

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2025**

EXB36	CARE EXPERIENCED AS A 'PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC'
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The Board received a report of the Executive Director Children's Services, that outlined the need to recognise children in care and care experienced young people as a locally protected characteristic under the Equalities Act to promote lifelong care and protection for this group of young people. It was aimed to end the discrimination that young people faced when presenting to other services and partnerships, as well as to ensure that all policies ensured consideration for this group of young people under a protected characteristic to prevent discrimination.

RESOLVED: That the Board agree that the Council recognises the 'Care Experienced' as a protected characteristic.

EXB37	YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (ANNUAL UPDATE)
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Children's Services, which presented an annual refresh of the Youth Justice Plan for the sub-regional Youth Justice Service. This was in compliance with the Youth Justice Board Guidance (Ministry of Justice) and Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

Halton had a shared service arrangement for Youth Justice Services with the other three Local Authorities in the sub-region and as such the Governance arrangements for Youth Justice were overseen by a pan Cheshire Partnership Management Board. In line with legislative requirements the updated Youth Justice Plan had been refreshed and was attached as Appendix 1. The Plan included comprehensive performance data updated for the 2024/25 financial year and was produced in partnership with Cheshire Police and other statutory partners following consultation with service users.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board notes the update on performance and progress made against priority areas during the financial year April 2024 to March 2025 set out in the refreshed and updated Youth Justice Strategic Plan for Cheshire (attached as Appendix 1); and

2) approves the content of the 2025-26 Youth Justice Strategic Plan for Cheshire and agrees to it being presented to Council for approval.

EXB46

PART 2 ITEM: FUNDING FOR EXTENSION

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Children's Services, that set out a proposal for a loan agreement to build an extension on a property to accommodate 4 children in care.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the loan be agreed, subject to the legal and financial arrangements being finalised in detail and due diligence being undertaken; and
- 2) the Executive Director of Children's Services be asked to finalise the details of the arrangement in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children and Young People.