

Public Document Pack



Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

Monday, 11 September 2017 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mark Dennett (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Lauren Cassidy	Labour
Councillor Susan Edge	Labour
Councillor Charlotte Gerrard	Labour
Councillor Pauline Hignett	Labour
Councillor Margaret Horabin	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Christopher Rowe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor John Stockton	Labour

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ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 13 November 2017*

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

Part I

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1. MINUTES		1 - 7
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)		
	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
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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.

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE
BOARD**

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 12 June 2017 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chair), Logan (Vice-Chair), Cassidy, Edge, C. Gerrard, P. Hignett, Horabin, P. Lloyd Jones, Parker, Rowe and J. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. McIntyre, A. Jones, T. Coffey and M. West

Also in attendance: One Member of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
CYP1 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2017 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CYP2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.	
CYP3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
The minutes relating to the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at Appendix 1 for information.	
RESOLVED: That the minutes are noted.	
CYP4 ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17	
The Chair presented the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for 2016-17.	

He wished to place on record his thanks to Members and Officers for their commitment, support and hard work carried out throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That the 2016-17 Annual Report be received.

Councillor C Gerrard declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item as she was employed as a Social Worker in Lancashire's Children's Service.

CYP5 THE CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017 - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation which informed of the changes to statutory duties to children and young people and the reform of social work outlined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The presentation focussed on the key areas as follows:

- Corporate parenting principles and children in care duties;
- Education duties to previously looked after children;
- The expansion of care leaver duties;
- The abolition of the Safeguarding Children's Board;
- Further regulation of social work; and
- Compulsory relationship and sex education in schools.

The changes introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 were discussed in the report. It was noted that statutory regulations that outlined in more detail the impact and implementation of the specific changes would be published later in the year, for consultation before formal implementation of the relevant parts of the Act.

Members raised the following points after the presentation:

Was it possible to have stability in corporate parenting principles, one example would be the same one social worker throughout a child in care's life?

Yes it was possible although extremely challenging. On average a social worker stayed in their job for only 7 ½ years, probably due to the nature of the work, high caseloads and the demands of the job. They were a young workforce with a high turnover. It was noted that local

authorities needed to do more to support them with these difficult aspects of the job.

Will the introduction of the accreditation help improve the quality of the workforce?

It was too early to tell if the accreditation would add any value as the results of the pilot had been vague.

It was suggested by Members that the accreditation should be mandatory to avoid having two tiers of qualified social workers.

Clarity between the 3 safeguarding parties was queried and if for example a child was out of Borough, how would this relationship work?

This would not be clear until the regulations had been published. At the moment the children would still be monitored by the Safeguarding Board. If a child was being looked after in Halton they would be treated as Halton's child.

Members raised concerns over the cost to the Authority that these statutory changes would bring with them, and that many schools were already in financial trouble

There was no reference to the changes in the Funding Formula and it was understood that the cost of qualified social workers may rise. It was important to note that until the regulations were published there could be no clarity over this.

With regards to the compulsory relationship education – would parents be given the opportunity to opt out for their child?

This would be applied to all schools and did not give exceptions at the moment, although it is expected that there would be some.

What control does the LA have over privately owned children's care homes and the staff they employed?

Ofsted are the body responsible for managing twice yearly inspections and had the power to close down a home that failed an inspection. It was noted however, that if the LA had any concerns over a particular care home, they could forward these to Ofsted.

Members were also advised that a provider network was in place and that the LA did its best to influence the practice of providers. It was confirmed that other LA's were required to notify Halton if they placed one of their children in a private care home in Halton.

As the safeguarding arrangements are to come in place by 2018, will the regulations be out in time for the 3 safeguarding parties?

They should be but this was not confirmed.

Was there scope for Halton to have a variation of its own Safeguarding Board?

Yes Halton would have the same model but with different chairing arrangements. It was commented that without a statutory power partners may not engage in the same way with the three safeguarding parties.

How were Halton doing with regards to its corporate parenting principles – it would be nice to hear feedback?

These have been refreshed after consultation with the care leavers. Members would be advised of consultation responses and presented with the revised charter.

The Chair requested that reports are submitted to the Board as the Act progresses.

RESOLVED: That Members note the changes to statutory duties.

Councillor Edge declared A Disclosable Other Interest in the following item as she was temporarily employed at Woodview Child Development Centre.

CYP6 REDUCING CHILD POVERTY AND IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES

Due to the absence of the presenting Officer, the Chairman requested on behalf of the Board, that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Policy and Performance Board in September.

RESOLVED: That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

CYP7 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA AND HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

Members received a presentation that provided an overview of the changes proposed through the introduction of a National Funding Formula (NFF) and revised approach to funding High Needs.

It was reported that the Department for Education (DfE) had undertaken a two phase consultation on the introduction of a NFF and High Needs Funding. For the NFF to assist with the consultation, the DfE produced indicative budgets illustrating the estimated change to each schools individual budget in 2018/2019 and 2019/20. These illustrations showed that all Halton's secondary schools would lose funding and there would be a reduction in funding for 3 small primary schools. Concerns were raised over the impact that these losses would have over these schools and the communities that they served.

The presentation also discussed the current funding position in Halton and the future funding levels for the UK proposed by the Government. The High Needs Block and its funding factors were also discussed with Members and the fact that the costs of high needs in Halton were rising year on year as more schools were identifying children with special educational needs.

RESOLVED: Members receive a further update once the funding changes had been confirmed.

CYP8 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

The Board received a report that set out the statutory requirements for the Local Authority in determining school term and holiday dates and set out some of the issues faced when seeking to determine term/holiday dates.

It was reported that under Section 32 of the Education Act 2002, the Local Authority (LA), being the employer, shall determine the dates when school terms and holidays are to begin and end for community and voluntary controlled schools.

The principles for term time setting were outlined in the report and noted and supported by Members. It was announced that the LA was proposing to consult community and voluntary controlled schools during Autumn Term 2017 on proposed dates for 2019/20 and if the schools valued this approach, it would be considered for subsequent years. It

was noted that although it would not be possible to satisfy all those that were affected by term dates; a consensus would be reached.

Further to Members' queries it was noted that free schools and academies were required to notify the LA of their holidays and to publish these in advance on their websites, which they did do. Members commented that this year's Christmas and New Year holiday dates were too early. It was reported that these could not be changed now, however, it was suggested that this could be avoided in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the principles for setting term times as set out in the report.

CYP9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTERS 3 & 4 OF 2016-17

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarters 3 and 4 of 2016-17 and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these. It was noted that Members had received quarter 3 reports in advance on 16 May 2017, as these were finalised in between the Board meeting schedule.

It was noted that the key priorities for development or improvement in 2016-17 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authorities Business Plan, for the various functional areas reported to the Board as detailed below:

- Education, Inclusion and Provision Services; and
- Children and Families Services

The reports detailed progress made against objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

The following points were made in response to queries by Members from the quarter 4 reports:

- A piece of work was being carried out to assess the level of young people missing from home. Consideration would be given for the arrangements of logging missing children and the return interviews undertaken by Catch 22, the commissioned provider.
- It was noted that persistent absence from school had

increased. As this appeared to be the case across the Liverpool City Region it presented the opportunity for a joint piece of work to be undertaken to explore how attendance levels could be improved.

- The number of exclusions in Halton had increased to 41. This was a concern. Members were advised that the Pupil Referral Unit was full; there was a shortage of good quality alternative provision; and the current In Year Fair Access Protocol was being revised. To contribute towards the costs of additional provisions the Local Authority had been able to deduct a lump sum and remove the value of the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU). The lump sum deduction was no longer permitted by the DfE.
- The Head Teacher of the PRU was currently working 2 days a week with the LA to establish undertaking a review on the provision for children with emotional, social and mental health issues. Once this review had been completed it would be shared with the Board.
- It was suggested that some of the issues discussed above could be due to poor parenting, lack of nurturing, attachment issues and the changes in benefits increasing the financial challenges for many parents.

RESOLVED: That quarters 3 and 4 performance management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

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

DATE: 11 September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise Community and 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: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 11 September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board 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 Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2017

EXB 18	CONVERSION OF THE GRANGE SCHOOL TO WADE DEACON TRUST – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the arrangements for the conversion of The Grange School to Wade Deacon Trust, and also sought authority to undertake any actions necessary to effect the transfer.

The Board was advised that The Grange School was an All-through school catering for pupils from age 3 to 16. It was funded through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) with service commencement from April 2013.

