Pre-proceedings outcomes i.e. prevent Children entering care (Source - Rebecca Gamble - Andy Jones)	⬆	Pre-proceedings concluded for 30 cyp. Care proceedings were initiated for six children, the remaining 24 were successfully stepped down. Demonstrating 80% were diverted away from court proceedings, indicating that during this period, the pre-proceedings phase was significantly more likely to achieve successful diversion than to progress to care proceedings –contributing to a reduction entrants into care.
P1.3	Decrease the number of Children in Care (CIC) on a quarterly basis (Source – Children in Care)	⬆	369 in Care at end of Q4 2024/25 (provisional) shows a reduction on previous quarter. (376 Q3 2024/25) (374 Q2 2024/25)
P1.4	Increase the number of partner led Multi Agency Plans (MAPS) (Source – Early Help)	⬆	External MAPs have seen an increase each month January 46 February 64 March 73 however this is a slight increase since last quarter. Work has been completed with schools by the locality manager to offer help and support on MAPs. The process has followed a you said we listened approach however more work is needed to support schools. There also needs to be more challenge at the front door when referrals are received which the diversion workers will help with this. The health role in iCART is now more proactive supporting health visitors to take the lead professional role, this is early days. There has been further training for schools on eclipse and MAP training. The director for CSC and EH has also attended head teachers briefings to strengthen the strategic relationship.

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 Q4	Supporting Commentary
P2.1	Reduce the number of Children in Care (CIC) who moved between placements (Source – Children in Care)	**Refer Comment**	**Q4 2024/25, 11% Placement moves (provisional).** **Shows and increase of placement moves compared to previous quarter, to be considered that some moves may be a positive move.** Q3 2024/25, 9%. Q2 2024/25, 10%. Q1 2024/25, 12%.
P2.2	Reduce the number of Children in Care who are/were placed in out of Borough in residential care (Source – Children in Care)	➡	**Q4 2024/25, 14% of residential placements were in borough (provisional). Same as previous quarter.** Q3 2024/25, 14%. Q2 2024/25, 16%. Q1 2024/25, 17%. 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)	➡	The Resource Panel and High-Cost Placement Panel consistently feed into both the Sufficiency Board and the Financial Accountability Board. The High-Cost Placement Panel has generated cost reductions of over £1 million in stepped down packages of care and support across all age ranges, and setting types. The Sufficiency Strategy has been ratified across the Local Authority and will build dedicated capacity for Halton Children in

		Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
			Halton Settings and reduce the need for expensive out of borough placements, across residential and supported accommodation provisions.
P2.4	Reduce the number of Children in Care (CIC) who are placed in independent fostering agencies (Source – Children in Care)	⬇️ (red)	**Q4 2024/25 103 children placed in Independent Fostering Agencies (provisional). Very slight increase.** Q3 2024/25, 100 children. Q2 2024/25, 94 children. Q1 2024/25, 94 children. Sufficiency Board will be looking at this area.
P2.5	Reduce the costs of out of borough independent foster placements (Source – Children in Care)	➡️ (amber)	As above (P2.4)
P2.6	Increase the number of Halton Foster Carers and kinship carers (Source – Children in Care)	⬆️ (green)	**Q4 2024/25, 15% of all Children in Care are with a Kinship Carer (provisional).** Q3 2024/25, 18%. Q2 2024/25, 17%. Q1 2024/25, 16%. **Q4 2024/25, 65% of Halton's Children in Care are with Foster Carers (provisional). Shows an increase on previous quarter.** Q3 2024/25, 63%. Q2 2024/25 and Q1 2024/25, 63%.

