

Directorate Performance Overview Report

Directorate: Children and Enterprise

Reporting Period: Quarter 2, Period 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2011

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred within Quarter 2. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix.

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 School Improvement Service – update

The Learning and Achievement Service implemented a new structure on the 1 September 2011 resulting in some major changes to school improvement delivery. The service redesign process resulted in eight school improvement advisory teachers and consultants transferring across to 'Aspire', a partnership comprising of personnel from Halton, Warrington and Serco. The local authority retains its statutory role in improving underperforming schools. Local authorities have powers of intervention which are outlined in the Education Bill, which is expected to become an Act of Parliament later this term. Halton has retained a small core team of school improvement officers to fulfil this role. This is enabling us to co-ordinate appropriate support and intervention for schools below floor standards.

2.2 Floor standards – update

Given the mid-year implementation of a raised primary attainment floor standard from 55% level 4+ English and Maths combined to 60% we anticipated a possible increase in the number of primary schools that did not meet this new standard. In 2011, nine primary schools fell below the new floor standard, however three of these were within 3% of the floor (in a class of 30 this would represent one pupil adrift of the attainment standard). Similarly the GCSE floor standard was raised to 35% for 5A*-C including English and Maths. All secondary schools attained above this floor standard.

2.3 Tribunals

There has been a continued increase in appeals to Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) in Halton. These appeals are mainly for out of borough provision for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder. The Local Authority has a duty to challenge these parental appeals, where they can meet the child's needs and provide appropriate education from within local authority resources.

2.4 Ofsted Social Work Survey Pilot

During August 2011 Ofsted as part of a pilot conducted a two day 'survey' of the support we provide to social workers. The aim of the survey was to look at how well we support our social workers to improve outcomes for children and families. It was a very successful survey and whilst it was an opportunity for Ofsted to pilot future inspection activity, the service was able to test itself against challenging standards. There was no formal inspection report but we received a very positive letter outlining where we demonstrated best practice, and a couple of areas which we need to strengthen.

2.5 Integrated Youth Support Services

Across the Borough over the summer school break Halton Integrated Youth Support Services developed a "Summer Blitz programme". The programme was a tremendous success and over the course of the six week programme:

- 221 young people registered in Widnes (43% male, 57% female, 64% 10-12 years old, 36% 13-19 years old)
- 100 young people attended the Boogie Nights discos on Friday evenings
- 90 young people attended the Canal Boat trips
- 150 young people attended the Young Addaction drop in sessions.

In addition Halton has seen a 39% reduction in Youth Anti-Social Behaviour reports for the 2011 summer six week period compared to 2010.

2.6 School Admissions

More robust and efficient processes have been introduced to keep on top of the growing number of In-Year Admissions requests. The team has attended relevant training courses which has enabled processes to be brought under the one system (Tribal). The introduction of new communication methods with the secondary schools in the borough has enabled the team to provide a better service for our residents and edge closer to a paperless environment, helping to reduce cost and impact on the environment. The new Schools Admissions Code consultation period has ended and parliamentary approval is awaited.

2.7 Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Halton have facilitated an agreement with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited to reduce the current contract value across the 6 authorities, giving a total reduction of around £2 million in 2011/12. Further work is now being undertaken to establish each authority's future requirements for IAG. A Greater Merseyside Connexions Commissioning Group are considering options for procurement under the following three strands:

- IAG Service for Young People
- Young People Data and Tracking Service
- Web portal

2.8 Post-16 Bursary Fund

The Bursary fund is designed to help support the most vulnerable 16-19 year olds continue in full time education. The school, college or training provider will decide when bursaries are paid, and will set conditions that students should meet to receive a bursary, for example, this may be linked to attendance or behaviour. The bursary fund is made up to two elements: A guaranteed group of the most vulnerable young people will receive a maximum payment of £1200 each. This group includes Children in care, care leavers, young people in receipt of income support, and disabled young people who are in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Secondly a discretionary fund for those young people facing genuine financial barriers to participation, such as: cost of transport, food or equipment. In Halton schools, colleges and training providers have agreed that any young person is receipt of free school meals in Year 11 of their school will be eligible to receive a bursary from the discretionary fund.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Inclusion

Halton will be looking forwards, dovetailing the Inclusion Strategy with the Early Help Strategy, to ensure holistic support and assessment for children and families in line with recommendations of the Special Education Needs Green Paper

3.2 New Ofsted inspection framework for schools – 2012

A series of briefings are now taking place on the new Ofsted framework for school inspections that will be implemented in January 2012. This will remain draft until the Education Bill has been approved, which is anticipated to be the end of November. Under the proposed framework schools will be judged on a smaller number of core aspects than before, but those areas will be examined in greater depth. The focus will be upon:

- The achievement of pupils at the school;
- The quality of teaching in the school;
- The quality of the leadership in and management of the school; and
- The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.