It was reported that the Local Authority had received an Academy Order from the Secretary of State for Schools in October 2016, which approved the conversion of The Grange School to Academy Status, as part of the Wade Deacon Trust. Due to the complexity of the conversion, a request was made to the Department for Education to provide financial assistance to secure specialist legal support.

The Board noted that in May 2017, the law firm Freeths were commissioned to work alongside Halton's Legal Services to represent the Council's interests during the academy conversion. Given the delay in commencing negotiations, the original conversion date had been delayed. However, a number of key documents would require amendment and agreement, as set out in the report, but which included the School's Agreement, the Principal Agreement, the Long Term Lease, Service Level Agreements and the Deed of Variation to the PFI contract.

Reason(s) For Decision

To seek delegated approval to facilitate the conversion of The Grange School to Wade Deacon Trust.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

All key documents considered and agreed by Executive Board. This option was rejected due to the number of changes required, the number of partners involved and the impact this would have on the timescale for conversion.

Implementation Date

Delegated powers to take effect from July 2017.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The appointment of the law firm Freeths to act for the Authority in the conversion of The Grange PFI School be noted;
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Operational Director, Education, Inclusion and Provision, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, to agree to the following:-
 - i) Schools Agreement;
 - ii) Principal Agreement;
 - iii) Deed of Variation;
 - iv) Lease;
 - v) Service Level Agreement for Resource Base Provision;
 - vi) Shared Use Agreement; and
 - vii) Commercial Transfer Agreement.
- 3) Authority is delegated to the Operational Director, Education, Inclusion and Provision, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, to undertake any actions necessary to effect the conversion.

EXB19	REQUEST FOR HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL TO LEAD THE PROCUREMENT OF AN IAG SERVICE FOR HALTON, LIVERPOOL, WIRRAL AND KNOWSLEY AUTHORITIES
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which sought approval for Halton Borough Council to lead the procurement of Independent Advice and Guidance (IAG) services on behalf of Halton, Liverpool, Wirral and Knowsley Councils.

The Board was advised that the Education and Skills Act 2008 placed certain duties on local authorities to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. A revised approach, known as the Halton Participation Strategy, was approved by the Board on 17 October 2013. An element within the Participation Strategy was the commissioning of a service to provide information, advice and guidance. It was noted that this service was carried out on behalf of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) authorities, with the procurement process led by Halton Borough Council. Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership were awarded the contract for a two year period on 1 April 2014, with an option to extend this to 31 March 2018.

The Board noted that Halton and the LCR authorities of Knowsley, Liverpool and Wirral wished to maintain a similar service from 1 April 2018, and a joint procurement process, led by Halton, would seek to procure four, twelve month periods; this would allow for consistency of service, but with an option to reduce or terminate annually, should financial or other circumstances change.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and

- 2) the Board approves Halton Borough Council acting as lead in the joint procurement process with Liverpool, Knowsley and Wirral local authorities.

EXB20

DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL ALTERNATIVE PROVISION – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on a proposal to extend the range of vocational education offered by The Bridge School.

The Board was advised that there was insufficient provision in the Borough and neighbouring local authorities to meet the need for good quality skills based vocational alternative provision. Limitations of the current Bridge School site meant that it was not possible to increase or expand provision.

It was reported that a unit had become available at Astmoor, previously used by Riverside College. A feasibility study undertaken to assess suitability of the site and its associated costs, confirmed that with appropriate works, the site could be adapted to provide a skills base as part of the provision offered by The Bridge School.

Details of the proposal with associated costs required for refurbishment and additional specialist teaching resources, were set out in the report. It was noted that the provision would be under the management of The Bridge School and would fall under the Ofsted framework of evaluation. Secondary schools in the Borough had indicated their support for the proposed provision and the revenue costs would be met from schools through buy-back.

Reason(s) For Decision

To agree capital funding for the development of a vocational skills base at Astmoor.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Expand The Bridge School on its current site. This was not possible due to the limitation of the current site.

Implementation Date

July 2017.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the capital project to develop a skills base at Astmoor be approved;
- 2) this approval is subject to the agreement of the terms of the lease and support from Halton secondary schools; and
- 3) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, and the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, be given the authority to agree the terms of the lease.

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

DATE: 11 September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Children's Trust Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio from the Children's Trust Executive Board meeting on 15 June 2017 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.



Halton Children's Trust: Minutes 15.6.17 – Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services HBC (Chair)
Mil Vasic	Strategic Director People, HBC
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision, HBC
Tracey Coffey	Operational Manager, Children & Families, HBC
Tracy Ryan	Assistant Policy Officer, People, HBC (Minutes)
Kelly Collier	Policy Officer, Children & Young People, HBC
Alan Fairclough	Cheshire Police
Richard Rees	Cheshire Police
Julie Sumner	Halton ImPart Parent Carer Forum
Holly Caldwell	Halton Youth Cabinet
Matthew Machell	CiCC
Sarah Jones	Participation and Inclusion Officer, HBC
Ewan Jago	UK Youth Parliament
Richard Strachan	Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board
Matthew Walker	Halton Youth Cabinet
Eileen O'Meara	Director of Public Health for Halton
Angela Woolfall	Foster Carer
Sharon Canavan-Daly	Foster Carer
David Baugh	Pewithall Primary School
Vicky Jolly	North West Borough Hospitals (NWBH) formally 5BP
Caroline Williams	Associate Director of Operations, Bridgewater
Libby Evans	School Nurse Team Leader, Bridgewater NHS Trust

Apologies:

Cllr Dave Cargill	Community Safety Police and Crime Panel
Dorothy Roberts	Principal Policy Officer, People, HBC
Shélah Semoff	Partnership Officer, Policy, People, Performance & Efficiency, HBC
Vicky Wrest	North West Borough Hospitals (formally 5BP)
Mary Murphy	Principal, Riverside College
Cleo Alonso	Halton Voluntary Sector Forum (Halton InterAction)
Anne Simmons	Sts Peter and Paul Catholic College
Pat Hansen	Halton Housing Trust

Item		Action	Deadline
	PART A - TOPIC ITEM		
1.0	DRAFT Children, Young People and Families Plan		
	Ann explained that widespread consultation with children, young people, families, schools and Trust partners has taken place since the Trust Priorities Workshop on 26 January. Feedback from these has led the development/design of the DRAFT Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2017-2020.		
	Kelly noted that we had decided to change the title of the plan, to include the word 'families' to acknowledge the whole family		