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 Q4	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)	⬆️ (green)	Rate at 91.3% at end of Q4. SEN2 period covers January to December, not academic year, but this is a marked improvement on Q3 position of 58.1%. Performance tends to drop off by the end of the collection period (Dec), so Q4 is likely to be the most positive data. National comparator data available in June 2025.
P3.2	Increase the % of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) Annual reviews that are carried out within 12 months (Source – SEND)	⬇️ (red)	Rate at 52.9% by end of Q4, down from 60.8% end of Q3. There are several reasons for this, including staff sickness, prioritizing transition plans, paperwork not being returned by schools on time and a significant increase in the number of schools requesting a change of placement. Agency staff have been employed recently, and the hope is that this will start to head back up.
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)	⬇️ (red)	Work continues to decrease the proportion of children placed in non-maintained and independent special schools (NMISS). This includes the development of an Alternative Provision Strategy, which includes a process to identify and quality assure Alternative Provision providers, and Team around the School meetings continue alongside the roll out of activities linked to the Delivering Better Value programme such as the Thrive Approach which is moving into year 2. At the end of quarter 4 a small increase finds that 136 children and young people are placed in 36 NMISS settings; 35 children are attending NMISS at 3 schools within the Borough while the remaining 101 children are placed in NMISS out of Borough. There are currently 21 open placement searches for NMISS. Numbers in NMISS represents 7.8% of the CYPs with EHCPs in the Borough down from 7.9% in December 2024. Although, there is a slight drop in terms of the percentage of all CYPs with EHCP in the Borough, the number of the CYPs placed in INMSS continue to rise.
P3.4	Decrease the spending on independent and out of borough (OOB) provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability Children (SEND) (Source – SEND)	⬇️ (red)	The development of strategies to support a decrease in spending within the independent schools is being seen with the development of Halton's SEND Sufficiency Strategy, Education Strategy and Alternative Provision Strategy. Work continues to implement the Thrive Approach which is a tool used by schools across the borough to support improvements in attendance, attainment and behavior and after an initial roll-out of training and CPD across schools, the Borough is now moving into an implementation phase. The roll-out of School Resource Bases has increased the variety of provisions available in the borough. The Borough works collaboratively with NW Regional colleagues to consider and negotiate non-maintained and independent school fee uplift applications.
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)	⬆️ (green)	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. The LA has commissioned additional

P3.6	Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) – Increase the number where treatment commenced within 12 weeks of referral receipt (Source – Placements and Commissioning)	⬆	resources in five independent providers to support Education Health Care Plans-related work with children with speech, language and communication difficulties and ASD need. With these providers once the requirement for intervention has been identified treatment is commencing within 12 weeks.

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CYP P4	**Increase number of children attending schools graded good or outstanding and improve attainment outcomes at all Key Stages.**

Milestone		Progress Q4	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: • Primary Schools • Secondary　(Source - Schools)	⬆	By end of Q4 2024/25, all local authority maintained (community and voluntary controlled) schools were judged as good or outstanding across the range of inspection categories, with all primary schools inspected under the new inspection framework receiving good or outstanding in all categories since September 2024. Following inspections of The Heath School and Blessed Carlo Acutis, performance of secondary schools in Halton has improved greatly, with just one school (Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy) with categories judged as requires improvement (3) in its most recent inspection in May 2023. Special schools continue to maintain a 100% good or outstanding judgments record across all categories.

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CYP P5	**Improve pastoral and behaviour support and reduce the need for children to be excluded.**

Milestone		Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
P5.1	Reduce the number of incidents of School Suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)　(Source – Education Welfare)	⬆	No of incidents of school suspensions cumulative to end of March is 1211 but there has been a reduction in numbers compared to the last quarter. 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)	⬆	The number of children subject to a school suspension is 604 from September 24 to end March 25. However there is a reduction in Q4 from Q3 with 231 this quarter compared to 373 last quarter.
P5.3	Reduce the number of permanent exclusions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter　(Source – Education Welfare)	⬆	Number of permanent exclusions from September 2024 to end of March 25 = 42 (1 post 16 child) 17 of which are as a result of drug and alcohol use compared to 3 overall last year. However numbers of permanent exclusions have decreased since last quarter _(see table below)_
P5.4	Increase the % of early Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) reviews for SEND Children subject to school exclusion　(Source – SEND)	⬆	No child with an EHCP was permanently excluded in Q4, a decrease from one exclusion in Q3. Throughout the 2024/25 academic year, only one child with an EHCP has been permanently excluded, cumulative to the end of Q4.