The changes are expected to result in more streamlined inspections, with fewer judgments and grades, leading to sharper reports on the quality of education provided by schools and the most important aspects of their performance.

3.3 Rise in Referrals and Child Protection Plans

In the year 2010-11 there was a 15% increase in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care, compared to the previous year. There has been an increase in referrals for under five year olds over the past three years, by 27% in 2009-10 and another 27% increase in 2010-11. Additionally during the first two quarters of this year there has been an increase in Child Protection Plan activity and as of 30th September the number of children subject of a child protection plan stands at 115, the highest it has been for a number of years. Halton Safeguarding Children Board has agreed to commission independent research into the reasons for the increase in referrals and child protection plans. The rise in referrals and child protection plans has resulted in social workers having increased workloads and it may overtime; affect the quality of interventions although the service has increased the number of social workers.

3.4 Positive for Youth

The Government released a consultation paper called 'Positive for Youth' to inform new policy for youth provision. We are now in the process of reshaping the whole of youth provision across Halton and will be going out to full tender at the end of October.

3.5 Governors Shared Service

The Place, Planning and Provision Division are currently working with other members of the Learn Together Partnership to develop a Governors Shared Service by April 2012. The Shared Service (led by Cheshire East) will allow governors access to an enhanced range of e-learning and face to face training opportunities to assist in their governance responsibilities.


3.6 Disadvantaged two year old programme and take up of three and four year old free entitlement

Child Place Planning team will be working with multi-agency partners to investigate how additional capacity can be created to accommodate the boroughs most disadvantaged two year olds. Currently Halton has a target to fund 70 two year olds for 10 hours a week; however in April 2013 this target will increase to approximately 300 two year olds for 15 hours per week. In order to continue to improve the take up of the free entitlement for three or four year olds the team have produced an updated leaflet and Early Years Admissions booklet. This information is in the process of being distributed to all households in the borough with a child aged two to three years old to ensure the families have all the facts about what their child is entitled to and where to get further advice. In addition the team are planning a number of outreach events in co-ordination with the Family Information Service with the purpose of promoting the free entitlement in particular wards where take up is low.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

During the Development of the 2011-12 Service activity, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service objectives. Where a Key service objective has been assessed and found to have an associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of this risk treatment measures will be reported in quarter 2 and 4.

For the Children and Families Department progress against risk control measures is stated below.

Service Area	High Priority action	Progress	Supporting Commentary
CFS01 :To recruit and retain sufficient front line Social Work Managers	Recruitment to the Management Trainee Programme has commenced although there was only 1 applicant. Recent advertising has been unsuccessful in recruiting potential frontline managers.		The current cohort of potential managers are still completing post qualifying courses, therefore, it is anticipated that there will be more applications next year when they will have completed current courses.

Through Carrying out the risk assessment, no significant risk control measures were identified for the Children’s Organisation and Provision Department and the Learning & achievement Department.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions




Where a Key service objective has been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ priority equality actions, progress against the application of this risk treatment measures will be reported in quarters 2 and 4. There were no high priority equality actions identified in Quarter 2 for all Departments.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Standards in Education

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
LAS1	Improve standards in education through improved Ofsted inspection grading's and supporting schools through inspections by July 2011 (LAS1a & LAS1b)	
LAS1, LAS2, LAS3	Use appropriate data analysis for schools to align appropriate support and challenge to improve standards by December 2011 (LAS1c, LAS2a, LAS2b, LAS3a, LAS3b, LAS3c, LAS3d)	
LAS4	Plan, implement and review the resource bases for SEN provision across Halton by August 2011 (LAS4a, LAS4b, LAS4c)	

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

LAS1: Improve standards in education through improved Ofsted inspection grading's and supporting schools through inspections













The plan submitted to the Department for Education in April 2011 outlining plans for Underperforming schools has been acknowledged as sufficiently robust. All satisfactory schools are considered to be vulnerable and retained school improvement personnel carefully monitor progress within these schools, providing support and intervention as appropriate. In addition schools will be offered the opportunity to share best practice through the web-based Mutual Learning Bank for schools that have bought into Aspire, our traded services partnership with Serco and Warrington.