1.1	<p>approach adopted by Trust partners in everyday roles/activities. Kelly explained that the health and safeguarding elements will be included within the Areas of Focus.</p> <p>Members discussed the development of a glossary or 'jargon buster' being included to explain abbreviations/terms. Members held a lengthy debate around the educational focus of Priority 2 (Achievement and Ambition) to consider if this should be changed. However, after seeking views of the young people and parents/carers in attendance on this it was agreed that this should remain as it, unchanged.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Jones/Kelly Collier to develop CYPFP Jargon Buster/Glossary and include in the plan • Cheshire Police (Young People Engagement Officer), Young People and Kelly to work together to design the Plan on a Page once the final CYPFP completed • Halton CCG/Public Health to send Kelly additional Health content as discussed • Members to email any content suggestions to Kelly Collier kelly.collier@halton.gov.uk • Kelly to update draft and circulate to members <p>Future Topic Discussion Items Ideas</p> <p>Ann explained that the topics agreed last year have now been covered through the previous Trust meetings and sought ideas from members to help plan agendas for future Trust meetings. Members agreed the themes and Business Items identified below.</p> <p>Topic Discussion Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Emotional Health & Wellbeing/THRIVE Model (including direction of travel for THRIVE in Halton) - Eileen O'Meara (Public Health) & Sheila McHale (Halton CCG); 2) Smoking/Vaping – Eileen O'Meara (Public Health); 3) E-Safety in schools (primary) & the impact on young people of social media – Alan Fairclough/Elizabeth Stanton (Cheshire Police); 4) Legal Highs/Substance Misuse & legalities – Donna Wells (Young Addaction). <p>Future Business Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Premium Report* usage by schools e.g. overall budget or use allocated per appropriate pupil? Stigma of Pupil Premium (Mark Higginbottom, HBC) <p>*Holly Caldwell (Halton Youth Cabinet) sought more</p>	<p>SJ/KC</p> <p>KC/Young People/Police</p> <p>EO'M/JR</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>KC</p> <p>EO'M/SMCh</p> <p>Elspeth Anwar</p> <p>AF/ES</p> <p>DW</p> <p>MH</p>	<p>Sept '17</p> <p>To be agreed</p> <p>Aug '17</p> <p>Aug '17</p> <p>21.9.17</p> <p>Possibly 21.9.17</p> <p>23.11.17</p> <p>22.2.18</p> <p>17.5.18</p> <p>23.11.17</p>
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	<p>information about how Pupil Premium is used by schools. Noting that it often contributes towards the overall school budget as opposed to being spent on the individual pupil, Holly also raised the issue of stigma linked with this.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracy Ryan to liaise with colleagues/partners to diary Topic Discussion Item in Forward Plan Agenda • Tracy Ryan to diary in Business Items for future meetings 	<p>TR</p> <p>TR</p>	<p>July '17</p> <p>July '17</p>
	PART B - BUSINESS ITEMS		
2.0	<p>Minutes/Actions 24.11.16</p> <p>Minutes accepted as accurate, matters arising as follows:</p> <p><u>2.2 Self-Harm Pathway</u></p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eileen O'Meara to provide update on revised Pathway. <p><u>2.3 THRIVE Framework</u></p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila McHale to provide an update on THRIVE Model as part of the Topic Discussion Item on Emotional Health & Wellbeing/THRIVE <p>Matthew noted that Sheila delivered an overview session for young people within Halton Youth Cabinet and they commented on how easy the system seems to be to use.</p> <p><u>2.5 Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022</u></p> <p>Eileen advised that Public Health had previously consulted on strategy which has now been encompassed within the new One Halton Strategy - circulated to members</p>	<p>E O'M</p> <p>SMcH</p>	<p>21.9.17</p> <p>Possibly 21.9.17</p>
2.1	<p>Children in Care Visits-Appointments</p> <p>Mil explained how the Children in Care visits taking place during school hours is causing major disruption to children and young people's education and engagement. It was agreed by all members that Children's Social Workers need ensure that they arrange Contact Meetings and PEPs as <u>out of school hours</u> appointments.</p> <p>Members confirmed that these types of appointments had increasingly taken place during school hours. This had occurred even for appointments previously planned as being held outside of school hours. Members felt this was often due to staff/professionals being unavailable to attend meetings after school hours.</p>		

	<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracey Coffey/Children & Family Services Managers to instruct ALL Social Workers/Social Care staff to adhere to Mil's letter to ensure that PEPs/Contacts take place outside of school hours not within them. • Tracy Ryan to produce Schools e-Circular to request that <u>from September '17</u> they notify Children & Family Service of any future instances of time lost for pupils related to these appointments. 	TC	July '17
2.2	<p>Halton's Education Ambition</p> <p>Mil presented Halton's Education Ambitions and outlined the work in progress to develop these and formalise a new Strategic Partnerships Group for working with schools.</p>		
2.3a	<p>Hate Crime - You Said, We Did</p> <p>Matthew Walker provided an update on work in development through Halton Youth Cabinet. This has included writing to all schools to progress the 'Alike Humans' publicity campaign to raise the profile of Hate Crime - so far 2 schools have shown an interest.</p> <p>Ewan Jago provided an update on the Halton Against Hate (HAH '17) event scheduled for Thursday 26 October '17.</p>		
2.3b	<p>DRAFT Hate Crime Resources Factsheet</p> <p>Tracy presented the draft factsheet and sought members' views to refine the information about the resources available included for Reporting; Raising Awareness; Victim Support and School Resources/Support. It is due to be presented at the local Safeguarding Boards – Children's and Adults for their agreement and will be included in the refreshed Hate Crime Strategy once finalised. Members welcomed and approved the Factsheet as a valuable resource.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracy Ryan to circulate final version to members (see attached) also to publish on the Local Offer and Children's Trust websites. • ALL members to widely promote and circulate the factsheet to staff, children, young people and their families. Also where possible publish on their website/Twitter/Facebook etc. 	TR	Aug '17
2.4	<p>Participation Strategy</p> <p>Matthew advised that the Strategy has been published on the</p>	ALL	Aug '17

	<p>INVOLVE website www.halton.gov.uk/involve and that a Participation Handbook will be produced shortly to underpin the Strategy.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Walker to provide an update at the next meeting 21 September. 	MW	21.9.17
	PART C - INFORMATION ITEMS		
3.0	Key Partner Updates		
3.1	<p>Infant Mental Health Award Halton won the 2017 Infant Mental Health award for best locality partnership working/initiative. This is for the work achieved through the antenatal 'You and Your Baby' service, the Solihull approach in promoting attachment, bonding and communication and 'Incredible Years' baby projects etc which are included in the perinatal mental health pathway for Halton families. The integrated and multiagency partnership involves Midwifery, Family Nurse Partnership, Health Visitors, Children Centres, Health Improvement Team, CAMHS and the perinatal Mental Health Service that support/help parents to give their babies the best possible start in life.</p>		
3.2	<p>SEND Inspection Report will be published Friday 16 June '17. Cllr. Tom McInerney thanked Julie (Halton ImPart) contributing to the SEND inspection.</p>		
3.3	<p>Halton ImPart, Julie confirmed grant funding had been approved for the next 12 months.</p> <p>Next meeting dates/times - 4.30-6.30pm, Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 21 September • Thursday 23 November <p><u>Pre-Meeting dates/venues</u></p> <p>Changes below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 7 September, Boardroom, Municipal Building • Tuesday 16 November – Mersey, Municipal Building 	All	

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	11 th September 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT:	Summary of 2017 Provisional Un-validated Attainment Outcomes
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To receive a presentation on the provisional outcomes for Halton's Children and Young People and their performance in comparison to Unvalidated National data and North West Regional Data.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members receive the presentation; and
- (2) Members ask any questions about the implications of these results

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Children's Policy and Performance Board have an overview and scrutiny role for children's services in as they operate in Halton.
- 3.2 The Divisional Manger for Education will provide a summary of the provisional un-validated attainment results.
- 3.3 Local Attainment results are summarised, the current national data is un-validated until the Statistical First release due in December 2017.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Not applicable

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Outcomes for children and young people are only comparable to 2016 results for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, although have to be treated with some caution as new assessment processes experience some unreliability in the first couple of years of introduction . Relative position to regional and unvalidated national figures can be reported. This information will inform the priorities, training, support and challenge available to schools.

Progress data will be released in December and any schools who are below the floor standard and those meeting the coasting school criteria will be identified. Schools at risk of coasting will be eligible for formal action by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) as detailed in the DFE “Schools Causing Concern” document, March 2016. These coasting schools may be identified for an intervention plan that could lead to a sponsored Academy solution for the school.

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 Local information is being used to anticipate potential progress results (dependent upon DFE formulas) and identify those schools with a trend that places them at risk of coasting or at risk of being below floor standard. School Improvement will prioritise vulnerable schools to try and minimise the risk of forced Academy conversions negatively impacting upon children and young people and the associated workforce.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Interim teacher assessment framework at the end of KS2”, Standards and Testing Agency (STA), July 2016	Rutland House Runcorn	Jill.farrell@halton.gov.uk
“Rochford Review, Final report”, October 2016	Rutland House Runcorn	Jill.farrell@halton.gov.uk
National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2016 (interim) SFR 30/2016, 5 th July 2016	Rutland House Runcorn	Jill.farrell@halton.gov.uk
Progress 8 Measure in 2016, 2017 and 2018” DFE, July 2016	Rutland House Runcorn	Jill.farrell@halton.gov.uk
Schools Causing Concern Guidance: Guidance for Local Authorities and RSC’s” , DFE, March 2016	Rutland House Runcorn	Jill.farrell@halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	11 September 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT:	Reducing Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances in Halton
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to update members of the work of Halton's Child and Family Poverty Strategic Group and how this feeds into the Liverpool City Region co-ordinated approach to addressing child and family poverty.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members note the contents of this report

3.0 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

- 3.1 Growing up in poverty can affect every area of a child's development and future life chances. We know that most disadvantaged children are less likely to achieve their academic potential, secure employment and gain a sense of future financial security. They are more likely to suffer from poor health, live in poor quality housing and unsafe environments.
- 3.2 In 2010 Halton alongside other Liverpool City Region (LCR) leaders agreed to adopt a City Region wide approach to tackling issues related to child and family poverty that would build on strong local and City Region partnerships.
- 3.3 In 2011 the first Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy for the LCR was launched and subsequently in 2015. The vision set out in the strategy continues to represent our long term approach up to 2020, which was the national deadline to eradicate child poverty. Vision states that:

“Working together as City Region Partners we will reduce child and family poverty and maximise opportunities for children and young people in their life chances.

