



**Employment, Learning, Skills and  
Community Policy and Performance  
Board**

**Monday, 15 November 2010 at 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Councillor Susan Edge (Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Dave Austin</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
<b>Councillor Chris Carlin</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<b>Councillor David Findon</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Councillor Margaret Horabin</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Harry Howard</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Andrew MacManus</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Stan Parker</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Joe Roberts</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Christopher Rowe</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>

*Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 471 7394 or e-mail  
michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Board is on Wednesday, 12 January 2011*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.</p>	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>	<b>1 - 3</b>
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***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning, Skills and Community  
Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 15 November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Resources

**SUBJECT:** Public Question Time

**WARD(s):** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
  - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
  - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
  - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning, Skills and Community  
Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 15 November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Executive Board Minutes

**WARD(s):** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Community Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.**

## **3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

## **4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None

### **5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None

### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None

### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None

### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 None.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**EXB45 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the outcome of the scrutiny review of employment practices for people with learning or physical disabilities or mental health issues. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended to present the report.

Members were advised that, as part of a Care Quality Commission performance assessment in 2008, it had been noted that although Halton supported more people with learning or physical disability or mental health issues into employment than had been predicted, performance was lower than comparators. The Commission also noted that targets set in relation to supported employment were relatively low.

Despite a number of interventions through employment and social care programmes in Halton, the number of people with learning disabilities progressing into employment remained low and was significantly lower than north west averages. As a result, of this assessment, a scrutiny review of current practice was commissioned.

The report outlined the methodology used and Appendix 1 contained the Scrutiny report, together with a series of recommendations discussed and agreed by the Members of the Employment Topic Group.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her presentation.

RESOLVED :That

1. the contents of the report be noted; and
2. where resources allowed, the recommendations made by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board and the Health Policy and Performance Board, as set out in the scrutiny report and action plan (Annex 5), be supported.



EXB47 BARRIERS TO WORK SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the findings and recommendations of the Barriers to Work Scrutiny Topic Group, as submitted to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board in June 2010. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended the meeting to present the report

The Scrutiny Topic Group was established to analyse the results of research undertaken by Merseyside Information Service which was detailed in Appendix 1. The Group met on seven occasions between October 2008 and March 2010 to develop appropriate recommendations for local employment initiatives, training and skills programmes and business start-up services could be re-focussed to address the perceived barriers to employment, identified by residents in the neighbourhood management areas.

The report contained a list of key recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her attendance.

**RESOLVED:** That where resources allow, the key recommendations proposed by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, as detailed in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.14 of the report be approved.

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning, Skills and Community  
Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 15 November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Specialist Strategic Partnership minutes

**WARD(s):** Boroughwide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Minutes relating to the Community Portfolio which have been considered by the Specialist Strategic Partnership are attached at Appendix 1 for information.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.**

**3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None.

**4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 None.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

## Employment, Learning & Skills SSP

### Minutes of Executive Group Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010

9.30 am, Marketing Suite, HBC Municipal Building, Widnes

#### Present:

Wesley Rourke (in the chair)  
 Nick Mannion  
 Jo Lomax  
 Siobhan Saunders  
 Hitesh Patel  
 Gerry Fitzpatrick  
 Cllr Sue Edge  
 Simon Clough  
 Madeleine Hamadianian  
 Cleo Pollard  
 Colin Billingsley  
 Hayley Dooley  
 Debbie Dalby  
 Claire Tierney

#### Organisation:

Economic Regeneration (HBC)  
 Strategic Policy & Partnership (HBC)  
 Riverside College Halton  
 Adult Learning & Skills (HBC)  
 Halton CAB  
 Enterprise & Employment (HBC)  
 Halton Borough Council  
 14-19 Partnership (HBC)  
 Adult Learning & Skills (HBC)  
 Halton Parents & Carers  
 Jobcentre Plus  
 Jobcentre Plus  
 HVA  
 External Funding (HBC)

#### 1. Welcome/Apologies

- 1.1 Wesley Rourke welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Group provided introductions.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from:
- |                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Claire Bradbury | YMCA                             |
| Sue Baxendale   | Halton Housing Trust             |
| Diane Sproson   | Connexions                       |
| Alan Graham     | Communications & Marketing (HBC) |

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no personal or pecuniary declarations of interest.

#### 3. Minutes of last meeting and Matters arising

- 3.1 New structure – previously circulated.
- 3.3 Tesco pre-recruitment project - press release has been issued.
- 3.4 4-19 Partnership Strategy Group's Terms of Reference - previously circulated.
- 3.5 NEEO's and 'Links to Work' – status of this project unclear. No SLA produced for 2010/11. Queried where the project is still running, and what funding it receives. **NM to Investigate and clarify current situation.**
- 3.6 BIZ Directory – covered in GF's Enterprise Partnership update.

#### 4. Feedback from Development Session 12 July 2010

- 4.1 Summary paper circulated with the agenda. Consensus was that the session was in general felt to have been useful. Thanks were expressed to NM for leading on the day in WRs absence.
- 4.2 The findings will now be used to help with the shaping, direction and focus of the partnership as it moves into the 'post-WNF' era of less external funding, emerging Local Economic Partnership's ('LEPs') and the twin policy drivers of 'localism' and the 'Big Society'.

## 5. WNF – Project Evaluation

5.1 The partnership's Performance Group analysis and ranking of the self-assessment questionnaires circulated with the agenda was outlined by NM. The information submitted indicates that WNF currently contributes some or all of the employment costs of about 49 posts in the 19 projects in the partnership's programme. Of these, 27 are 100% funded and 22 rely on WNF to meet a proportion of costs.

5.2 Comments from members:

- WR; Projects have been ranked in terms of what how they could contribute towards future priorities. However, no indication of what, if any, resources will be available after March 2011. Also, that rather than view projects in isolation may be better to bring the best elements together and develop a strategic commissioning framework.
- DD; Need to be careful about what structures we set up so not weighted in favour of the public sector in light of Govt's commitment to the 'Big Society'. ethos
- HP; Felt the exercise had been transparent and useful to help with exit planning.
- SS; Reminded that HEP is much more than HBC, as there are several partners contributing to the success of this project. Also, SS has attended a recent prime contractor's LGA round table discussion, and was clear that 'one-stop shop' arrangements hosted/co-ordinated by the local authority is L.A. seen as an effective arrangement.
- CB; What Halton has is more progressive than he sees elsewhere in region. A challenge will be building links and partnerships which whichever consortia win the local prime contractor contracts. Also, that strong exit strategies for projects need to be in place for the end of March. Added that advisable to look at activities which are complemented by key activities of DWP in 9 months time.
- JL; Queried redundancy payments from WNF. **NM to check on this and circulate advice received to group as soon as possible.**
- WR thanked members for contribution. To take two key points to the SSP Chair's meeting later in the week. First, the need to reflect government's priorities. Secondly, key learning points can contribute to design and development of our work beyond 2011 to address current and emerging local priorities in new sustainable community strategy.

## 6. 2011 – 2026 Halton Sustainable Community Strategy

6.1 A report and the current draft Sustainable Community Strategy ('SCS') had been circulated with the Agenda. NM reminded the Group that there is a statutory duty for a SCS, and the current one 'expires' March 2011. New SCS will dovetail with the new Local Transport Plan ('LTP3') and Halton Local Development Framework Core Strategy. Key section regard to ELS are 6.7 – 6.11. **Members asked to discuss the SCS within their own organisation and feedback to NM by end September. Also any major 'cross-cutting' issues that should be incorporated in it.**

6.2 SS advised that outcome of the various skills consultations in progress should be included. The Skills sustainable growth and further education consultation ends on 14 October

6.2 Next steps are for the draft SCS to be subject to formal public consultation. This exercise will be launched at the 'My Halton' event on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

6.3 A five year (2011-2016) delivery programme needs to be developed for each of the themes in the SCS. WR suggested that this will form the basis of our SSPs work programme for the coming years and should be drafted in the light of the policy options paper previously circulated to members.