LAS1, 2, 3: Use appropriate data analysis for schools to align appropriate support and challenge to improve standards

A comprehensive desktop analysis of performance data has been conducted for all schools by members of the School Improvement Team. Schools have recently been re-categorised using a range of data provided by the members of the Cross Service Monitoring Group, including performance data. This information has resulted in the allocation of link officers to those schools that are considered to be vulnerable or a school causing concern. The LA has made a financial contribution towards the purchase of additional school improvement support for targeted schools as part of its intervention strategy.

LAS 4: Plan, implement and review the resource bases for SEN provision across Halton. The new structure and service delivery model was successfully implemented 1st September 2011. Evaluation is on-going and is monitored through a performance monitoring framework.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI01CYP	Percentage gap between Children in Care attainment at Key Stage 2 and their peers (English and Maths)	New indicator	N/A	37%	N/A	N/A
LPI02CYP	Percentage gap between Children in Care attainment for 5+ GCSE's grades A*-C including English and Maths and their peers	New indicator	N/A	39%	N/A	N/A
LPI03CYP	Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4	New indicator	N/A	83% (KS2)	N/A	N/A
NI075	Proportion achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths	50%	54%	56%		
LPI02LAS	Percentage of primary schools inspected in the period graded good or better	New indicator	100%	None inspected in Qtr 2	N/A	N/A
LPI03LAS	Percentage of secondary schools inspected in the period graded good or better	New indicator	100%	None inspected in Qtr 2	N/A	N/A
LPI04LAS	Percentage of maintained primary schools in Halton with latest inspection grade of good or better	New indicator	85%	78%		N/A
LPI05LAS	Percentage of maintained secondary schools in Halton with latest inspection grade of good or better	New indicator	67%	75%		N/A
NI102a	Achievement gap at Key Stage 2 English and Maths between Free school meals and their peers	15.2%	12%	20.6%		
NI102b	Achievement gap at Key Stage 4 between Free School meals at their peers	28%	20%	28.3%		
NI104	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 English and Maths	50% (2008/09 latest data)	35%	52% (Unvalidated)		
NI105	SEN/Non-SEN achievement gap at GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths	48.6% (2008/09 latest data)	28%	48.1% (2010/11 Unvalidated)		
NI072	Percentage achieving 78+ points across EYFS (including 6 at CLL and	50%	54%	48.3%		

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	PSE)					
NI073	Percentage achieving level 4+ at KS2 in English and Maths	77%	80%	77%		
NI080	Percentage achieving Level 3 at 19	42.3%	44%	Available March 2012	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

The majority of the measures in this theme are related to attainment. Some information has been provided below in terms of the key themes. Once data has been validated for the SEN performance this will be provided in a future quarterly report.

Halton has once again exceeded national outcomes in the Key Stage 2 tests with 77% of children in the Borough attaining the national expectation in English and Maths at age 11, compared to 74% nationally. There has however been an increase in the gap between Free School Meals pupils and their peers and this will continue to be of focus as one of the priorities for the Directorate and the Children's Trust.





In 2011, 72.6% of the reception cohort achieved 6+ points in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). This is down 3.2% on last year's performance. Looking at data for 2008 and 2009 it would appear that there was a particularly strong cohort in 2010. 51.6% achieved 6+ points in Communication, Literacy and Language (CLL). Again this is down 2.6% on 2010 but is higher than both 2008 and 2009. The average attainment of 9 wards was above this level. This is disappointing given the focus upon developing literacy skills through the implementation of a range of programmes. In 2011 48.3% achieved 6+ points in PSED and CLL. This is down 2.2% on last year but is higher than 2008 and 2009. There are some contextual factors which may account for the drop in attainment this year. This year reception teachers have used child initiated tasks as observation evidence rather than teacher directed, this has had a major impact on scores. CLL and Creative Development were moderated this year which may also have had an impact on scores. In addition there were 12 teachers new to reception this year who are new to the EYFSP assessment process. There has been a significant investment in funding for vulnerable two year olds. Those children who have been funded at two haven't yet reached reception classes. We are hopeful of future impact upon assessment as a result of this early intervention.

