

Halton Childrens Services Residential & Supported Accommodation Sufficiency Update

Provider Relationships

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Stability Meeting guidance and requirements has been distributed to all providers and now forms part of the Individual Purchasing Agreement for any new placements.	None requested to date, and no emergency immediate notice periods have been received across Residential or Supported Accommodation placements since implementation.	None, continue as BAU
Link worker roles have been established within the Placements Team and Providers now have dedicated contacts to discuss concerns.	Continue to develop relationships and initiate further conversations around reduced fee's and other beneficial arrangements soon.	None, continue as BAU
Quality Assurance Visits are underway within a risk-focused framework and the team have a target of x6 per month to be completed across Residential and Supported Accommodation Placements.	Continue to complete visits and support providers with their concerns. Thematic areas of concerns to be collated and analysed	None, continue as BAU
First Provider Forum has been completed on 25.09.25 with 28 Halton providers of Residential and Supported Accommodation in attendance	Analyse the Menti engagement and feedback next steps to providers around improvements to working relationships and ways forward	Next Forum has been identified and will focus on Community Safety and Contextual Safeguarding

Service Level Agreement

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Final draft version of SLA agreed between both parties. Reviewed by Katherine Appleton and amendments made. The SLA is now signed, and communications are being drafted to partners and the wider public.	N/A complete	There is very little chance of double funding placements if the notice periods are proactive and planned between placements and operational teams. We have discussed the initial phasing of children into each home, in consideration of the Childrens Homes Regulations and the phased admission of young people, and both parties understand this will not be utilised to maximise void payments.

Park House – 16 Appleton Village

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Onward agreed to lease handover and Onward have agreed to reimburse for redecorations costs (as outlined in contract) Quotes requested for both by HBC, awaiting contractor quotes	Onward to submit meter readings to utility companies	Funding for works to property needs to be agreed and approved through the CSAM
Site visit took place on 22/09/25 to formally agree handover	Onward to forward all compliance certificates to property services (to avoid unnecessary surveys)	This delay is impacting on the Supported Accommodation Contract in place with P3 and this has now been approved for an extension.
Money for feasibility work agreed by SLT	Consultation to take place with existing residents and Participation to determine décor and configuration, etc. Childrens Services to work with property services re: feasibility and works to be completed Transition the service as soon as possible.	

14 Summer Lane – Childrens Home (January 2026)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Work slightly delayed but started at end of September 2025 with estimated 20–24-week timeframe	Full mobility plan to be agreed and provided which will be mirrored across the subsequent homes.	Ofsted have responded very positively to the prioritisation process of local need and are powering through the registration process. This is incredibly positive for us, but it could "backfire" in that the building is due to be finalised and handed over in Early March. Juno are getting advice as to whether Ofsted would register the home in lieu of formal handover, the only sticking point may be if a fire risk assessment and other health and safety elements can be completed in time, etc
Provisional lease agreement signed with Plus Dane, full lease to be signed following works	Work ongoing to identify suitable children for the home and this will be finalised when the registration timeline is clearer.	
Registered Manager appointed and started in post		
Ofsted registration (SC1) submitted		

TBC – Juno Widnes (Spring/Summer 2025)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
<p>Juno to purchase using a combination of UK-SPF grant funding and low-cost borrowing- bid. Funding via the Postcode Innovation Trust has also been secured to fund the material side of the development.</p> <p>Consideration has been made around the possibility of 2 alternative solo provisions, however, risks around stagnation and care planning rapidly disregarded this plan.</p> <p>Registered Manager out for advert.</p>	<p>Offer placed using the UKSPF Funding on https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/162509897#/?channel=RES_BUY and accepted. This has recently been withdrawn by the vendor.</p> <p>Planning application is submitted and awaiting consultation for us to support and encourage through, this has also had to be withdrawn, and other properties are being explored.</p> <p>Full mobilisation plan to be developed using the Summer Lane template.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

TBC – Childrens Home (Late 2025/Early 2026)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Initial proposals centered around refurbishment of Edinburgh Road. This was not deemed feasible.	Working with CSAM around capital request	Funding for works to property needs to be agreed and approved through the CSAM
Internal property search complete, no properties identified	Viewings ongoing to identify a suitable property	The timeliness of this is critical to have the funds in place and progress the purchase as a cash buyer. The ideal property may be available now, with no funds in place.
Planning underway to purchase suitable property	Full mobilisation plan to be developed using the Summer Lane template.	