Table (P5.3):

	Sept 24 – end March 25				
Overall	42				
D&A	17				
By Key Stage	1	2	3	4	5
Overall	0	4	15	22	1
Of those D&A	0	0	8	9	0

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 Q4	Supporting Commentary
P6.1	Child Care Expansion roll out - Increase the number of eligible working parents who access child care support: • 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)	⬆️ (green)	**508** 2-Year-Old of working parents accessed funded hours. **541** Under 2s of working parents accessed funding hours. Figures from January headcount 2025. 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)	⬇️ (red)	**329** 2-Year-Old eligible for the vulnerable 2-Year-Old funding accessed funded hours. Figures from January headcount 2025headcount. 77% attending Good or above Early Years providers. A decline nationally in up take of 2-year-old disadvantaged funding. Percentage higher than LAIT data. There has been a change in the way uptake is calculated using headcount and DWP list, alongside a change in how we are placing 2-year-olds. This is a more accurate calculation and would explain the drop in percentage.
P6.3	Increase the % taking up of Early Years Entitlement for 3- to 4-year-olds. (Source – Early Years)	⬆️ (green)	1634 -3 & 4-year-old children accessed Early Years Entitlement. 88.1% take up 1634 (on January 2025 headcount) out of 1855 (on Primary Care Trust GP registrations list October 2024) are accessing - 3 & 4-Year-Old Early Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year olds in Halton.
P6.4	Increased attendance at schools: a) Primary b) Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) c) Secondary d) Special Source – Education Welfare	➡️ (amber) ⬆️ (green)	By the end of Q4 2024/25: - Primary rate at 94.7%, equal to end Q3 2024/25 - PRU rate at 48%, down from 49.2% end of Q3 2024/25 - Secondary rate at 90.5%, down from 91.1% end of Q3 2024/25 - Special rate at 88.3%, down from 90.2% end of Q3 2024/25 That said, with the exception of pupils at PRU, all attendance rates have improved from the same period last year across primary, secondary and special sectors.
P6.5	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) 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)		Figures have been rising during Q4 2024/25 (283) |	Jan	Feb	Mar
EHE	265	269	283
a)	5	8	9
b)	2	2	2
c)	12	13	14	
P6.6	Reduce the number of children who are missing education. 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)	⬆️ (green)	0 children confirmed as missing education. Children on the tracking list who currently do not have a school named on the data management system is 28 which is significantly less than the previous quarter. The Children Missing Education officer works closely with other LAs to track and support children back into education.
P6.7	Reduce the number of children Not in Receipt of Full-time education (NIROFTI) 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)	⬆️ (green)	Number of children accessing a part time timetable as at 31/03/25 is 74 with over half of these children identified as having SEND. This is a significant reduction on the last quarter data of 114. a) CIN - 12 b) CPP - 7 c) SEND - 38 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.
P6.8	Reduce the number of children accessing alternative provision (Bridge School) or educated other than at school. 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)	⬇️ (red)	There were 38 children receiving tuition arranged by the local authority under S19 in quarter 4. Numbers of children being referred to the LA as unable to attend school due to health needs particularly mental health is increasing. A significant proportion (79%) of this cohort are those with SEND either an EHCP, SEN Support or undergoing statutory assessment. a) 2 - CIN b) 0 - CPP

		c) c) Of the 38 EHCP – 13 SEN Support – 10 Undergoing Stat Assessment – 7
Corpor ate 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 P07	**Improve professional practice including the quality of children and families social work.**	