**NM requested to pull together a small drafting group to develop a draft delivery programme for consideration at next Executive Group meeting.**

## 7. Sub Group Updates

### 7.1 Skills

SS informed that the last two Skills Group meetings had provided the opportunity for managers of

projects that sit with the group's area of interest to make a brief presentation and discuss their activities to the group. More details of recent activity are in report circulated with the agenda.

## 7.2 Enterprise

A written progress report had been circulated by GF prior to the meeting. GF stressed that the start-up grant of £500 for new businesses has been found most useful. However, there is only resources to offer intensive support for new start-ups for up to 12 months. GF outlined the potential for Local enterprise partnerships ('LEPs') to seek funding from the Regional Growth **NM to circulate a brief FAQ sheet on the development of LEPs for members.**

DD believed that there will be a growth in freelance workers and consultants from April 2011, and suggested that Halton 'register' of freelancers could be collated under the which could be badged under the partnership. She also felt it would be useful for the partnership to consider how sub-contractors could be made known to contractors.

## 7.3 Employment

A progress report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was felt that the ELS partnership should be a sounding board to those organisations wishing to procure goods and services. This would provide an opportunity for the Group to offer opinions and influence spend. CB felt that there should be regular meetings of the sub-group Chairs.

## 8. Government welfare reform proposals

CB briefed the group about the pending major reforms of the welfare system that were initiated by the previous Government, and are likely to be taken much further and faster by the new one. There is likely to be the most significant changes to how the welfare system is administered and what it provides for a generation, with a drive to reduce the number of people on out of work benefits and the length of time they are in receipt, over then next few years. The will be a strengthened link between eligibility for benefits with willingness to seek work.

## 9. Total Place

9.1 Information report on Total Place circulated with the agenda as at last HSP meeting agreed that each SSP would be briefed on concept of Total Place and be encouraged to look at areas of activity where the concept could be applied locally.

9.2 Total Place looks to extract added value and improved outcomes by deliverers of public services working together more closely at the local level. 13 Total Place pilots mapped total local expenditure on a theme, and then made in-depth assessments of the activities and expenditure by agencies it. This identified barriers to improving outcomes for service users/residents. Action to remove these barriers now being implemented by each of the pilots.

9.3 The development of a 'Focused Partnership Delivery' pilot in Halton outlined by CB. This tackles longstanding JSA claims and identifies a claimant' barriers to work and how to remove them. . **CB to provide update on the Focus Partnership Delivery pilot at the next meeting.**

## 10. Any other business

DD informed that on 1<sup>st</sup> October HVA is to merge with St Helens CVS to form Halton & St Helens VCA. Sally Yeoman has been appointed Chief Executive of new organisation. Commitment to Keep bases in both Halton and St Helens.

## 11. Dates of Future Meetings

Dates of next two Exec group meeting have changed to align better with HBC's ELS PPB. New dates Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December @ 14.00, and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 @ 09.30.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning, Skills and Community  
Policy and Performance Board PPB

**DATE:** 15 November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Adults & Community

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive the Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding 2009/10.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The report be received
- ii) The Board comment on the delivery of voluntary sector services in receipt of core grant support from the Council.

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The report examines the policy context for providing core grant support to the Voluntary Sector.

3.2 The report also looks at the benefits of supporting volunteering opportunities.

3.3 The report provides performance information on the eleven organisations Core Grant supported in 2008/09.

Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group	£13,300
Cheshire Halton & Warrington REC	£6,000
Cheshire Victim Support Area Scheme	£7,400
Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau	£139,000
Halton Voluntary Action	£55,903
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre	£3,200
Relate Cheshire	£9,200
Runcorn Frodsham & District Mencap	£2,400
Samaritans of Warrington, Halton & St Helens	£4,000
Vision support	£8,200
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	11,848
Total	£260,451

3.4 Case studies will be shared at the PPB meeting; given the confidential and sensitive nature of some of the services delivered they will not be delivered in advance

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None. The grants awarded are within the budget allocated for 2010/11.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The work delivered by Relate in preventing family breakdown, and offering counselling to teenagers, has a direct impact on those children and young people in the Borough.

The Youth Volunteer programme delivered by HVA (the V Project) is targeted at young people participating in their community.

The Samaritans is open to all age ranges and does receive calls from young people in the Borough looking for support.

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support group offer support to all members of families effected by the disease, encompassing young members of families.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The voluntary sector organisations have a significant reliance on volunteer time to deliver services. The organisations provide training opportunities for volunteers to enable the delivery of service and improve their skills and employability. The CAB in particular have experienced local volunteers gaining local employment as a result of the training and experience.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support have a major impact on the health and well being of our residents diagnosed and in remission from cancer, through the support, advocacy and therapies they are able to offer.

Cheshire Asbestos works with sufferers and their families to support them through the illness, offering welfare support and recreational breaks for the sufferers and their families.

Vision support provide a resource centre for visually impaired and offer home visits and welfare rights support.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Cheshire Victim Support provide support to victims of crime through to pre trial preparation and court attendances, which can be daunting for residents left vulnerable from crimes against them.



Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre work with minority groups in the Borough to contribute to a cohesive and integrated community in Halton. They offer support to individuals experiencing discrimination and will support in challenging discriminatory practice and help people through tribunal processes.

The Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre provides support to the victims of crime. The Centre provides an assessment necessary for criminal proceedings and follow on support for the individuals.

Mencap provides a community meeting point for disabled members in Halton, offering a safe environment for their clients to engage in community activity

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None directly.

7.0 **Risk Analysis**

7.1 None directly. The PPB, however, will monitor that the grant is being spent appropriately and the Council and Halton's residents receive value for money.

7.2 The PPB will need to consider what funding is available in 2010-11 before any guarantees or decisions are made to commit funding to the future projects identified within this report.

8.0 **Equality and diversity issues**

8.1 To receive a grant, organisations have to demonstrate that acceptable equality and diversity policies are in place.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.



# Annual Report

2009/2010

## **Voluntary Sector Core Grant Funding**

**The Benefits to Halton from funding the  
Voluntary Sector 2009/2010**

## **Contents**

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## **3.1 Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2009-2010**

### **Application Process for Voluntary Sector Core Funding**

Voluntary Sector core funding is applied annually with applications assessed against funding criteria and considered by a Members Panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of PPB and the Portfolio member for Voluntary Sector.

#### **Halton Borough Council's Funding Criteria**

As well as meeting the Councils Key priorities, groups must also meet the following specific criteria:

- Delivering in one, or more of the Council key priority areas.
- Networking and liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies within the Borough.
- Commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery.
- Accountability within the organisation.
- Effective management of paid/volunteer staff.
- Effective financial management.
- Examines to what extent the service is already being provided in the Borough, and demonstrates added value and additionally to the service thus avoiding duplication.
- Providing an accessible service (accessible meaning the ease with which the Community can access and use the service).
- Providing value for money.
- Being non-party political.
- Providing a quality service.
- Provides a service throughout Halton.
- Has considered other sources of funding.
- Has the ability to continue after the grant money has expired.

#### **Funding allocation for 2009/10**

In 2009/10 the Councils voluntary sector budget was £262,150.