In 2011 Halton's 5+ A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths was 56%. This is the highest ever, and is six percentage points above 2010. This should place Halton broadly in line with the 2011 national average by this indicator. 5+ A* - C at 85% is also the highest ever, a three percentage points increase on 2010 and should place Halton well above the 2011 national average by this indicator. The performance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals at 5+ A* - C including English & Maths at 34.4% is the highest ever and up 5 points from 2010. However, since non Free School Meals pupils improved by some 7 points from 2010 the gap has slightly widened.

In addition the other measures around schools inspection remain unchanged as Ofsted have not published any inspection results during the quarter.

Continuum of Need: from Early Help and Support to Safeguarding

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
COPS 4	Refresh the IYSS Strategy and implement the agreed action plan by March 2012 (COPS4a & COPS4b)	
CFS2 CFS4	Improve effectiveness of support to children at all levels of need by March 2012 (CFS2a, CFS2b, CFS2c, CFS4a, CFS4b, CFS4c)	
CFS3	Revise the facilitation of the Children in Care Council to improve the engagement of young people by December 2011 (CFS3a)	
CFS3	Develop and commence implementation of a revised multiagency Children in Care strategy and undertake and audit of outcomes for Children in Care by March 2012 (CFS3b, CFS3c)	

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:




COPS4: Refresh the IYSS Strategy and implement the agreed action plan
The strategy has been refreshed and the action plan developed. The redesign of all the current youth provision across Halton is underway.














CFS2, 4: Improve effectiveness of support to children at all levels of need
The Children and Vulnerable Adults pathways with the Police have been agreed and implemented. This pathway will be formalised and endorsed by the Policy and Procedures Sub Group of Halton Safeguarding Children Board. The research report from Glyndwr University into the levels of need has been reported to the Children's Trust to inform the review of the levels of need. The next stage in the process is to establish a multi-agency working group to take forward the report recommendations.

CFS3: Revise the facilitation of the Children in Care Council to improve the engagement of young people
Additional resources are in place and will be part of the revised service specification for a Children's Rights and Advocacy Service. The format and the mechanism for facilitating Speak Up (Children in Care Council) has been significantly improved. This has already led to an increase in the number of young people engaged in Speak Up.

CFS3: Develop and commence implementation of a revised multiagency Children in Care strategy and undertake and audit of outcomes for Children in Care
The Children in Care Strategy is in its final draft stage. It has been presented to the Children's Trust Executive Board and the final version will be presented to the Children in Care Partnership Board in December.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI06CFS	Child in Need plans are independently reviewed	New indicator	50%	77%		N/A
NI059 adjusted	Initial Assessments completed within 10 working days	88.5%	85%	77.9%		

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
NI060	Core Assessments completed within 35 working days	89.6%	92%	85.0%		
LPI08CFS	Percentage reduction in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care generated by Police CAVA notifications and closed within 3 months of referral from baseline 2009/10	New indicator	-10%	-13.6%		N/A
LPI09CFS	Percentage of CIN Cases that require a multi-agency co-ordinated plan at level 2- 3a (CAF) on closure have a named lead professional and a clear plan to take forward	New indicator	100%	100%		N/A
NI062	Stability of placements of Children in Care: number of moves	7.9%	7.5%	4.9%		
NI063	Stability of placements of Children in Care: length of placement	87%	90%	79%		
NI117 adjusted	Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) – residency calculation comparison with historic not applicable	Adjusted indicator	10.5%	10.83% (July 2011)		N/A
LPI12COP	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (140 conceptions)	New	-2 conceptions	-4 conceptions on the 12 months to date		N/A
NI112 – adjusted for SCS Indicator	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (58.9 rolling quarterly average rate)	58.9 Rolling quarterly average rate	-1.43% reduction 58.1 Rolling quarterly average rate	+0.1% increase 59.0 rolling quarterly average rate		
LD LI 07	Average time taken to complete Child Care Cases (calendar days)	336	225	265		

Supporting Commentary

Stability of Children in Care placements continues to improve with a small proportion of children having had three or more placements in the first half of the reporting year. Whilst the performance for the long term stability will not meet the very challenging end of year target, the vast majority of children in care enjoy good stability. In comparison with the national average, Halton has a significantly higher percentage in long term, stable placements.

Work around children in need and ensuring their needs are met appropriately is progressing well as demonstrated for indicators (LPI06CFS, LPI08CFS, LPI09CFS) with performance either meeting the targets set or exceeding them.