Milestone		Progress Q4	Data and any supporting commentary
P7.1	Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Identifying & Responding to Need, Abuse & Thresholds' (Source – Safeguarding Unit)	→	During Q4 2024/25 • 82% Early Help were graded 'good' • 21% of Help and Protect were graded 'good'
P7.2	Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Providing Effective Help' (Source – Safeguarding Unit)	↑	During Q4 2024/25 • 82% in Early Help were graded 'good' • 24%Help & Protect were graded 'good' • 6% Children in Care were graded 'good' • 36% 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)	↓	During Q4 2024/25 • 82% Early Help were graded 'good' • 9%Help & Protect were graded 'good' • 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 36% 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)	↑	(see tables below)

Grade	Early Help	
	Q3	Q4
Good	75%	80%
RI	25%	20%
IA	0%	

Grade	Help &protect	
	Q3	Q4
Good	9%	14%
RI	48%	48%
IA	43%	38%

Grade	CIC	CIC
	Q3	Q4
Good	18%	0%
RI	64%	93%
IA	18%	7%

Grade	Care Leavers	
	Q3	Q4
Good	18%	43%
RI	82%	57%
IA	0%	0%

Milestone		Progress Q4	Data and any supporting commentary
P7.5	Increase the number of social workers accessing training through the Social Work Academy (Source – Social Work Academy)	↑	Social Work academy have continued to offered training to support the improvement plan and improvements in the service. This continues to be well received.
P7.6	Increasing the number of permanent staff (Source – Katherine Appleton)	↑	Permanent staffing is increased and continues to increase through recruitment and training programmes.
P7.7	Reduce the number of agency workers and associated costs. (Source – Katherine Appleton)	↑	Agency staffing has reduced to 36%

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CYP P8	**Reducing Child obesity**

Milestone		Progress Q4	Data and any supporting commentary
P8.1	Increase % breast feeding and initiation and maintenance at 6 – 8 weeks (Source – Health)	⬆	Target is an annual increase of 0.5% at 6-8 weeks. Published Q4 data is not yet available, but preliminary data indicates a further increase of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks up 1% from Q3. This gives an average increase of 8% for breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks across 2024/25, compared to 2023/24.
P8.2	Maintain/increase the number of schools engaging in the Healthy Schools Programme which includes whole School approaches to tackling obesity. (Source – Health)	➡	We are on track to engage 100% of primary schools again this year. Final remaining sign-up visits to be scheduled in by early June. Four schools have also engaged with the Food Active Pledge for Healthy and Active Futures, which is an evidence-informed framework for the prevention and reduction of obesity through a whole-school approach, targeted at schools in IMD 1&2. A further four schools will be recruited in Q1 and Q2 of 2025-26.
P8.3	Increase the number of parents of children age under 5 accessing the 'HENRY' Programme (Source – Health)	⬆	14 referrals this quarter. 11 commenced on the programme, with nine completing. Halton annual data from HENRY indicates that those completing HENRY showed increases in family lifestyle score, parenting confidence, parenting efficacy, emotional wellbeing, healthy eating score, consumption of fruit and veg and water, reduction in energy-dense snacks and sugary drinks, increased physical activity and reduced screen time. Ambition to increase referrals to enable more frequent courses.

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CYP P9	**Improve access to positive opportunities.**

Milestone		Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
P9.1	Increase the number of care leavers accessing the Care leavers group (Source – Inclusion & Participation)	⬆	We have now sourced a new hub space in Liverpool which has extended the number accessing support. The hub runs each week with the relevant Personal advisors available. What's app group is being developed, and future care leaver forum meetings will be held here this has increased numbers currently 12 of the Liverpool cohort that previously did not have access due to location. Numbers will continue to grow, and launch is set for early June to advertise the group and service in this area.
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 be an active part of the EHWB Board and continue to manage a waiting list, however this is being proactively progressed within the resources available. The contract has been renewed and very productive meetings with Barnardo's and other providers of emotional health and wellbeing services have been held 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. This is due to culminate in a workshop (14/05/25) to formalise the pathways and routes through our system. This will include transition and step down to Pure Insight, which will allow for more flexible throughput.