£260,451 was allocated to Voluntary Sector Organisations as Core Funding Grants and the remaining £1,699 was held back for emergencies. As it remained unspent, following the Executive Board members decision, it was transferred to the Community Development grant scheme to benefit community groups in Halton. The benefits gained from this allocations will be reported in the Community Development Annual Report.

Organisations receiving under £5,000 report on activities on a 6 month basis and organisations receiving over £5,000 sign a Service Level Agreement and are monitored quarterly. All organisations receiving funding have regular monitoring meetings. Monitoring information is presented to PPB at mid and end of year, and monitoring reports are available for Members perusal in the members rooms. The Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator also works with the various organisations offering advice and support, often working in partnership on joint initiatives

**The table below details the core funding awards for 2009/2010**

Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group	£13,300
Cheshire Halton & Warrington REC	£6,000
Cheshire Victim Support Area Scheme	£7,400
Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau	£139,000
Halton Voluntary Action	£55,903
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre	£3,200
Relate Cheshire	£9,200
Runcorn Frodsham & District Mencap	£2,400
Samaritans of Warrington, Halton & St Helens	£4,000
Vision support	£8,200
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	11,848
Total	£260,451

## **Voluntary Sector Core Grant Supported Organisations** **Funding Profile 2009/2010**

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group			
Halton Borough Council	£13,300	Fees & solicitors disbursements	£35,550
Core Funding		Donations	£10,877
		Memberships, Caravan & others	£4,254
		Total	£50,681

Cheshire Racial Equality Council		Cheshire Wide Service	
Halton Borough Council	£6,000	Capacity Builders %	£16,050
Core Funding		Equality & Human Rights %	£6,006
		Income generation	£4,763
		Total for Cheshire	£26,819

Cheshire Victim Support		Cheshire wide service	
Halton Borough Council	£7,400	Funds allocated to Halton from National Association Of Victims Support Schemes	£82,652
Core Funding		Police premises in kind (est)	£15,000
		Total	£97,652

Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux			
Halton Borough Council	£139,000	HM Treasury	£26,476
Core Funding		Dept Comm. & Local Gov	£4,050
		Extended Schools	£39,692
		DIT/Dept BERR	£106,736
		HBC Adult Learning Team	£13,300
		Legal Services Commission	£146,026
		N'hood Learning	£7,374
		Donation & Other Misc	£7,980
		NHS	£149,440
		Sure Start	£124,350
		WNF	£100,904
		Total	£726,328

Halton Voluntary Action			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£55,903	PCT core activities	£25,000
		Merseyside Comm Foundation – Grassroots prog	£1,445
		Donation - Legacy	£6,644
		Interest earned	£787
		Generated income - various	£19,075
		Generated income – room hire	£6,287
		Generated income – office sp.	£7,000
		Consultations	£3,000
		Big Lottery - Basis	£254,504
		HBC – DAATS Project	£11,000
		Home office – safer homes	£28,000
		HBC – safer homes	£5,000
		HBC – volunteer strategy proj.	£25,000
		Home office – vol. Man. Proj.	£17,000
		Russell commission – v proj.	£80,000
		HBC – Network & Comms.	£21,000
		St Helens CVS. - Links	£121,683
		HBC – PQASSO grp. support	£7,000
		HBC health – VSCP training	£47,301
		St Helens CVS – VSCP train.	£2,785
		Synergy – YAT team events	£1,000
		GMCP – YAT team events	£8,000
		HBC – Children’s workforce	£42,337
		NAVCA – Grant for child WFD	£2,000
		HBC health – capacity build.	£56,739
		Total	£799,587

Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£3,200	BBC Children in Need	£12,000
		St Helens & Halton PCT	£15,000
		Home Office	£5,000
		Victims Fund	£10,000
		Community Safety	£20,000
		Total	£62,000

Runcorn & Frodsham MENCAP			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£2,400	Generated income, Grants & Donations	£14,068
		Total	£14,068

Relate			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£9,200	Cheshire Wide Service Donations	£9,200
		Total	£9,200

Samaritans		Cheshire Wide Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£4,000	Grants	£3611
		Donations & Gifts & Fundraising	£6137
		Total	£9,748

Vision Support		Cheshire and North Wales Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£8,200	Halton & St Helens PCT	£16,988
		HBC Adult Services	£25,200
		Neighbourhood Learning	£6,252
		Total	£48,440

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£11,848	General Grants	£20,000
		Primary Care Trust	£21,189
		Restricted Grants	£7,121
		Donations	£14,068
		Fund Raising	£9,365
		Interest	£100
		Total	£71,843

The total amount of funding levered in from external sources for core grant supported organisations in 2009/10 = **£1,916,366**

Total amount awarded from Halton Borough Council Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2009/2010 = **£260,451**

Hence, every **£1** the council awarded to core grant support Halton's Voluntary Sector organisations enabled a further **£7.36** to be accessed from other funding.



## Organisation Profiles

Please note that the information below is a brief synopsis of the information and monitoring for these organisations.

**Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group**  
**3/5 Fryer Street, Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1ND**  
**01928 576641**

**£13,300**

### **Access & availability**

- An open door advice service providing a minimum of 20 hours per week at 3/5 Fryer Street, Runcorn.
- Office opening times are from 9am – 1pm
- The paid member of staff works outside the office opening hours on casework
- Telephones lines are staffed from 9am – 1pm for work with ongoing clients and to receive referrals from other agencies. Plus a 24-hour answer phone service.
- Home visits, for housebound victims who request it, throughout Halton

### **Aims and objectives**

Advice and assistance is given on the benefits available to those suffering with an asbestos related disease.

Provide information on Asbestos and create awareness of the dangers of asbestos to the public in general.

Advice and assistance is given to families of those who have died as a result of an asbestos related disease.

The group provides a caravan in Wales for use by victims and their families for recreational breaks, they organise trips and have recently organised self-support meetings at the Runcorn centre.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Counselling hours	1,213	1,158
Welfare Rights obtained	£179,763	£132,612
Civil Claims etc DTER & benefits from abroad	£2,113.229	£3,335,779
Volunteer hours per year	1,832	2,193
No of volunteers over the year	14	14
Telephone enquiries	1,041	1,013
Personal visits to centre	156	105

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton

**Cheshire Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council**  
**92, Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LF**  
**Tel: 01244 400730 Fax:- 01244 400 722**

£6,000

### **Access and availability**

Contact by phone 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday

### ***Aims and objectives***

To work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good race relations

To this end REC works under 4 main areas of work

- 1 Race Discrimination Casework – this involves providing legal advice & assistance to individuals challenging racial discrimination & harassment
- 2 Policy Development – providing advice to the public, private and voluntary sectors regarding good equal opportunities practice. Also encourages adoption of CRE standards – Racial Equality Means Quality, Racial Equality Means Business & ‘Learning for All’ standard for schools.
- 3 Community Development – helping local community groups to become self-sustaining, establishing groups where none exist, developing consultation roles for local ethnic minority communities.
- 4 Public Awareness & Campaigns – providing general information on race issues to the public.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Attend HIAP Provider meetings	4	2
Local Criminal Board Consultation & Sub Group	3	4
Cheshire Chief Executive Advisory Group on Gypsies & Travellers	2	1
Casework	1 male	4 male 5 female
Number of hours undertaken in casework	116.5	150.5

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton’s Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Cheshire Relate**  
**Allman House, Langley Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8AW**  
**01606 350995**

**£9,200**

### **Access & availability**

- Relate operates appointment based counselling sessions in Runcorn, to cover all clients in Halton
- Telephone contact service 9am – 9pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm Friday

### **Aims and objectives**

Relate works in Halton to promote Health, Respect and Justice in Couple and Family Relationships. The Relate service in Halton creates the support systems that enable individuals and families to support themselves.