We will achieve this through a dual strategy which ensures an ever growing proportion of children and young people are ready for school and life whilst maximising family resources.”

4.0 HALTON'S CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGIC GROUP

4.1 Given Halton are well represented on the LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission by the portfolio holder for children and the Director of Public Health and have been key to developing the city wide strategy we are happy to adopt a joint strategic approach. In addition Local Authorities no longer have a statutory duty to complete a local child poverty strategy. We have, however, agreed we need to develop our own bespoke action plan to underpin it.

4.2 Halton's Child and Family Poverty Strategic Group hosted a morning workshop on 26th January attended by a range of stakeholders to consider what should be included in Halton's Child Poverty Action Plan. The group agreed to use the priorities for the Liverpool City Region as the basis of our action plan.

These are:

- Fair employment
- Birth and School readiness
- School interventions, pupil premium and NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training)
- Health inequalities and lifestyle choices
- Transport and accessibility

4.3 Each table had a lead representing one of the priorities identified above who facilitated discussion with the aim of completing an exercise which aimed to ascertain the following:

1. What do we have in place now in Halton?
2. What do we need to focus on to improve things?
3. How can we work better with the Liverpool City Region (LCR)?

4.4 From the completed responses a paper was collated summarising the key areas/common themes against each of the priorities. These included:

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ISSUES
Fair Employment	a. Financial literacy in the community – can handle money b. Teach adults to understand their employment rights c. Use employed young people as role models d. Check childcare accessibility against adult learning and skills provision e. Look at supported internships for young people with learning difficulties
Birth and School Readiness	a. Integrated multiagency teams collocated b. Future use of Children's Centres – multigenerational? c. Increased focus on building parenting

	<p>skills</p> <p>d. The system to develop an understanding of Early Years Pupil Promises and how we should spend it</p> <p>e. Complete an evidence review for what works with improved parenting and keeping children out of care.</p>
School Interventions, Pupil Premiums and NEET	<p>a. Financial literacy for children</p> <p>b. Mapping of availability of fresh food in deprived areas</p> <p>c. Ensuring all children entitled to free school meal get one</p> <p>d. Use social media to give young people information on training and jobs, interview techniques, CV writing, etc.</p> <p>e. Organise holiday meal clubs in deprived areas, tying in with big supermarkets</p>
Health Inequalities and Lifestyle Choices	<p>a. Training staff and voluntary sector to work with people on their lifestyle</p> <p>b. Digital access to health advice</p> <p>c. Scope opportunities for low cost/free sports opportunities</p> <p>d. Roll out pilot pregnancy and smoking Quit Buddy Stress Management Scheme</p> <p>e. Enabling children to make the right choice for secondary school meals</p>
Transport and Accessibility	<p>a. Increased communication on what concessionary fares, cheap tickets are available</p> <p>b. More children walking to school</p> <p>c. Increased awareness of cycle training for children</p>

4.5 As a result the group are in the process of pulling together a SMART (specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic and time-based.) action plan, which will feed into the LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy.

4.6 This Action Plan will be regularly monitored and evaluated for outcomes.

4.7 The outcomes of the strategy and action plan will be fed back on an annual basis to the Halton Children's and Young People's PPB and the LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Reducing child and family poverty and improving life chances is a significant challenge for local authorities and Halton is no exception, particularly given the current economic climate and funding reductions. A City Region approach to addressing child and family poverty exploits economies of scale and also helps to share good practice.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

As a local authority we have a responsibility to ensure all children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, are supported to achieve their academic potential, secure employment and gain a sense of future financial security.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

As a local authority we have a responsibility to ensure all children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, have access to a breath of education, training and employment opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Children and young people who are living in poverty experience a number of issues that may impact on their physical and emotional health and wellbeing. These issues need to be addressed to reduce escalation into adult life acting as a barrier in achieving their academic potential and gaining successful employment.

6.4 A Safer Halton

We know that most children and young people living in poverty suffer from poor health, live in poor quality housing and unsafe environments. We need to work together to reduce the risk of children and young becoming involved in crime and also reduce their vulnerability to exploitation.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) like other Northern City Regions has been affected by the economic downturn of recent years with levels of unemployment and low wage growth. The Government's austerity programme has served to exacerbate the effects on the poorest families in the City Region through reductions to benefits and tax credits and

imposition of benefit sanctions, set against the ongoing squeeze on the cost of living.

Local Authorities no longer have a statutory duty to complete a local child poverty strategy, however to do nothing to help address this issue would be detrimental to the borough. This risk will be addressed through an efficient and effective action plan for Halton based on the priorities for the LCR. This action plan will feed into the Liverpool City Region Strategy.

Achieving an effective LCR Child and Family approach requires strong strategic leadership from a range of LCR partners. This has been addressed through the establishment of a LCR Child and Family Poverty Commission of which Halton is actively part of.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Children and young people growing up and living in poverty can affect every area of a child's development and future life chances. Their needs may require a range of specific services.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy 2015-18	Runcorn Town Hall	Eileen O'Meara
Child Poverty Act 2010	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/contents	Eileen O'Meara

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

DATE: 11 September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Joint Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability for Halton

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the outcome of the Joint Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability for Halton and agree the arrangements for the development of a joint Local Area Action Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Outcome of the Joint Local Area SEND inspection is noted;**
- (2) Approval is given to the development of a Joint Action Plan to address the areas of development identified by the inspection; and**
- (3) Request a report on progress in six months.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In May 2016 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission commenced joint area inspections on the effectiveness of local areas in implementing the SEND reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. Under the inspection arrangements each local area would be inspected over a 5 year cycle.

3.2 Between 27th March and 31st March 2017 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint inspection in Halton. They spoke to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, parents and carers, local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They also visited a range of health and education providers including schools, Children's Centres, Early Years settings and Riverside College. Inspectors spoke to leaders, staff and governors about the implementation of the reports. In addition the inspectors considered a range of information about the performance of the local area including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with the leads for health, social care and education in Halton. Finally they reviewed performance data and evidence including the local offer and joint commissioning.

3.3 The inspection focused on the following three areas:

- The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities;
- The effectiveness of the local area in meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities; and
- The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and or/disabilities.

3.4 The final letter providing the outcome of the inspection was scheduled for publication in May 2017, however, due to political sensitivity Ofsted advised that it would not be issued until 9th June 2017 and that it would be published on 16th June 2017. Please see Appendix A for the full letter.

3.5 The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, Jonathan Jones and his letter sets out both the strengths of the local area and a number of areas for further development. The main findings of the report include the following:

- The children and young people spoken to say they are happy and feel safe in school and college.
- Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and are looked after receive effective support. The needs of these children and young people are well met as a result of early identification and appropriate and timely assessment.
- The achievement of children and young people shows secure signs of improvement across all key stages. Most rapid improvements can be seen in early years as a result of early identification and intervention.
- The work of the visual impairment services, audiology, teachers of the deaf and school nurses are strengths in the local area. The quality of the support and provision that these services offer makes a positive difference to children and young people.
- Young people in Halton are being prepared well for adulthood.
- The achievement of young people in post-16 provision is continuing to improve so as to be closer to the national average.
- The proportion of young adults in independent living and those in paid employment is much higher than the national average.
- Leaders work with children and young people is beginning to improve and there are some strong examples of co-production, for example, on short breaks.
- Leaders have an accurate understanding of what is working well and what needs to improve.
- The local area is on track to complete all transitions from statements of

special educational needs to education, health and care (EHC) plans by March 2018.

- The majority of plans are completed within the expected 20 week timescale.
- Staff vacancies in a number of services impact negatively on the length of waiting times and the ability of services to meet the needs of children and young people.
- There is still some way to go until outcomes for children and young people area similar to national averages but there have been sustained improvements.
- The Action plan for the implementation of the strategy is not sufficiently robust. Joint plans and evaluations do not incorporate well enough aspects of health services and consideration is not always given to how actions will impact on outcomes for children and young people. The lack of sharp focus and joined-up thinking is also reflected in the quality of some EHC plans.
- Leaders do not have a thorough understanding of the range of parental views. A number of parents do not feel that there is transparency regarding identification, assessment and the rationale for decisions being made. Co-production is not firmly embedded and there is no shared understanding of how it should look in Halton.
- The local offer is extensive and up to date. Nonetheless, it is used by too few parents and some told inspectors they had never heard of it. A number of schools' websites do not provide the link to the local area's offer.
- There has been a sharp increase in the proportion of children and young people with social, emotional and mental health issues. This is increasing the number of children and young people who are persistently absent and/or being excluded from school. Leaders are working with schools and child and adolescent mental health services but it is too soon to see the impact on outcomes for these children and young people.

