

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

DATE: 19th January 2026

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director of Children's Services

SUBJECT: Cradle to Career – Halton Lea

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

WARDS(S): Halton Lea

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a progress report following the first 3 years of the Cradle to Career project in Halton Lea and outline the proposals for Years 4 – 6.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The report and presentation be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The *Cradle to Career* programme, delivered by Right to Succeed, is a place-based initiative designed to transform outcomes for children and young people by addressing systemic barriers to education, health, and wellbeing. Halton Lea was selected as a pilot area due to high levels of deprivation, persistent attainment gaps, and the need for coordinated multi-agency support.
- 3.2 The vision is to ensure that every child in Halton Lea has the opportunity to thrive from birth through to adulthood. This is achieved through a collective impact approach, bringing together schools, local authority services, health partners, voluntary organisations, and families to create a shared plan for improvement
- 3.3 The key objectives for the programme are:
- Early Years Readiness: Improve school readiness through targeted family support and high-quality early years provision.
 - Educational Attainment: Raise literacy and numeracy standards across primary and secondary phases.
 - Wellbeing and Inclusion: Address social, emotional, and mental health needs through integrated support services.
 - Community Engagement: Empower families and residents to shape solutions and participate in decision-making.
 - Post-16 Pathways: Strengthen progression routes into further education, training, and employment

3.4 Implementation Approach

1. Data-Driven Decision Making: Use local data to identify priority needs and track progress.
2. Collaborative Governance: Establish a local partnership board with representation from education, health, and community sectors
3. Integrated Support: Align services to reduce duplication and ensure timely interventions.
4. Capacity Building: Provide professional development for educators and practitioners to embed inclusive practices.
5. Continuous Evaluation: Monitor impact through agreed metrics and adapt strategies based on evidence.

3.5 Progress to Date

- Increased engagement of local schools and early years settings in shared improvement plans.
- Development of literacy hubs and targeted interventions for disadvantaged learners, resulting in improved educational outcomes.
- Strengthened family support networks through community-based programmes.
- Positive feedback from stakeholders on improved collaboration and trust.

- 3.6 A presentation will be provided by Cradle to Career and Halton Officers during the meeting outlining further the impact to date and the plans for the remaining 3 years of the programme.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This project is separately managed and overseen by the Cradle to Career Steering Group, supporting by Right to Succeed.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The funding for the programme is overseen by Right to Succeed.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Improving outcomes for children and young people across Halton Lea.

- 6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

This is one of the key objectives of the programme, with outcomes focussed on reducing NEET

- 6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The programme is focussed heavily upon community-led support to improve outcomes for children and young people.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need

Halton Lea was identified through discovery at the start of the project as the area of Halton with the highest levels of deprivation and where the biggest difference could be made.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

There are no specific implications for the environment arising from this report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

As a community led project, the voices of the families within Halton-Lea are fundamental to the success of the project.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 There are no new risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues identified emerging from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific implications for the environment arising from this report.

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

- 10.1 None