Relate believes good couple and family relationships form the heart of a thriving community.

The central office is in Northwich with a local delivery premise in Runcorn Halton. The service is supported by a team of 2 full time appointment secretaries, and by the apportioned time of the Director.

In Halton there are 5 voluntary counsellors and 1 part time paid counsellor.

There are 2 part time paid office co-ordinators and 2 voluntary evening receptionists.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Counselling hours	1239	1100
'Relateen' group hours	230	120
Volunteer hours per year	672	532
No of volunteers over the year	8	8
Telephone enquiries	1236	1318
Personal visits to centre	1239	1100

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People

**Cheshire Victims Support  
Widnes Police Station  
Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QJ  
0151 495 3528**

**£7,400**

### **Access and availability**

- 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday local response system for supporting victims of crime.
- Witness Service – Help is available for witnesses throughout court trials.
- A national help line is available (0845 3030900) Weekdays 9.00 – 21.00, Weekends 9.00 – 18.00 and Bank Holidays 9.00 – 17:00.

### **Aims and objectives**

Victims Support aims to provide a comprehensive service to all victims of crime and their families, and to all witnesses, both prosecution and defence (especially those vulnerable and intimidated), attending Crown and Magistrates Courts.

Victims Support provides a Community Based Victim Support and Witness Service. It provides all volunteers with ongoing training, especially around new initiatives e.g. Dealing with Children and Young Persons and working with witnesses within the Video Link Rooms.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Volunteer hours per year providing counselling	956.5	968
No of volunteers over the year	12	7
Telephone enquiries & letters/e-mails/fax	1888	4188
Home visits seen	293	138
unseen (not at home when visited)	31	28
Pre Trail visits	245	272
Court Attendances	895	598

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Cheshire Vision Support**  
**Halton Independent Living Centre, Collier Street, Runcorn, WA7 1HB**  
**01928 582944**

**£8,200**

### **Access & availability**

Cheshire Vision Support is an open door advice service providing, a minimum of 5 days per week at Halton Independent Living Centre. Opening times from 9.30am – 2.30pm supporting existing clients and, dealing with referrals from other agencies. There is also an out of hours answer phone service and a home visiting service, for housebound or socially isolated people who require it, throughout Halton.

Vision Support use a mobile resource unit that will be visiting venues in Widnes & Runcorn, e.g. shopping centres, medical centres, sheltered housing accommodation etc, where they might reach more people with a visual impairment.

A Tele-friending service, that contacts visually impaired people in Halton operates between 6 & 8 pm and is staffed by a team of trained volunteers.

On site IT training facilities with qualified trainers who work alongside clients to enhance and develop their computing skills.

Provide support to several clubs and social groups meet at the Independent Living Centre.

### **Aims and objectives**

Their aim is to enhance the quality of life, promote the continuing independence, and raise awareness of the needs of all visually impaired people throughout the community, irrespective of age.

People do not have to be registered blind or partially sighted to receive this service. RNIB survey found that only 23% of visually impaired people living in private households who are eligible to be registered as blind or partially sighted are in fact registered. Vision Support bridges this gap by offering support to all.

Halton pays for 25 hours of support worker time to visit service users in their own homes to enable individuals to obtain their rights and entitlements, by providing front line information, advice and representation service, which is confidential and free.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Clients visits to Resource Centre inc family visit	1,114	1,866
Telephone enquiries from service users & their families	853	923
Other agencies visits to centre	604	471
Other agencies telephone calls	826	1008
Home visits to new and existing service users	1,256	
Welfare Rights inc. DLA and back pay	£16,809	£18,074

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau**  
**Unit 3, Victoria Building, Lugsdale Road, Widnes, WA8 6DJ**  
**0151 257 2443**

**Access and availability**

**£139,000**

By telephone on 08451 30 40 55 This is a local rate (not geographic) telephone number which allows the calls to be picked up from either the Widnes or Runcorn office .

Answer phone will accept messages during opening times, out of hours answer phone service gives information regarding opening time, with an exception for debt cases when messages can be left at any time.

Hours open to public; 10 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays.

Email – [advice@haltoncab.org.uk](mailto:advice@haltoncab.org.uk) Internet – [www.haltoncab.org.uk](http://www.haltoncab.org.uk)

CAB provide a minimum of 24 hours of open door access for advice and information per week, 12 hours in Widnes & 12 hours in Runcorn

Clients with appointments may be seen outside of the 'open door' office times

Home visiting service for housebound people in Halton is provided where possible.

**Aims and objectives**

- Provision of free, confidential, impartial and independent legal and practical advice on a wide range of issues e.g. Welfare Rights, Debt, Consumer, Employment, Housing, Immigration, Tax, Relationships, Health, Education and many other areas of law.
- It is the only agency in Halton to have the Specialist Quality Mark in both Debt & Welfare Rights & offer a free service.
- CAB also exercises a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally.

CAB receives many different streams of funding which are ring fenced to certain projects e.g. Children Centre & Specialist Debt workers.

**Monitoring information**

Activity	Yearly totals	
	2008/2009	2009/2010
Number of unique users	5144	8580
Number of cases worked on	6503	13,286
Information/Advice Given	13,088	12,286
Welfare Rights	£484,481	£405,129
Debt written off	£1,099,143	£1,441,475
Debt handled	£17,538,446	£19,588,391
Gains (employment)	£53,226	£53,110
Volunteer hours	8,706	7,582
Number of volunteers	26.5	16.5
Telephone enquiries	1,603	1181
Letter/email/fax	5,736	324
Home Visits	302	204
Tribunals attended	3	5
Court attendances	76	42

**HBC Priorities met by organisation**

A Healthy Halton

A Safer Halton

Halton's Children & Young People

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Halton Voluntary Action**  
**Sefton House, Public Hall Street, Runcorn WA7 1NG**  
**01928 592405**

**£57,000**

### **Access & availability**

- Providing an open drop-in service Monday – Friday between the hours of 9am to 4pm.
- Providing telephone answer phone facilities and appointment service outside these hours.
- Maintaining an E-access directory of voluntary/community groups in Halton and introducing production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter.

### **Aims and objectives**

- HVA is a Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) – a voluntary organisation which is set up, owned and run by local groups to support, promote and develop local voluntary and community action.
- Their goal is to make our local voluntary sector as strong, vibrant, effective and diverse as they can – strategic aims are:
  - To improve the capacity and quality of voluntary and community groups.
  - To provide support and develop individual volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations.
  - To facilitate liaison within the voluntary sector and with statutory and private organisations on behalf of volunteers, groups and organisations in the community
  - To support and promote local voluntary community action.
  - To promote best practice and be well managed, financially secure and quality assured organisation.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Individuals attended - Training / Activities	93	134
No of volunteer involved in HVA activities	2	2
No of volunteer hours	276.5	183.5
Information & Advice given / Telephone enquiries	4973	4618
Newsletter distributed	2746	2380
Volunteers recruited (for placements)	437	516
Number of groups accessing capacity building	48	45

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire & Merseyside)**  
**Old Police Station, Runcorn, Cheshire, Cheshire WA7 1DF**  
**01928 588523**

**£3,200**

### **Access & availability**

- A 5 day a week helpline.
- Counselling at either the Runcorn office, in the victims home, or at a suitable community location.
- A “response” team of volunteer support workers, and a paid crisis worker, able to respond quickly to the needs of people; helping them with the process of seeking medical advice and treatment, and reporting to the police.