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CYP P10	**Improve Mental Health provision.**

Milestone		Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
P10.1	Increase the numbers of Primary and Secondary school educators being trained as 'Thrive' Licensed Practitioners. (Source – SEND)	⬆ (green)	In summary to date 79% of schools have engaged regarding the project. We do not foresee any great further rise in the %. Induction trainings for Halton staff have now been delivered. Training for Educational Psychologist team, Early Years Foundation Stage Team and Specialist teachers team, has taken place, 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.
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.
P10.4	Reduce the number of children who are accessing education under Section 19 (Source – Education Welfare)	➡ (amber)	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 Q4	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)	➡ (amber)	During Q4 2024/25: • 100% in Early Help were graded 'good' • 33% Help & Protect were graded 'good' • 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' • 36% 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)	⬆ (green)	Halton have additional children attending the face-time sessions which has increased our numbers by a further 4 children. We are aiming for summer activity sessions open to all children in care to promote further the work we do and the group as a whole. Across social media, community media groups, in person and 1-2-1 meetings we have now a strong 17 children and young people having an input on challenges, policy, planning and the hire of future staff. We expect this number to grow even further by Q1 2025/26.

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CYP P12	**Improve pathways into meaningful employment with training and both Further and Higher Education**

Milestone		Progress Q4	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)	⬇ (red)	Q4 2024/25 = 6.2% which is identical to Q4 2023/24. The rate is remaining steady compared to last year, therefore the target to reduce the figure has not been achieved for 2024/25.
P12.2	Increase the number of good quality pathway plans as identified through the audit process for Care Leavers (Source – Care Leavers Service/Audit)	➡ (amber)	There is pathway plan training being rolled out in July 2025. A Pathway Plan reviewing officer has been created in the structure, their role is to drive up the quality of pathway plans and scrutinise the delivery of plans. The successful candidate takes up the post end of May 2025.

	STRATEGIC ISSUES	BASELINE POSITION	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 1	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 3	INTERVENTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
A	Develop and embed Family Hubs and extend their provision to include 19 to 25 age range with additional needs					
B	Wraparound Care Programme - Submitted a supply and demand analysis to the DFE, recruit a Wraparound care coordinator to lead on expanding the project.					
C	Pause Project - secure further funding from partners for 3-5 years submit funding bud					
D	Utilise the grant of £1m from Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme.					
E	Implement redevised structure for children in need service.					
F	SEND - Commission a specialist equipment provider to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Halton schools/settings.					
G	SEND - 'Tell it once' framework co-produced and launched.					
H	SEND - Complete a multi-agency joined up review of current ICT systems and processes understanding current ICT platforms used for information storing and sharing and how they interlink.					
I	Halton Alternative Provision Strategy and Alternative Provision offer co-produced with all system partners.					
J	Review the Neglect Strategy.					
K	Develop a Section 19 Policy and establish an Education Inclusion Panel to determine when the LA Section 19 duty applies and education offer.					
L	Halton Priority education Action Area Plan, £1.8M allocated across 3 years to tackle attendance and attainment.	Whats gone on in the quarter towards achieving that, what the update, i.e, meeting and outcome or decision making				
M	Deliver new statutory duties under the DfE 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance.'					
N	Submit a bid to the DfE for new post 16 provision in Halton					
O	Support the Right to succeed agenda - Halton Lea Cradle to Career 2024-26 for the design, delivery and reporting of a youth offer.					
P	Establish 'The Food Active Healthy and Active Futures Pledge', a whole school approach to tackling obesity.					
Q	National Child Measurement Programme (data provided annually)					

Appendix 4: Financial Statements

EIP outturn 2024.25 Final v2.docx   CFS 2024.25 Outturn Final V2.docx

Progress Symbols are used in the following manner

	Performance indicator
⬆ (green)	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
➡ (amber)	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.
⬇ (red)	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.