Rutland Street – Childrens Home (2028)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
Overall development project progressing (subject to final funding approval by Homes England)	Ongoing engagement between architects and Juno/HBC	Originally planned to be delivered through the CHT. Initial funding through land value not feasible- funding for works to property needs to be agreed and approved through the CSAM.
Initial plans drawn up to include Children's Home (detached, up to six bedrooms)	Funding needs to be incorporated into the CSAM via ICENI.	Planning permission is not guaranteed and may not be granted
Current estimate for build to range between £450,000-£500,000		

Maya Court – Care Leavers Foyer/Training Flats (2026)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
<p>The Grangeway development will be managed by Childrens Commissioning on behalf of Community Safety.</p> <p>Report has been passed through MT around the combined support specification for the whole site, however, it is unclear if Adults will manage this, or if this will fall to Childrens.</p>	<p>Finalise plans around commissioning responsibility for Grangeway and, if needed, and formalise the additionality in terms of resources required.</p> <p>Work with Riverside to negotiate the management agreement of Maya Court and the transfer to Childrens.</p> <p>Incorporate the support element of Maya Court into the existing specification for Lavender/Park House.</p>	<p>There is no integrated commissioning approach in Halton, which means that only Childrens and Adults Services have dedicated commissioning support.</p> <p>Departments and directorates such as Community Safety do not, and therefore, this workload is being disseminated into Childrens. There are plans to formalise this with Community Safety, however, these are not yet clear.</p> <p>This delay is impacting on the Supported Accommodation Contract in place with P3 and an extension has now been agreed.</p>

Old Town – Care Leavers Foyer (2028)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
<p>Initial design phase and business case complete- works estimated to cost c.3.5 million</p> <p>Business case based on c. 1.5 million worth of grant funding, however further 2 million would need to be agreed (borrowed) to deliver the project.</p> <p>Meeting taken place with Commissioning and Regen to discuss the ongoing viability of the project in relation to cost v benefit.</p>	<p>£48,000 needed to move the project to the next stage RIBA 3 design phase</p> <p>Decision needs to be made around whether the project is ongoing or if the project is terminated.</p>	<p>Significant funding shortfall - funding would need to be agreed and borrowed circa £2.3 million</p> <p>RIBA stages 3 and 4 will be costly.</p> <p>Costs may increase given the building status and planning permission may be refused</p> <p>Becoming more apparent that this is unfeasible on many levels and is more in line with the Town Plan rather than Childrens Sufficiency.</p>

Fairfield– Care Leavers Hub

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
<p>Development of a Care Leavers Hub proposed, based on a hybrid model of The Hive in Camden and Sefton's recent development.</p> <p>Funding of £65,000 for initial design and feasibility costs secured via Juno through UK-SPF funding and additional funding available through Pathways Team for white goods.</p> <p>Community donations and business collaboration (John Lewis, etc) available for furnishings and amenities.</p> <p>Permission to use the Fairfield property for Care Leavers Hub has been requested</p>	<p>Finalise the decision on Fairfield, and if not an option, source a different venue.</p> <p>Decide whether the funding should be utilised elsewhere and abandon the Hub.</p> <p> I Welcome to The Hub  Our new Care Experienced Hub was officially opened yesterday on the first day of #CareLeaversWeek Lots of hard work has gone into making this place a beautiful home from home where young people can find the help they need in a space they feel comfortable, safe and supported! The Hub will offer a chance to speak to dedicated teams who have in depth knowledge of care experienced people and the support they are entitled to. The Hub will also host social events and foster a community among care experienced people in Sefton. The Hub represents a commitment to our young people this #CareLeaversWeek  Read more here https://ow.ly/gobz50TV6w0 Keep an eye out on socials for more fun content from The Hub! Sefton Council Facebook</p>	<p>Property for project can not be secured in a timely fashion, and the funding is redistributed to another area.</p>

Kingsway– Care Leavers Flats (18+) and Specialist Housing (2028)

Progress Report	Action Log	Risks and Mitigations
https://haltongovuk.sharepoint.com/:w/s/region/ERIareKHjOFOmaZO9Nkc2-UBUNcbBQHbHWInIGIkuKQRyw?e=6b32tF	<p>Continue to work with Housing on developing the plans for both provisions.</p> <p>Continue to have input alongside Adults Commissioning in relation to developing the offer and to support the integrated commissioning of the support elements where needed.</p>	<p>There is no integrated commissioning approach in Halton, which means that Childrens and Adults Commissioning work in silo. There is no Head of Service role within Adults Commissioning, therefore the conduit for collaboration is currently via the interim Director of Commissioning and Provision.</p> <p>An introductory meeting is planned for w/c 17/10/25 to scope out plans and discuss opportunities.</p>

Typical Journey through Halton's Sufficiency Model