### **Aims and objectives**

To provide support and advice to men, women and young people who have experienced any form of sexual violence, whether it happened recently or many years previously. They also offer support to non- abusing family members.

The services include counselling, group work and a telephone helpline.

They also provide specialist training for professionals and volunteers. All of the services that they provide are free.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
No of volunteers over the year	6	3.5
No of volunteer hours	500 +	627
Telephone calls to centre	760	617
Telephone calls identified as Halton	132	107

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton



**Runcorn Frodsham & District Mencap**  
**The Acorn Club, Laburnam Grove, Runcorn, WA7 5EX**  
**01928 722910**

**£2,400**

### **Access & availability**

- Regular planned activities through the week for a target client group – people with additional learning needs who may not attend a day centre.
- List of activities include :- Cooking and basic skills, keep fit, youth club, disco.
- They run a 3 week play scheme in the summer.
- They have a weekly bingo to provide activity and support fundraising.

### **Aims and objectives**

They provide a centre for education and social activities for people (adult & children), with learning disabilities. They also provide respite for their parents and carers.

They act as a focus group to improve services for people with learning disabilities.

The group strive to ensure that inclusion is paramount in their organisation and that people with a learning disability are active at all levels including the management committee.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
No of volunteers over the year	37	39
No of volunteer hours	3,744	3432
Personal visits to centre for activities	4,744	4750

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Samaritans**  
**46 Arpley Street, Warrington, WA4 1LX**  
**01925 235000**

**£4,000**

### **Access & availability**

- 24 hour a day help line – The Council support the nearest local branch of the national organisation.
- The service is primarily a telephone contact service – however there is limited scope for people to visit the centre on an appointment service.
- Samaritans also have a five strong prison team who support the Listener Scheme in Risley Prison, attending fortnightly evening support meetings and ‘occasional suicide’ threat meetings.

### **Aims and objectives**

Samaritans are a local branch of a national organisation and a charity in their own right. They provide a confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. The service is provided entirely by volunteers who are carefully selected, trained and supported.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Listening calls	12,839	12,636
Volunteer hours per year	8,000+	8200 +
No of volunteers over the year	58	57
Personal visits to centre	9	8
E-mails	471	534

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

**Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group**  
**21-23 Alforde Street, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7TR**  
**0151 423 5730**

**£11,848**

### **Access & availability**

- The centre is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 10.00am to 3.00pm.
- Busom Buddies group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Trinity Church Hall, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes, for patients with breast cancer.
- Outreach Service, known as the Hand in Hand group, at The Old Police Station on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, open to any patient or carer, from any part of Halton, with any type of cancer.
- Out of hours answer phone service.

### **Aims and objectives**

- To provide support services for the people of Halton who are living with cancer.
- To extend those services to the carers and families of those living with cancer.
- To provide information and advice about cancer for the general public in Halton.

Services provided include information, advice, listening, sign-posting, emotional and psychological support, counselling is available by appointment. There are currently three self-help groups: The HUG club meets weekly, Bosom Buddies and Hand in Hand are outreach groups which meet monthly.

Services also include:

- Complementary therapies, Beauty Therapies, Art Therapies, The Bowen Technique and Reiki Healing sessions for patients and carers.
- Online support for those unable to attend the centre.
- The organisation now has a Respite caravan in Wales for service users.

### **Monitoring information**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yearly totals</b>	
	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
Counselling hours	121	42
Listening hours	1506	1374
Information centre - patients	127	138
Volunteer hours per year	4,066	4406
No of volunteers over the year	54	55
Information phone calls	127	145
Listening phone calls	449	510
HUGS club	983	1008
Hand in Hand	124	184
Busom buddies	358	333
Therapies and workshops	741	1455

<b>HBC Priorities met by organisation</b>
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

## **Activities & Events to Support Halton's Voluntary Sector**

### **Find..... Event Stadium on 17 November 2009**

The Find event was once again a well attended success held at the Stadium on 17 November 2009.

Members of Halton's Voluntary Sector were able to pick up expert help and advice from the 60+ stalls, staffed by 90 different voluntary organisations and statutory departments. The event was aimed at helping charities to run more effectively and hundreds turned out on the day.

Information was available on forging partnerships, volunteering and how to access the media.

There were also many stalls promoting health issues, healthy living choices and support groups.

It was also an opportunity for voluntary organisations to promote their activities on Halton Community Radio, which was there to record the event.

The recordings were aired on the Thursday afternoon community slots over the next month.

We ran a funding market at the event, which provided information and guidance on obtaining grants from Landfill tax, local enabling money from Community Development, Sport, Arts, Area Panels, Youth and Bursaries etc. The Lottery were also in attendance with information on Lottery funding including Awards for All.

Selection of comments from stall holders:

*"Thank you; please include us in your next event"*

*"Well organised – good mix of groups and people asking questions. Keep up the good work" - Equality Diversity Development Services.*

*"Well organised event, lots of chances to network, well done Lynda & co! (Cathy & Becky) – Peter Ventre*

*"The day was extremely beneficial for our charitable organisation; we have made several promising contacts" – Halton Carers Centre*

*"Well run event generating a warm and friendly atmosphere" – Windmill Hill Telematics*

*"I feel this is a great way to find out what is available out there in Halton and to pass on your own information to other agencies" - Community Bridge Building Team.*

*"Lots of people & organisations interested using community centres (Good News!!)*

*"Well worthwhile, a number of new contacts" Bob Wheat.*

*"Met some community groups who were unknown to me"*

*"Best event we have attended as a team – well attended, organised and managed"*

Selection of comments from public visiting the event:

*Comments include –*

*"Free men's health check good idea"*

*"Well organised and lots to see and discuss"*

*"Brilliant"*

*"Found a lot of useful information about local services & funding streams" "Very informative"*

*"I found the event extremely helpful"*

*"Good contacts made"*

*"Funding opportunities for our pre-school valuable information on how to complete forms"*



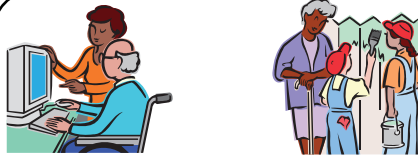




£1.5million of debt written off for Halton Residents



£19.6 million debt handled for Halton residents



19,999 Volunteer hours per year supporting service delivery  
The economic value of this contributions is  
\*£259,987



*"The economic value of volunteering is calculated on an average wage rate of £13.00 per hour based on the 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and earnings  
Source - Volunteering England*



A total of **3,093** face to face counselling hours have been provided covering issues ranging from:-  
\* Relationships \* Debt  
\* Isolation \* Cancer  
\* Homelessness \* Health  
If this service was paid for it would cost **£77,325**

Organisations have provided training for & activities

Activities total at least **9,417** hours



What did Halton get for its **£262,150** in **2009/10**

**24,150** people have accessed information and advice



525 volunteers recruited and placed by Volunteer centre



Respite breaks in caravans have been accessed for **69** weeks estimated cost benefit of **£34,500**



Free Holistic therapies for people who have cancer including:  
Bowen Treatment & Reiki  
Massage & Reflexology  
Beauty Treatments  
If this service was paid for it would cost **£11,760**



Organisations have dealt with a total of **13,649** Telephone enquires



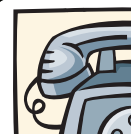
**1,159** Home visits to Halton Residents who are registered blind



£3.5 million in Benefit gains including:  
Welfare  
Rights  
Civil Claims



HBC provided funding for **297** volunteers to be involved in voluntary Organisations services



**12,636** Calls to Samaritans

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment & Economy

**SUBJECT:** Comprehensive Spending Review and Employment Learning and Skills

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To summarise the policy developments relating to the Employment Learning and Skills agenda and to inform the PPB's scrutiny topic "Deficit Policies and the impact of the recession".