3.6 The report acknowledged that that there was an accurate understanding or what is working well and what needs to improve, however, emphasised the need for increased joint planning. Therefore, in order to respond to the areas for development and to further improve the outcomes for children and young people, NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, the Local Authority, Impart (parent and carer organisation) and other partners have developed a local area joint Action Plan.

3.7 This Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed by the SEN Strategic Partnership Board and a progress report will be provided to this Board in six months.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Through implementing the Action Plan we aim to strengthen our joint working arrangements and better meet the needs of our children and young people with

with special educational needs and disabilities.

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

5.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

Improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities

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

Improve education and employment opportunities for children and young people with SEND

5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Support children and young people so that they can be as healthy as possible in adult life

5.4 **A Safer Halton**

Ensure children and young people with SEN feel safe

5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The report identified that there was not a local understanding of the range of parental views. To respond to this area of development a detailed review of parental engagement will be commissioned.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children and Families Act 2014	Rutland House Runcorn	Ann.McIntyre@halton.gov.uk
Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years	Rutland House Runcorn	Ann.McIntyre@halton.gov.uk
The framework for the Inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities	Rutland House Runcorn	Ann.McIntyre@halton.gov.uk
Joint Local Area SEND Inspection in Halton 25 th May 2017	Rutland House Runcorn	Ann.McIntyre@halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO:	Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	11 September 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Reports for Quarter 1 2017/18
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and to raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for the first quarter period 01 April 2017 to 30 June 2017.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2017-18 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
 - Education, Inclusion, Provision Services
 - Children and Families Services

The report details progress made against objectives and milestones and performance targets and provides information relating to key developments and emerging issues that have arisen during the period.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the first quarter's performance management report;**
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Thematic Priority Based Report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross - cutting activities being reported, means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Children and Young People Priority Based PPB Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 1, 01 April 2017 – 30 June 2017

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress that have occurred during the period of the report towards the priority of Children and Young People. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress is explained within Appendix 1 (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which officer is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided in Appendix 1 (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 SEND Inspection, Ofsted (AMc)

Between 27 March and 31 March 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission conducted a joint inspection in Halton. They spoke to children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities, parents and carers, local authority and National Health Service officers. They also visited a range of health and education providers including schools, Children's Centres, Early Years settings and Riverside College. Inspectors spoke to leaders for health, social care and education, staff from all sectors and governors about the implementation of the reforms. Finally they reviewed a range of performance information and evidence, including the local offer, commissioning and Halton's self-evaluation.

The final letter providing the outcome of the inspection was scheduled for publication May 2017, however due to political sensitivity and the date of the general election, Ofsted advised that it would not be issued until 9 June 2017 and published on 16 June 2017. A link to the letter is attached, and a full report on the findings of the inspection will be presented to Policy and Performance Board for Children and Young People in September 2017.

Link to report: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/halton>

2.2 Promoting Education to Post LAC children and Care Leavers (AMc & TC)

Under the Children and Social Work Act there is a new duty placed on the local authority around promoting the educational outcomes for children previously looked after. The duty states that the local authority must make advice and information available for the purpose of promoting the educational achievement of each relevant child educated in their area. It must appoint at least one person for the purpose of discharging the duty imposed and it may do anything else that they consider appropriate for meeting this duty.

The same Act also introduces an extension of duties that the local authority must provide to care leavers. This requires the local authority to publish information about services that will assist care leavers in, or preparing for, adulthood and independent living including services relating to education, training and employment. The local authority must also provide advice and support for each former relevant child until they reach 25 and they must have a Pathway Plan which includes support for education, training and employment.

Each of these new duties have capacity, resources and funding implications for Halton's Virtual School for Children in Care.

- 2.3 Halton Domestic Abuse Family Service (AMc)
Halton Domestic Abuse Family Service is currently being delivered by Catch22. The service is supporting families affected by Domestic Abuse at Level 3. During the last 12 months, there have been 100 families referred, consisting of 215 individuals. The service has successfully closed 78 cases, with 21 stepping down. 18 individuals have successfully completed the full seven week group Gateway programme and 73 individuals have been supported with one to one support. Four service users obtained employment, education or volunteering. 12 service users have completed Peer Mentor training with Catch22.
- 2.4 Troubled Families Programme (AMc)
The Halton Troubled Families programme continues and the data team are on target to identify and allocate the target of 1350 families set by the DCLG by the end of the programme with 55% of the target identified. 213 families have been claimed for against the payment by results criteria at the end of May 2017 with £170,400 income generated from these claims. 69% of the claims have shown 'significant and sustained progress' against each of the criteria which the families have presented with and those identified during the intervention. 31% of the claims are for families who have ceased claiming benefits and/or have made significant progress towards gaining employment.
- 2.5 Conversion of The Grange School (Private Finance Initiative) to Wade Deacon Trust (AMc)
The Authority received an Academy Order from the Secretary of State in October 2016 approving the conversion of The Grange School to Academy status as part of the Wade Deacon Trust. The Grange is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) School. Construction commenced in 2011 and the building work was completed with service commencement in April 2013. The PFI arrangements commenced in April 2013 and will cease in 25 years from service commencement (2038). Due to the complexity of the conversion, funding has been secured from the Department for Education to allow the Local Authority to secure specialist legal support. Although the initial set up meeting took place in June, due to the complexity of the conversion, no final date for the conversion has yet to be agreed.
- 2.6 Percentage of School Admission Preferences met: Primary and Secondary Schools (AMc)
At Primary level 90% of parents in Halton received their first preference in line with the national average of 90%. 98% received one of their three preferences compared with 97% nationally.

At Secondary level 94% of parents received their first preference compared with 84% nationally, and 99% received one of their three preferences compared with 95% nationally.
- 2.7 Special Measures (AMc)
There are now no schools in Halton in either the nursery, primary, secondary or special sector in special measures following the inspections undertaken during summer 2017.
- 2.8 Disability Access Fund (AMc)
The Equality Act 2010 ensures that Local Authorities and settings must not discriminate, harass or victimise disabled children and must make reasonable adjustments. Local authorities must ensure that children with Special Educational needs and/or disability are found suitable provision. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced in April 2017

and will support access to early years childcare provision by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with build inclusive capacity (this may be for the child in question or to benefit children as a whole attending the setting).

Providers who offer early years funded childcare for eligible three and four year olds will be entitled to receive a lump sum of £615 DAF per year. Providers should discuss with parents/carers how they intend to use the DAF payment to support their child's needs.

Three and four years olds will be eligible for DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- Child is in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance and;
- Child receives Free Early Years Entitlement funding.

Application details and the DAF policy have been shared on the Education and Childcare section of the Local Offer website and a link to this is provided on the Family Information Service website. Details will also go out in a separate communication with all childcare providers.

Link: <https://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/schools/#daf>

2.9 Complex Dependency Programme (TC)

The project board have made the decision to end plans for a Cheshire IT portal. This was as a result of the significant information governance issues and changes to data protection legislation which made the project unviable, despite the efforts of staff from all the agencies.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Horizon scanning/National drivers

Childminders 30 hours update (AMc)

All three and four year olds can currently access up to 15 hours of free childcare from the term after their third birthday. From September 2017 they may be eligible to an additional 15 hours. The local authority has issued all Early Years providers with an interim funding contract to allow them to deliver the extended entitlement between September 2017 and March 2018. In addition, Halton have modified the funding payment arrangements for the additional 15 hours to ensure that it reflects the higher take-up. Contractual and funding arrangements should align with the existing processes following the transitional period in April 2018.

The local authority has recently purchased a software package from Servelec to provide a Provider Portal which is a government requirement, and will allow for all Early Years Providers to submit a headcount and census data, and to check eligibility themselves. The Child Place Planning team are preparing a number of briefing sessions to demonstrate the new system to providers.

Data Protection guidance for schools

From May 2018, schools must comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or face financial penalties of up to 4% of their turnover. The new regulations are designed to increase the safety and security of data held by all organisation in the EU, and will remain binding in the UK post-Brexit.