Assessment timescales (NI059, NI060) is more uncertain however with the increase in referrals and child protection activity. Additionally this quarter the Children in Need teams went live with the CareFirst6 system and whilst it is anticipated this will have a positive impact in the long term, it will take some time to bed in as people become familiar with the new system. If benchmarked against the national picture this still represents strong performance.

Changes in the counting methodology for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (NI117) prescribed by DfE have resulted in data from August 2011 not being statistically valid, hence the provision of July 2011 data. As a result there is currently a lack of clarity on the NEET position.

During the rolling 12 months (Q3 2009 – Q2 2010) there have been 136 conceptions. During Q2 2010, there were 35 conceptions. Halton has had 6 less conceptions in comparison to Q2 2009 and five less in comparison with Q1 2010. Whilst the numbers above indicate that progress is positive and therefore there is a potential to meet the end of year target, the rolling average rate is used for the Sustainable Community Strategy measure to enable Halton to benchmark against the national picture. This measure takes into account the reduction in the population base of 15-17 year olds females in the Borough (from 2392 to 2259 by 133) and therefore reflects a slight increase in the rolling quarterly rate. This is however an improvement upon the same period last year, and represents good progress.

The indicator around Legal Services timescales to complete child care cases has been included to provide oversight of this measure. Commentary from the service indicates that child care cases are complex and lengthy and resultant timescales are not always within the control of the legal staff involved. As such, the indicator is a very difficult one to deal with, and can be quickly affected by the volume of cases and the time taken to progress matters through the court process as the profile of safeguarding has been raised. The Legal team work well with colleagues in the Children & Enterprise Directorate.

Managing Resources Effectively

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
COPS3	Implement a strategic commissioning framework for 14-19 across the priorities for commission from September 2011 according to the appropriate action plans from September 2011 (COPS3a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COPS3	Implement the action plan from the review of quality and sustainability of The Gateway by March 2012 (COPS3c)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COPS1	Implement the actions from the Children in Care sufficiency assessment by March 2012 (COPS1a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COPS1	Complete a comprehensive review of Early Years provision informed by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment by August 2011 (COPS1b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CFS1	Ensure the social care workforce are appropriately supported and developed to meet future demands by March 2012 (CFS1a, CFS1c, CFS1d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CFS3	Implement actions from the Placement Strategy to increase accommodation for care leavers and the number of foster carers by March 2012 (CFS3d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

COPS3: Implement a strategic commissioning framework for 14-19 across the priorities for commission from September 2011 according to the appropriate action plans
The framework is in place and work has now been undertaken to review the statement for 2011/2012. Through the development of the 2012/13 Commissioning Statement, six priorities have emerged:

- Priority 1 – Ensure all Halton young people have access to appropriate information, advice and guidance
- Priority 2 – Plan for the raising of the participation age to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015
- Priority 3 – Put in place effective strategies to reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming or who are already not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Priority 4 – Improve participation and achievement of Vulnerable Groups
- Priority 5 – Ensure access to higher level qualifications that supports progression through to learning and employment
- Priority 6 - Learning Landscape

These six priorities will be consulted upon during the Autumn Term.

COPS3: Implement the action plan from the review of quality and sustainability of The Gateway

Recommendations have been ratified by Gateway Management Committee and Children and Enterprise Senior Managers. Support from Traded Services will be commissioned to implement recommendations.

COPS1: Implement the actions from the Children in Care sufficiency assessment

The Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan is reviewed quarterly in Senior Management Team. A full review of the CSA, including the Action Plan will be completed and published by April 2012.



CFS1: Ensure the social care workforce are appropriately supported and developed to meet future demands

In August 2011 auditing of supervision files took place across the service to ensure compliance with the supervision policy. Additionally the quality of supervision is regularly audited as part of the Audit of Practice days and the Multi-agency audit days. All Newly Qualified Social Workers are subject to regular three monthly reviews to ensure robust performance management. The bespoke training programme for frontline operational managers has been developed and is due to start in November 2011.

CFS3: Implement actions from the Placement Strategy to increase accommodation for care leavers and the number of foster carers

Units of accommodation have continued to be increase in line with demand. Additional foster carers have been recruited and further assessments of prospective carers are underway. A revised recruitment strategy is being developed for 2012/13.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	10/11 Actual	11/12 Target	Q2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
LPI01CFS	Newly qualified social workers (NQSW) receiving the level of supervision as set out in the supervision policy	New indicator	100%	100%		N/A
LPI05CFS	Increase the units of accommodation for care leavers	New indicator	4	10		N/A

Supporting Commentary

Progress has been made towards this theme, and most notably progress has been made in regards to:

LPI05CFS: Increase the units of accommodation for care leavers: There are three young people units in the commissioned provision at The Terrace, four units in shared accommodation and three units tailored to individual needs. The increase is in line with demand in line with the placement strategy.