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- i. That the report is received
- ii. That consideration is given to how emerging policy developments will impact on the work of the scrutiny topic group

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 **SINGLE PROGRAMME** - The Government has decided to end all current employability and welfare reform programmes and replace them with a new Single Programme. These will be large contracts organised on a regional basis with contracts predicted to be between £10m and £50m. They will work with individuals on a variety of benefits that have been out of work for a period of time.
- 3.2 This programme is described as 'Black Box' which means that there will be little to no prescription for how services will be designed; this will be left to the view of potential 'investors'
- 3.3 The term 'investors' is used as opposed to contractors or providers because those successful will be investing their own money at their own risk to create employability initiatives. If they help individuals get back to work and sustain them in work, they will receive payments from future benefit savings – if they do not, they will lose their investments.
- 3.4 Investors are currently developing expressions of interest to be placed on a contract framework. In the North West, 48 organisations have expressed an interest in bidding for the framework and DWP expect to invite between 3 and 8 organisations to bid for the NW framework, although the geography has not yet been confirmed.



3.5 It is expected that the successful investor will be in place in April 2011 and that the Work Programme will commence delivery in June or July 2011.

3.6 **Work Choices** - this is a new programme for disabled people that replaces the Work Step Programme, is the only contracted employment provision outside of the Work Programme framework. DWP have commissioned *Shaw Trust* to deliver *Work Choices* across Greater Merseyside and Cheshire and a number of national contracts have been awarded including *Remploy* who have expressed an interest in working in partnership with HPIJ and this is being followed up.

3.7 **The Future of Jobcentre Plus** - The establishment of the *Work Programme* will effectively take away the responsibility for JCP to find employment for customers that have been receiving benefit for 6 months or longer and will leave them focussing on the newly unemployed i.e. up to 6 months. However, JCP will continue to process benefits for all customers, although the government is committed to streamlining the benefit regime and introducing a single benefit payment.

3.8 **Get Britain Working** - DWP have announced a campaign where the focus for JCP will be to work in partnership with key partners including Local Authorities, voluntary & community service organisations and employers to develop non-contracted and nil cost employment options to encourage pre-employment training, work placements, work experience and self-employment as routes off benefit for JCP customers during the transition to the *Work Programme* and in the longer term to help new customers unemployed for less than 6 months to develop employment skills and move into work or self-employment.

3.9 DWP have launched two new options:

- **Work Clubs** as a way of encouraging people who are out of work to exchange skills and share experiences and will provide practical advice & guidance to support people back into work;
- **Work Together** as a way of developing work skills through volunteering, helping people to develop valuable work skills whilst they are looking for paid work.

3.10 DWP also propose to introduce new options in early 2011 to encourage customers to undertake training, develop appropriate employment & work skills, and consider a self-employment option.

- **Work Experience** – this initiative will help 18-21 year old unemployed people to develop the skills needed to secure a sustainable job by offering a period of work experience;
- **Service Academies** will provide training & work experience for unemployed people of all ages. The emphasis will be on local colleges, employers and Jobcentre Plus working together to offer training & work experience leading to a guaranteed interview. They will be initially focussed on the retail & hospitality sectors.
- **Work for Yourself** which will offer a weekly self-employment credit and will seek the support of employers to act as business mentors to customers coming off benefit

3.11 **LOCAL GROWTH WHITE PAPER** published on 28<sup>th</sup> October sets out the Government's role in empowering locally driven growth, encouraging business investment and promoting economic development. A more detailed briefing will be provided in due course. However, as part of the White Paper it was announced that:

- Twenty-four local enterprise partnerships proposals have been approved to allow local business and civic leaders to work together to drive sustainable economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.
- The £1.4bn Regional Growth Fund has been launched. The White Paper states that this will support the creation of private sector jobs and will particularly support communities currently dependent on the public sector, helping them make the transition to private sector led growth and prosperity.

3.12 The White Paper sets out the Government's new approach on rebalancing the economy and helping drive sustainable growth by focusing on three key themes:

- Shifting power to local communities and businesses, by creating dynamic local enterprise partnerships.
- Increasing confidence to invest.
- Focused investment, by tackling barriers to growth that the market will not address itself.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In regard to the Single Programme, DWP will be running down existing employability contracted provision between December 2010 and March 2011. This will mean that there will be at least a gap of 3 or 4 months in funded employment provision, although it could be 6 months plus before a new programme is ready to proceed. This could be crucial in continuing to provide effective employment services for the unemployed. Several of the large potential primes have indicated that they would be prepared to consider funding existing employment infrastructure and employment provision until the *Work Programme* commences.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Single Programme proposes a 'high risk' to 'high reward' equation for potential investors, and, therefore, this is likely to lead to a change in the types of organisations involved in managing this work. There is concern that potential investors will only target resources on those areas that have good employment creation prospects.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

## **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

**6.1.1** It is anticipated that the policy developments outlined in this report will contribute to the key objective of promoting a culture where learning is valued and seen as a way of raising the aspirations of our younger residents and in turn, meeting the skills and employment needs of local employers.

## **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**6.2.1** This report highlights the fact that a number of ELS strategies, plans and policies are due to finish in the next 12 months, and that many will either not be replaced or will be subject to significant changes.

## **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

**6.3.1** The Single Work Programme proposals and changes to Welfare Reform have been announced concurrently. Emphasis is being placed on allowing people to improve their personal situation, and indeed, their health by helping them to enter the employment market, find a job and or move into better paid employment.

## **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None applicable

## **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

**6.5.1** The ongoing developments at 3MG, Widnes Waterfront, The Mersey Gateway, and Daresbury, present an opportunity for potential Single Programme Investors to support and promote the employability of local people.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None applicable

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**8.1** The report refers to initiatives aimed at providing equal opportunities for all to obtain employment. There is a concern, however, that investors will focus resources on areas where the prospects of employment are 'easier' and this could lead to more vulnerable residents not being given the same opportunities to seek and obtain employment.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**9.1** There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment & Economy

**SUBJECT:** Construction Halton

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members on the implementation of the Construction Employment Integrator model (now re-named Construction Halton).
- 1.2 To share with members, the action plan, that sets out the next phase of the project to March 2011.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- i That the report is received**
- ii That members comment on the progress to date**
- iii That members comment on the action plan**
- iv That members consider the impact on the delivery of the project, when existing funding ceases at the end of March 2011**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The forecast scale of development and other construction related activity in the borough offers significant potential for moving people from benefits into work. The Mersey Gateway Project, Building Schools for the Future programme and 3MG highway infrastructure works have been identified as offering significant training, employment and supply chain opportunities.
- 3.2 Construction Halton is focused on facilitating a range of measures to deliver community benefits from construction related work, in the form of employment, apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities.
- 3.3 The aims of Construction Halton are to provide a mechanism that will:-
  - ensure people from disadvantaged groups and areas within Halton are able to access jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry; and
  - promote the growth of local SMEs through supply chain linkages.

3.4 This will be achieved by:-

- using **procurement processes and planning** to effect change, embedding obligations into public sector contracts to ensure developers, and subsequently contractors address targeted employment and training issues;
- engaging with employers and contractors to ensure that **recruitment and training provision** is more relevant and demanded – thereby providing the industry with a supply of suitably qualified labour;
- providing tailored **pre-recruitment support and routeways** that will enable local unemployed/workless people to access jobs within the industry – through greater integration and more flexible use of mainstream programmes and funding; and
- encouraging and **assisting Halton based SMEs** to access opportunities arising from the new planned development activity in the area.