3.2 Halton Specific

Education Strategic Partnership Board (AMc)

In July 2017 the first meeting of the Education Strategic Partnership took place. The aim of Board is to provide the local framework for securing accountability for, and continual improvement in, the quality of education and standards of educational achievement and delivering out ambition. The Board will seek to provide and model system leadership, making recommendations which have professional and moral authority. Membership includes representatives from Riverside College, Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Special school leaders, governors, teaching schools, Dioceses, The Bridge, Virtual school and the local authority. All partners are committed to working together to improve outcomes for all Halton Children and Young People.

Independent fostering agencies quality monitoring process (AMc)

Compliance visits have taken place to placements in children's homes for a number of years but this process has not existed in relation to fostering agencies. Five authorities (Halton, Liverpool, Cheshire West and Chester, Cumbria and Wigan) have now worked collaboratively to both develop a format as well as consulting with a number of agencies in the region to develop a self-assessment form. This work has been positively received by the agencies and visits will take place involving 2 local authorities for each visit on behalf of the region. The format has been signed off and visits are planned to begin from September 2017 with the visit schedule coordinated by Placements North West.

Internship for SEND

Working in partnership with departments with the council and with Riverside College, the local authority expect to deliver a Supported Internship trial programme from September 2017 for six young people. The programme will run across the academic year 2017/18 and during this time the College and local authority will review progress and experiences to consider widening the implementation of supported internships from September 2018.

In Year Fair Access Protocol

A new In Year Fair Access Protocol has been agreed between Halton Association of Secondary Headteachers (HASH) and the local authority which will take effect from September 2017. To facilitate this revised approach HASH have agreed to fund a dedicated post for a two year period. The Protocol will be legally binding and it aims to ensure that all schools admit a fair share of children who meet the criteria for consideration under the scheme. It is also intended to ensure that these children are placed without delay to minimise the impact on their education.

Halton's Local Offer

Previous years reporting of the Local Offer usage has been under-reported. This was based on usage counted as sessions (time spent). Each session was counted as 1 usage, regardless of how many pages accessed. Counting usage by pages viewed is a more accurate reflection of how the Local Offer is being used by children, young people, parent/carers and professionals to find information, advice and support.

2015/16 performance reported as 3,868 should be 20,046 and 2016/17 previously reported as 10,573 should be 37,215 using the page views data. Based on analysis of previous years usage and to allow for increased awareness of the Local Offer the new target for 2017/18 is 40,000 page views.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

- 4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's business planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such, directorate risk registers were updated in tandem with the development of the 2017-18 business plan.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

- 5.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force April 2011.

The council's latest annual progress report in relation to achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council's website <http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>

6.0 Performance Overview

6.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance measures across the key business areas that have been identified by the local authority contributing the priority of Children and Young People.

Objective: Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective multi-agency early intervention (PED01)

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED01 01	Monitor the average length of time between a child returning home and their return interview for those missing from care/home (Commissioned Service)	72 hours	72 hours	72 hours		
PED01 02	Reduce the number of young people who repeatedly run away in Halton (SCS SH04)	156	115	45		
PED01 03	Monitor the number of young people going missing in the year	395	N/A	116		
PED01 04	Monitor the number of young people flagged as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (snapshot at the end of the quarter)	24	N/A	23		
PED01 05	Reduce the number of children subject of fixed term exclusions	244	270	116 (Spring term)		
PED01 06	Reduce the rate of permanent exclusions	0.046 %	0.035 %	0.087% (Spring term)		
PED01 07	Increase the number of children involved in early intervention (e.g. CAF) (All those who have had a CAF at any point in the year)	560	600	344	N/A	
PED01 08	Monitor the rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 0-18 year olds	368	N/A	451		
PED01 09	Reduce the number of children and young people who enter the care system	97	70	19		

Supporting commentary:

PED01 01, 02 and 03: During this quarter, return interviews are being completed within 72 hours. There have been 332 missing from home notifications in relation to 116 individuals. In regard to repeat individuals there are 45 individuals that are responsible for 270 incidents. Catch22 has seen another increase in notifications and the individuals. Demographics of the missing children in Halton are consistent with an even split in male and female. However this quarter, children are younger, with the average age of 14.

PED01 04: The CSE Operational group is in place and positive feedback has been received from partners in relation to closely monitoring this cohort and activity.

PED01 05 and 06: There has been a significant number of fixed term and permanent exclusions for the Spring term. The attendance and behaviour team are supporting young people and schools, together with other services to avoid exclusions. Social Emotional and Mental Health remains a significant concern in schools, and is the most common reason for fixed term exclusions. Those subject to fixed term exclusions are at higher risk of permanent exclusions.

PED01 07: CAF numbers continue to be high compared to other North West authorities. As the figures are accumulated over the year the first quarter is always lower than subsequent quarters.

PED01 08: 318 referrals were received in quarter 1

PED01 09: This area is closely monitored and analysis undertaken on a regular basis. There is ongoing exploration of the reasons for children entering care and regular scrutiny in this area.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED01a	Monitor and review the effectiveness of iCART (June 2017)	
PED01b	Establish and implement a multi-agency locality provision (March 2018)	
PED01c	Develop a system to identify, assess and support vulnerable adults (March 2018)	

PED01d	Implement the Cheshire IT Portal (March 2018)	NO LONGER RELEVANT
PED01e	Develop performance information which ensures that early intervention is responsive to trends of those being referred to children's social care	

Supporting commentary:

PED01a: Weekly performance meetings with the principal managers, divisional managers and support from the performance team have ensured an ongoing improvement in the percentage of contacts and referrals for both Children's social care and early intervention being authorised within timescales. The percentage of 360's being completed and authorised within timescale has risen from an average of 25% in June to 100% for the three weeks in July that the data is available for.

PED01b: Work is ongoing to establish if there are further multi-agency staff who could enhance the two locality teams. Staff from a wide variety of partner agencies participate in weekly Working Together meetings which provide a multi-agency forum for allocation and discussion of Level 2 cases.

PED01c: The project for vulnerable adults, WAVES, who have complex needs but do not require a social care intervention has been launched and two Adult Coordinators are based within iCART. Referrals are being received and development work with Police is continuing.

PED01d: This milestone is no longer relevant (please see Key Developments above).

PED01e: Early Intervention managers participate in a monthly performance challenge meeting with divisional managers, principal managers for social care and the operational director, with support from the performance team. This monitors trends and performance.

Objective: Raise attainment and progress at Key Stage 2 (PED02)

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED02 01	Increase the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in reading at KS2	63.4%	N/A	68.8%		
PED02 02	Increase the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in writing at KS2	65.9%	N/A	71.5%		
PED02 03	Increase the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in maths at KS2	64.9%	N/A	70%		
PED02 04	Increase the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (SCS CYP02)	46.8%	N/A	55.8%		
PED02 05	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for reading	-0.2	N/A	Awaited		
PED02 06	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for writing	-1.4	N/A	Awaited		
PED02 07	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for maths	-0.4	N/A	Awaited		
PED02 08	Increase the percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 (SCS CYP16)	Awaited				

Supporting commentary:

All attainment data provided is provisional data only.

As this is a new assessment system, and 2016 results have proved to be unreliable nationally, targets will not be set until further information is available. A full report on attainment will be provided to Policy and Performance Board in September.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED02a	Based on data analysis, and feedback from the Cross Service Monitoring Group, undertake categorisation process for all schools by October 2017 and identify actions, including levels of support and intervention, required to improve inspection outcomes (March 2018).	
PED02b	Develop data tracking system (March 2018).	
PED02c	Conduct the annual analysis of school performance data for all primary schools during September to December 2017 (with further reviews undertaken at key points in the performance data release cycle).	

PED02d	Analyse, evaluate and report end of Key Stage 2 achievement outcomes (December 2017).	
PED02e	Identify areas of need and support for Children in Care and Free School Meals pupils (December 2017).	
PED02f	With schools, monitor the impact of Pupil Premium and its impact on raising achievement (March 2018).	
PED02g	Ensure appropriate deployment of school improvement challenge and support for identified schools and settings, including school to school support and wider system leadership (March 2018).	

Supporting commentary:

PED02a: Revised categorisation of schools will be undertaken in early Autumn 2017.

PED02b: Comment to follow in Q2.

PED02c: Performance data from schools will be analysed and shared with schools, settings and officers in early Autumn 2017.

PED02d: Initial KS2 outcomes will be shared with PPB in September 2017 with more detailed information analysis in October and January.

PED02e: The Children in Care and Care Strategy will be reviewed which will identify areas for support.

