

REPORT TO: Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19th January 2026

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director of Children's Services

PORTOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Children's Residential Sufficiency Update

WARD(S): All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report is to accompany the attached slide decks which detail the progress of the Sufficiency Strategy within Childrens Services.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the Board are updated on the Strategy.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Borough Council's Children's Services are currently working collaboratively with We Are Juno, a Community Interest Company (CIC), to increase in borough capacity of residential children's homes. This agreement is in direct relation to the Halton Borough Council Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2025-2028, which forms an integral part of the wider Children and Young Peoples Plan. The plans being developed are to deliver high-quality residential care and support services for children and young people that promote safety, well-being, development, and preparation for adulthood.

3.2 All homes will be developed collaboratively based on an ethos of coproduction, trust and collaboration at every stage of the agreement; through a partnership arrangement where Halton Borough Council and We are Juno seek to share risk and responsibility in order to deliver great outcomes for children and young people. All of the Homes included within the agreement will be co-designed by We are Juno and Halton Borough Council's Children's Services, with input from care experienced children and/or adults.

3.3 The plan outlines the agreed specification of four children's homes developed in the following locations over the next 4 years:

- Home 1 – Property provided by the Service Provider in the Runcorn Locality
- Home 2 – Property provided by the Service Provider in the Widnes Locality
- Home 3 – Property provided by the Local Authority in the Widnes Locality
- Home 4 – Property provided by the Local Authority in the Runcorn Locality

3.4 Each of the homes will be designed:

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of every child
- To provide stable, nurturing, and therapeutic residential care
- To support emotional, physical, educational, and social development
- To comply with all relevant legislation and regulatory standards

3.5 The attached slides accompany the wider strategy in relation to updates and are updated prior to.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 N/A relatable to this update.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 N/A relatable to this update.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

None.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Supporting Children, Young People and Families - Keeping looked after children in Halton will mean keeping them closer to family ties, friends and within local communities. It will support greater outcomes for children, young people and families.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need - Children in care and care leavers are among the most vulnerable in society with a plethora of research that highlight negative outcomes for those who have been care experienced. Developing local high quality, high support residential homes in Halton Borough Council will support local children in care to receive the right support to flourish and achieve their aspirations and ambitions.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

Working Towards a Greener Future - Developing provision in Halton will reduce the travel and emissions of social workers who will not have to travel significant distances to see children.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community - Developing the currently-owned asset will support our ambition to develop local homes for residents that provide a safe, supportive and enabling environment.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Included in the update slides.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

8.2 Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

8.3 The proposal will primarily impact children in care. This proposal will improve the sufficiency and deliver placements that are within the Halton area. It is anticipated that the provision of local high-quality, placement provision for children in care will have a positive impact.

8.4 There is also a potential positive impact for young people once they reach 18. Having been placed in county allows for smoother transitions to adulthood and leaving care support services as well as housing support in the communities and neighbourhoods that young people are familiar with and have established links in.

8.5 Children in care will be engaged in the design phase for the project. This will include personalisation of spaces and feeding into delivery of care to ensure that the service is child led.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A relatable for this update.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 'None under the meaning of the Act.'