Appendix I provides an overview of how the Construction Halton model will work.

#### 4.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 In July 2009, the Adult Learning and Skills Development Division hosted a workshop at the Kingsway Learning Centre, run by Working Ventures UK. The aims of the workshop were to:-

- Raise awareness within the council of the mechanisms public authorities can use, through their planning and procurement policies and procedures, that can assist people from disadvantaged groups and areas compete for jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry and;
- Consider ways in which local suppliers can be assisted and supported to bid for contracts/tenders with the council

4.2 The workshop was attended by council officers representing Planning, Highways, Economic Regeneration, Property Services, Legal Services, Exchequer Services (Procurement), Children & Young People Directorate (BSF) and The Mersey Gateway.

4.3 Working Ventures UK funded a Halton Construction Employment Integrator Business Plan and risk assessment, which was published in January 2010.

4.4 Following the appointment of the Construction Halton project manager in June 2010, a review of progress was undertaken to gauge the extent

to which the messages from the 2009 workshop were being adopted by the council, via its procurement and planning processes.

- 4.5 The review was also designed to assist in defining the next steps in the implementation of Construction Halton, as it was acknowledged in the Business Plan, that the component parts of the model are already in place in Halton and that what was needed was a process to pull them together into a cohesive programme.

### **5.0 INITIAL FINDINGS**

- 5.1 The outcomes of the review suggest that progress has been made and is continuing to be made on a number of fronts:-

- Section 106 agreements to secure planning obligations from developers have been/are being used selectively by the council's Planning department
- A Section 106 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is planned, that will take into account the overall, cumulative impact of development in Halton and explain how this will be dealt with through the use of planning obligations
- Inclusion of clauses to secure commitments from suppliers to support targeted recruitment and training initiatives are being integrated, selectively, into contracts/tenders
- Implementation of the Due North procurement portal in the council, that will offer businesses the opportunity to receive automatic email alerts when council contracts are being let that match the goods/services they are able to provide

- 5.2 In addition, work is underway to:-

- Secure an employment forecasting tool that will provide estimates of the skills needed to deliver construction projects, to assist in the design of pre-employment training and recruitment programmes
- Improve the information already held on local construction companies, in order that buyers are better able to judge their suitability to meet contract/tender needs
- Strengthen the partnership with Riverside College and other local training providers, in respect of construction trades apprenticeships and training commissioned by developers/local businesses
- Assist the Mersey Gateway team in the integration of social and community benefits into the Mersey Gateway tendering process
- Assist the Building Schools for the Future team with the implementation of the key performance indicators related to apprenticeships/training opportunities etc
- Establish skills and training obligation clauses as part of the 3MG highways infrastructure contract
- Identify ways in which the environmental improvement works, being carried out by Halton Housing Trust over the next three years,

delivers maximum jobs and training benefits for local people and aligns to the Construction Halton principles

- Review the council's client management and tracking systems, to ensure they are fit for purpose and are fully integrated with the Liverpool City Region partner systems
- Explore opportunities for joint working with the Halton Chamber of Commerce, Public Sector Procurement Facilitator
- Develop links and explore opportunities for joint working with Liverpool City Region partners
- Keep under review best practice and new developments in other areas of the UK
- Identify other public sector organisations policies/approaches to procuring goods and services locally

### **6.0 NEXT STEPS**

6.1 A further workshop was held in September, 2010 to review progress and consider the next steps. Delegates were presented with a summary of the work programme to date, which included a progress report and discussion on the use of planning obligations by the council, recent developments in council procurement policy, legal issues related to procurement, plans for supply chain support commissioned with Halton Chamber of Commerce by the Halton Enterprise Board and an overview of skills forecasting tools, which enable accurate forecasts to be made of the labour and training requirements to undertake construction projects.

6.2 To illustrate how skills forecasts can be undertaken, one such tool, developed by one of the largest construction consultancies in the UK, will be demonstrated to members at the PPB meeting. This does not, however, infer or imply a recommendation for investing in this particular tool, as other options are still being considered.

6.3 The action plan (see appendix II) sets out the next steps for implementing the project and identifies the lead officers that have been tasked with taking the various actions forward. In summary, the plan focuses on:-

- establishing the infrastructure to deliver the project
- securing a skills forecasting tool
- establishing a Section 106 Protocol
- developing and implementing a communication plan
- rolling out the Due North registration process to local businesses
- continued research into targeted recruitment and training best practice
- gaining exemption for local labour clauses in the 1988 Local Government Act
- assessing the impact of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill

- assessing the extent to which sustainability is embedded into the council's procurement processes and policies, in relation to the geographical location of the supply chain

## **7.0 FINANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Construction Halton activities to date have been funded through Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF). As Members will be aware, there will be no WNF after March 2011. Work is underway to identify alternative funding to help coordinate Construction Halton after March 2011.
- 7.2 The West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC) is using revenue generated from Section 106 planning agreements to sustain their Construction Futures programme. Construction Futures was created in partnership with Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd and WNDC. The project is 50% funded by Northamptonshire County Council, and 50% by Section 106 revenue.
- 7.3 The planned adoption of a Section 106 Supplementary Planning Document by Halton Borough Council presents an opportunity for securing a revenue stream to help sustain Construction Halton.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **8.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Supports key objectives C and E.

Ensuring children and young people are offered the opportunity to explore training and qualifications in the construction industry will put them in good stead to apply for future jobs in the sector.

### **8.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Supports key objectives B and C.

The scale of inactivity within areas of Halton, alongside significant construction activity and investment, reinforces the need to find more effective ways of 'matching' people currently excluded from the labour market to the jobs in the industry.

### **8.3 A Healthy Halton**

Supports key objective C.

Construction Halton will assist placing hard to help groups currently disadvantaged in the labour market into employment and training opportunities

### **8.4 A Safer Halton**

None applicable

### **8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Supports key objectives A and E.



The relatively high stock of small businesses in Halton suggests that the local industry could continue to grow and provide additional employment opportunities if they are in a position to compete effectively for public sector supply chain contracts