PED02f: School improvement officers, including associated School Improvement advisors have continued to support individual schools with strategies to diminish the difference in attainment and progress of vulnerable groups. A diminishing the difference network group provides further challenge and support to those schools who participate in this network.

PED02g: Schools and settings will be categorised in the Autumn 2017 to identify the levels of support linked to the school's category or degree of vulnerability.

Objective: Raise achievement in Early Years (PED03)

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED03 01	Increase the percentage of children achieving a good level of development in Early Years Foundation Stage (SCS CYP)	62%	62%	61%		
PED03 02	Increase the percentage of 2 year old funded children achieving a good level of development	20%	20%	20%		
PED03 03	Increase the take up of Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds	93%	92%	91%		
PED03 04	Monitor the percentage of Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	97%	90%	94%		
PED03 05	Reduce the good level of development attainment gap for disadvantaged children and their parents at EYFS	24%	19%	Awaited		

Supporting commentary:

All attainment data provided is provisional data only.

A full report on attainment will be provided to Policy and Performance Board in September.

PED03 03: The increase of the take-up of the 3 and 4 year old entitlement remains an ongoing focus of Family Information Services promotional activities.

Additional measure information around the take up of 2 year olds shows that target of 497 from DfE has been exceeded with 530 in Halton.

PED03 04: The proportion of providers with an outcome of Good or Outstanding continues to be above the national average.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED03a	Develop data tracking system across early years (March 2018).	
PED03b	Implement recommendations from the Early Years Review and OFSTED Early Years thematic report (March 2018).	
PED03c	Analyse the outcomes of children who have accessed funding two year old placements (January 2018).	

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED03d	Complete RAG categorisation process for all EYFS settings by October 2017, and identify actions, including levels of challenge, support and intervention required to improve quality of educational provision.					
Supporting commentary: PED03a: Work is currently being undertaken to identify the most appropriate tracking system for use across all early years providers and the local authority. PED03b: The One Halton Child Development Steering group has produced an action plan which addresses the recommendations of both the Early Years review and the thematic Early Years Ofsted report. PED03c: This information will be available in January 2018. PED03d: EYFS settings have been RAG rated and support and intervention identified.						

Objective: Improve the offer for children and young people with SEND (PED04)

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED04 01	Increase participation in the POET Survey (Parent/Guardians)	N/A	70	67		
PED04 02	Increase the percentage of Education Health Care Plans completed within 20 weeks	23%	80%	67%		
PED04 03	Increase the number of schools identified as Nurture Champions	12 schools	20%	21 schools		
PED04 04	Increase the percentage of Statements converted to Education Health Care Plans to meet published timescales	N/A	90%	77%		
PED04 05	Increase the number of people accessing the Local Offer (proxy measure of number of page views)	37,215	40,000	10,108		

Supporting commentary:
 PED04 02 and 04: Halton are expected to complete all of the conversions by 31 March 2018 and are confident that this target will be achieved. Timescales for completion of assessments are improving.
 PED04 03: Nurture groups have increased dramatically over the year. 21 schools attend the nurture network meetings. Satisfaction with the content and training is high. Three schools have received whole staff awareness and support this half term and are setting up for September. Training is planned in more schools in September.
 PED04 05: See emerging issues for information around Local Offer page views.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED04a	Develop and refine the annual analysis of progress data for children and young people with additional SEND funding through Enhanced Provision or Education Health Care Plans (March 2018).	
PED04b	Undertake a review of all SEND provision within the borough (March 2018).	
PED04c	Improve provision in Halton for young people with challenging behaviour and social, emotional and mental health challenges (March 2018).	
PED04d	Evaluate qualitative data through Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) of family and individual views with the SEND reform process in Halton, to increase satisfaction with their experience (March 2018).	

Supporting commentary:
 PED04a: This issue is to be addressed as part of the action plan following the SEND inspection. Current systems to be refined to create meaningful outcomes data.
 PED04b: A school forum sub-committee is meeting to review SEND provision for Halton pupils. The specification of an All Age review of provision is currently being drawn up.
 PED04c: A review of support for children and young people with SEMH has been commissioned. The outcome of this review will be shared in Autumn 2017.
 PED04d: The evaluation closes 31 July 2017. Halton is liaising with the agency commissioned by DfE to collate the information gathered. Report expected during quarter 2.

Objective: Improve participation and skills for young people to drive Halton's future (PED05)

Ref	Measure	16/17 Actual	17/18 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED05 01	Reduce the percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training	4.4%	4.4%	4.8%		
PED05 02	Reduce the percentage of 16-17 year olds whose activity is not known	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%		
PED05 03	Increase the percentage of 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 qualification	84.3%	84.3%	Awaited		
PED05 04	Increase the percentage of 19 year olds achieving a Level 3 qualification	54.4%	54.4%	Awaited		
PED05 05	Monitor the percentage of young people progressing to Higher Education (SCS CYP13)	28%	28%	Awaited		

Supporting commentary:

All targets have been revised in line with the publication of 2015/16 data (shown in the 2016/17 data column as published with a timelag) and the new DfE calculations.

PED05 01 and 02: Current figures represent June 2017. The measures are taken annually in January. There is a robust tracking method which allow the authority to maintain a good understanding of young people's activities.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED05a	Develop the 14-19 Commissioning Statement to reflect Local Enterprise Partnership priorities (March 2018).	
PED05b	Develop a Post 16 monitoring framework to demonstrate how providers are supported and challenged in the borough (March 2018).	

Supporting commentary:

PED05a: The previous 14-19 Commissioning Statement document format has been revised to better meet the needs of the 14-19 team. The document has been completed and awaiting next steps in publication.

PED05b: Monitoring framework has been written in draft form so it can be linked to School Improvement Strategy when revised.

7.0 Financial Summary

7.1 EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PROVISION

Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2017

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000
<i><u>Expenditure</u></i>				
Employees	5,946	1,495	1,496	(1)
Premises	112	9	8	1
Supplies & Services	2,599	165	151	14
Transport	5	1	0	1
Schools Transport	926	101	185	(84)
Commissioned Services	2,704	217	217	0
Agency Related Expenditure	1,595	514	507	7
Independent School Fees	2,463	427	427	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	175	0	0	0
Pupil Premium Grant	100	3	3	0
Nursery Education Payments	5,268	1,540	1,540	0
Capital Finance	1	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	21,894	4,472	4,534	(62)
<i><u>Income</u></i>				
Fees & Charges	-301	-179	-176	(3)
Government Grants	-458	-458	-458	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-790	-224	-224	0
Schools SLA Income	-181	-101	-88	(13)
Transfer to/from Reserves	-725	-589	-589	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-13,069	-3,267	-3,267	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	-59	-59	0
Rent	-104	0	0	0
Total Income	-16,206	-4,877	-4,861	(16)
Net Operational Expenditure	5,688	-405	-327	(78)
<i><u>Recharges</u></i>				
Central Support Services Costs	1,706	429	429	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-79	-20	-20	0
Premises Support Costs	226	57	57	0
Transport Support Costs	209	54	54	0
Net Total Recharges	2,062	520	520	0
Net Department Expenditure	7,750	115	193	(78)

Comments on the above figures

There is a projected under spend on supplies and services. This could, however, change in year due to various aspects of this being used for needs led services within the various divisions.

Schools Transport is showing a significant over spend. This has been highlighted in previous years and is based on current projections. There is a large demand for Special Educational pupils transport provision, which is a statutory responsibility. Efforts are in place to identify how efficiencies in the provision of the service can be achieved. There is currently a tendering process going through and in September we will have more of an idea as to how the outturn will look. It is expected, however, that the over spend could be increased. The projections for Schools Transport will be updated throughout the year to show the most up to date information available.

Agency Related Expenditure is also showing a projected under spend but this again is subject to change. Expenditure is on a needs led basis within the Education division and this could increase if schools require additional support from the Authority. We are unable to project this accurately.

There is currently an under achievement of Schools SLA income due to limited take up of the services provided.

As in previous years every effort is being made by Budget Holders to ensure that expenditure is kept to a minimum. It is difficult to predict any future service needs and therefore we having to project on current need. These budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year although at this stage it is expected spend for the year will exceed the available budget.

Capital Projects as at 30 June 2017

Capital Expenditure	2017/18 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remainin g £'000
Asset Management Data	5	0	0	5
Capital Repairs	815	125	125	690
Asbestos Management	38	2	2	36
Schools Access Initiative	55	0	0	55
Basic Needs Projects	556	0	0	556
School Modernisation Projects	68	19	19	49
Lunts Heath	200	1	1	199
Universal Infant School Meals	2	2	2	0
Early Education for 2yr Olds	8	8	8	0
Hale Primary	3	0	0	3
Fairfield Primary School	655	371	371	284
Weston Point Primary	128	2	2	126
Kitchen Gas Safety	5	0	0	50
Small Capital Works	106	6	0	106
Total Capital Expenditure	2,689	536	530	2,159

Comments on the above figures.

Asset Management (CADS) works, kitchen gas safety works and small capital works will continue in response or in line with any emergency Health and Safety issues. Asbestos programme surveys are being updated and remedial work carried out where necessary.

Some Capital Repairs works were completed during the Easter holiday. Remaining works will be completed during the summer holidays or in term time.

Unallocated Basic Need funding will be allocated throughout the year as required. Any balance will be deferred to 2018-19.

Tenders have been received for Lunts Heath classroom extension and these are currently being reviewed.

School modernisation projects works are expected to be carried out during the summer holidays.

Hale Primary classroom extension, Early education for 2yr olds and Universal School Meals projects are complete. We are currently awaiting the release of retention payment for Hale Primary classroom extension.

Fairfield Primary construction work to the Infants and Junior schools is now complete. The all-weather pitch is expected to be complete by the end of the summer holidays.

Weston Point classroom extension works commenced May 2017 and is expected to be completed by year end.

7.2 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2017

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance to Date (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i><u>Expenditure</u></i>				
Employees	8,853	2,037	2,029	8
Premises	264	82	77	5
Supplies and Services	914	179	190	(11)
Transport	6	1	17	(16)
Direct Payments/Individual Budgets	228	57	139	(82)
Commissioned Services	277	59	48	11
Out of Borough Residential Placements	3,665	822	1,434	(612)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	0	0	0
Out of Borough Fostering	414	67	472	(405)
In House Adoption	195	52	76	(24)
Special Guardianship	1,092	273	333	(60)
In House Foster Carer Payments	1,991	398	362	36
Care Leavers	140	46	36	10
Family Support	53	10	11	(1)
Emergency Duty Team	89	0	0	0
Contracted Services	4	2	2	0
Capital Finance	6	0	0	0
Early Years	97	17	77	(60)
Total Expenditure	18,368	4,102	5,303	(1,201)
<i><u>Income</u></i>				
Adoption Placements	-45	-11	0	(11)
Fees and Charges	-15	0	0	0
Sales Income	-19	-9	-11	2
Rents	-97	0	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-47	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-258	-46	-46	0
Government Grants	-26	-26	-26	0
Transfer from Reserves	-94	-94	-94	0
Total Income	-601	-186	-177	(9)
Net Operational Expenditure	17,767	3,916	5,126	(1,210)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	374	102	102	0
Transport Support	47	12	12	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,215	554	554	0
Net Total Recharges	2,636	668	668	0
Net Department Expenditure	20,403	4,584	5,794	(1,210)

Comments on the above figures

The net departmental expenditure is £1.2m above budget profile at the end of the first quarter of the financial year, most of which directly relates to Social Care Services.

Expenditure relating to Employee costs is £8,000 below budget profile in the first quarter. This is due to some vacancies not being backfilled whilst the recruitment process takes place and the use of agency staff has also been significantly reduced. This has resulted in a reduction in agency costs from £141,526 in the first quarter of 2016/17 to £41,672 in the first quarter of this financial year.

Supplies and Services expenditure is also above expected budget to date. Every effort is made to keep controllable costs to a minimum, but included within Supplies and Services are court costs, which are £21,035 over budget in the first quarter. These costs are difficult to control and they will continue to be a budget pressure.

Transport related expenditure is also over anticipated budget at the end of the first quarter. This is due to increased demand around the service and will need to be carefully monitored to make sure that contracts are set up for essential journeys only.

Expenditure relating to Direct Payments/Individual Budgets is over budget profile. This is due to the demand around this area continuing to grow and the children coming into the service with additional levels of complex needs is increasing. Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) is robustly implementing their Continuing Healthcare Assessment, which has resulted in the number of joint funded packages of care reducing. The high cost packages will periodically be reviewed to see if any costs can be reduced, but still ensuring all needs are still being met. This continues to be a pressure area throughout the financial year.

Out of Borough Residential placement costs are significantly above budget to date and will continue to be a budget pressure for the remainder of the year. However the forecast outturn position (based on current known demand) is expected to be £2,448,000, a reduction of £744,000 from 2016/17, when the outturn position was £3,192,000. This is due to 8 young people reaching their 18th Birthday in this financial year. In 2016/17 these 8 young people cost £780,979 and in this financial year they will cost £283,503 resulting in a reduction in costs of £497,476. There has also been a large amount of work undertaken to reduce, where appropriate, the cost of placements, particularly around the young people who are aged 16+ and moving into semi-independent accommodation. Whilst these factors have brought down overall costs, this is based on a snapshot of the service at this point in time and there is a risk that additional pressures from new service users will increase overspend levels during the remainder of the financial year.

Costs relating to Out of Borough Fostering placements are also significantly over budget to date and they will continue to place pressure on the budget. The anticipated forecast for 2017/18 is estimated to be £1,600,000 over budget compared to £1,200,000 2016/17. This directly relates to the number of children who have come into the service from the end of last financial year. There have been 11 additional children entering the service since March 2017. Included in these are 2 groups of 2 siblings and 1 group of 3 siblings. The additional cost this financial year for these 11 children is £407,592. Every effort is made to utilise in house foster carers but due to the lack of available foster carers in the Borough that is not always possible, therefore Out of Borough placements need to be sought at a higher weekly cost. The average weekly cost for an In House Foster placement is £275.51 and the average cost for an Out of Borough Foster placement is £756.57. This equates to the average cost of an Out of Borough placement being approximately 174.5% higher than the average cost for an In House placement.

Expenditure relating to In House Foster Carer payments is below budget to date. During 2016/17 there was a significant reduction in the number of foster carers within the Borough. In an effort to address this and recruit new foster carers Halton are looking to set up a collaborative fostering service, which is being discussed with Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington. It is hoped that this collaboration will increase the recruitment of foster carers and improve the quality of service offered to them across all authorities. However this is likely to be a lengthy process and it will take some time before the results of this collaboration impacts on the service.

Expenditure relating to In House Adoption is above budget to date. This predominantly relates to Residence Orders. These are like a Special Guardianship Order, but the carer does not have parental responsibility. At present there are 32 children subject to a Residence Order. As with Special Guardianship Orders these are made by the family court and not the council so it is difficult to estimate how many more of them will be agreed throughout the financial year.

Special Guardianship Orders expenditure is also over budget profile and will continue to be a budget pressure this financial year. At present there are 121 children subject to a Special Guardianship Order. A Special Guardian has parental responsibility until a child reaches 18 years of age and as these orders are again made by the family court and not the council so it is difficult to estimate how many more of them will be agreed throughout the financial year.

The Early Years net divisional expenditure is £60,000 over budget at the end of the first quarter. Expenditure relating to employee costs at the two day care centres (Warrington Road Integrated Centre and Ditton Early Years Centre) is £8,000 over budget profile as a result of expenditure on agency staff. Income to date is below target by £62,000 (Warrington Road Integrated Centre £40,000 and Ditton Early Years Centre £22,000) and is the main area of concern and this level of underachievement is expected to continue throughout 2017/18. If full occupancy levels could be achieved, this would lead to an increase in variable costs, particularly employee costs due to statutory minimum staffing ratios required and therefore this would not be enough to produce a balanced budget. This area needs to be carefully monitored throughout the remainder of the financial year and will continue to be a pressure area in 2017/18 and beyond.

Income relating to Adoption placements is underachieving against budget. It is difficult to know if/when an Out of Borough Adoption placement will be agreed, so as a result it will be difficult to predict if this income will be achieved.

The expected outturn position for the department to 31 March 2018 is anticipated to be circa £4.8m, based on the current levels of children receiving the service.

8.0 Appendix I

8.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Milestone	Measure
Green		Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber		Indicates that it is uncertain, or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red		Indicates that it is unlikely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

8.2 Direction of Travel indicator

Where possible measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:

Green		Indicates that performance is better compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

8.3 Key for responsible officers:

AMc Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Education, Inclusion and Provision Service

TC Tracey Coffey, Operational Director, Children and Families Service