**9.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 See Appendix III.

**10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

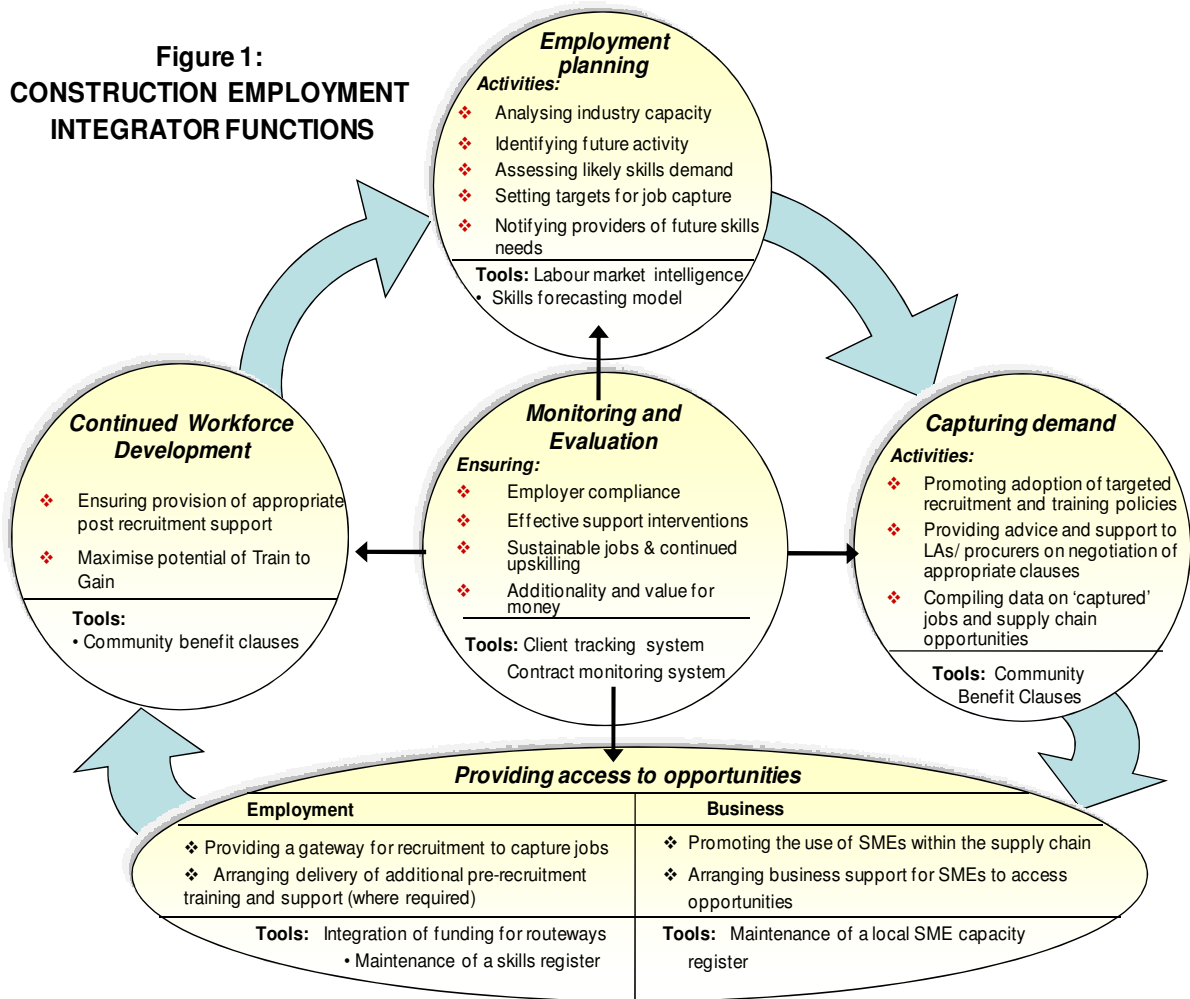
10.1 The Halton Employment Partnership operates within the LSP framework, which in turn operates under the Council's Equality and Diversity policy.

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

11.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

**APPENDIX I**

**Figure 1:  
CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT  
INTEGRATOR FUNCTIONS**



**APPENDIX II**

### Construction Halton Action Plan

ACTION ITEMS	WHO	BY WHEN	COMMENTS
Identify a lead officer/team to co-ordinate the Construction Halton programme after March 2011	<b>Wesley Rourke</b> /Siobhan Saunders/Gerry Fitzpatrick/Gary Collins	March 2011	
Establish a central point (person or team) to manage and source placements (eg. HEP Team)	<b>Wesley Rourke</b> /Siobhan Saunders/Gerry Fitzpatrick/Gary Collins	January 2011	
Identify and secure a product/service to enable reliable and consistent skills forecasts to be undertaken for 'in scope' projects, comprising:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction work procured by the council (min value to be agreed) and</li> <li>• developments seeking planning approval, that are either in excess of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or 10 residential units</li> </ul>	<b>Dave Owen</b> /Siobhan Saunders/Gerry Fitzpatrick/Andy Plant	November 2010	
Establish a Section 106 Protocol as an interim measure prior to adoption by the council of a Section 106 Single Programme Document (SPD)	Dave Owen/Andy Plant/ <b>Alasdair Cross</b>	March 2011	
All 'in scope' planning applications to be referred to central point for skills forecasting assessment and follow up negotiation with the Developer aimed at securing a training agreement	<b>Dave Owen</b> /Siobhan Saunders/Marie Hoyles/Gerry Fitzpatrick	Commence February 2011	Subject to availability of skills forecasting product/service
Assist Halton Chamber of Commerce and the Procurement Centre of Excellence with the roll out of the 'Due North'	<b>Dave Owen</b> /Paula Cain/Matt Fearnhead	Commence November 2010	Rolling programme

Procurement Web Portal to local businesses			
Develop and implement a Construction Halton Communications Plan	<b>Dave Owen</b> /HBC Corporate Communications Team/Natalie Crompton	Commence October 2010	Rolling programme
Continue to research targeted recruitment and training policies, arising from procurement and planning best practice in other LA's for consideration by the council	<b>Dave Owen</b> /Natalie Crompton/Rob Barnett/Lorraine Cox/Andy Plant	Ongoing	
Make representations to Government to gain an exemption for local labour clauses from s17 LGA 1988	<b>Rob Barnett</b> /Dave Owen	TBC	
Assess the impact of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill, which is expected to be presented to Parliament in the Autumn, in the context of the council's planning and procurement policies	<b>Rob Barnett</b> /Nick Mannion	December 2010	
Assess the extent to which sustainability is incorporated into the council's procurement process: particularly in relation to minimising the social and environmental impact of the supply chain	<b>Lorraine Cox</b> /Matt Fearnhead	TBC	

**APPENDIX III**

### Risk Assessment

The potential risks involved in delivering Construction Halton are summarised in Table A below, together with an assessment of how these risks can be mitigated.

<b>Table A: Risk management</b>			
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Probability High - 5 Low - 1</b>	<b>Impact High - 5 Low - 1</b>	<b>Risk /Risk management</b>
Economic downturn	5	2	The state of the economy could have a significant impact on the delivery of outputs. Construction Halton will provide the infrastructure necessary to take advantage of the investment likely to occur when conditions become more favourable and also the mechanism needed to provide good quality trainees for companies in need of additional/new staff associated with normal turnover.
Lack of commitment to the project and proposed structure by one or more partners	3	5	Council members are keen to ensure that plans are in place to maximise potential opportunities that arise when the economic conditions are more favourable. Construction Halton will be developed in line with partners key priorities and targets and where possible add value to existing interventions and support already in place within the area.
Over-optimism about the potential opportunities available	3	4	Construction Halton will be developed gradually and build up capacity over time as it becomes more established.
Insufficient training provider capacity	2	4	The forecasting tool and effective planning in the first instance will ensure that there is sufficient time to put training provision in place within the area. There are already a number of training providers active in the area and if needed, additional training provision could be purchased from delivery agencies within the wider Merseyside area. The College, which used to be a centre of vocational excellence in Construction has a number of courses available which are delivered on a flexible basis.
Failure to recruit enough trainees	2	3	Halton People into Jobs is funded from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) to proactively engage 'hard to help groups'.
Failure to sustain the project management function	3	5	The ending of WNF to support the project management function after March 2011 could seriously jeopardise the implementation of Construction Halton. Discussions are, however, underway to identify a lead officer/team to co-ordinate the project when WNF ends.
Reputation risk – failure of the venture	2	3	One of the key functions of Construction Halton will be the assessment/screening of individuals to ensure that they are ready to take up the training place/employment opportunity. For this to work effectively, the intermediary organisation will liaise closely with the employers in order to understand their requirements and the type of training that individuals need to have undertaken before they are referred on to specific opportunities. Provision of good quality candidates will be essential in developing the service and offering it to contractors. Individuals will therefore undergo a thorough assessment before placement and will be tracked post recruitment to ensure they continue to receive the support necessary.