7.0 Financial Statement

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2011

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	8,105	4,056	3,898	158
Premises	384	153	151	2
Supplies & Services	1,598	348	344	4
Transport	46	23	5	18
Agency Related Expenditure	383	120	118	2
Residential Placements	2,035	1,317	1,200	117
Out of Borough Adoption	80	10	7	3
Out of Borough Fostering	500	207	205	2
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,534	726	685	41
In House Adoption	357	179	192	(13)
Care Leavers	396	238	240	(2)
Commissioned Services	500	250	259	(9)
Family Support	129	22	14	8
Total Expenditure	16,047	7,649	7,318	331
<u>Income</u>				
Early Intervention Grant	-8,226	-3,818	-3,818	0
Government Grants	-393	-249	-249	0
Transfer from Reserves (11/12 Budget Savings)	-300	-300	-300	0
Fees & Charges	-578	-348	-348	0
Adoption Placements	-40	-12	-12	0
Total Income	-9,537	-4,727	-4,727	0
Net Operational Expenditure	6,510	2,922	2,591	331
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises	349	136	136	0
Transport	123	64	64	0
Central Support Services	4,077	1,351	1,351	0
Asset Rentals	44	0	0	0
Total Recharges	4,593	1,551	1,551	0
Net Department Total	11,103	4,473	4,142	331

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, revenue spending at the end of Quarter 2 is below the budget profile.

The Employee budget is currently under budget to date due to a number of staff vacancies but it is intended to utilise some agency staff to cover certain essential vacancies and therefore expenditure is expected to be more in line with budget by year end.

Transport is currently under budget due to a reduction in the use of volunteer drivers and this is expected to be under budget at year end.

The out of borough residential placements budget is currently under budget to date. This is a very volatile and unpredictable budget that has been the subject of intensive monitoring and due to a highly proactive management process this is expected to be under budget at year end.

The In House fostering budget is currently below budget to date. This is largely due to a number of foster children reaching the age where they move on to become care leavers and with the current trend this budget is expected to underspend by year end.

The in house adoption budget is currently over budget to date. This is due to an increase in capacity for these services and will need to be monitored closely in year to ensure a balanced budget is achieved.

The care leavers budget is currently over budget to date. This is largely due to an increase in the number of children reaching the leaving care age range and will need to be monitored closely in year to ensure a balanced budget is achieved. As more children move over to care leavers from other care categories (e.g. fostering) it will be necessary to transfer budget funding in order to provide for this shift in costs.

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT
Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2011

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	2,860	1,559	1,528	31
Premises	55	24	21	3
Supplies & Services	2,460	907	882	25
Transport	5	2	3	(1)
Commissioned Services - Youth Service	1,364	693	693	0
Commissioned Services – BSF	447	387	387	0
Commissioned Services– Other	1,740	652	506	146
Schools Transport	1,008	329	277	52
Agency Related	334	103	103	0
Connexions	1,323	693	693	0
Total Expenditure	11,596	5,349	5,093	256
<u>Income</u>				
Reimbursements and Other Income	-262	-331	-371	40
Dedicated Schools Grant	-133	-199	-199	0
Schools SLA	-636	-7	-7	0
Transfer from BSF	-696	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-446	-448	-448	0
Total Income	-2,173	-985	-1,025	40
Net Operational Expenditure	9,423	4,364	4,068	296
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	459	177	177	0
Transport Support	268	73	73	0
Central Support	1,341	389	389	0
Asset Charges	3,148	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	5,216	639	639	0
Net Departmental Total	14,639	5,003	4707	296

Comments on the above figures:

Employee expenditure is below budget to date due to maternity leave, vacancies, and reductions in contracted hours. Supplies and Services is below budget to date due to renegotiation of various software license charges. Commissioned Services – Other, is below budget to date due to achievement of efficiencies in negotiation of commissioning services contracts. As a result the budget will be underspent by year-end.

School Transport is currently below budget to date as a result of retendering of contracts and will therefore be underspent by year-end.

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT Schools Related

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2011

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	577	450	450	0
Premises	431	22	22	0
School Redundancy	251	14	14	0
Schools Contingency	1,334	0	0	0
Schools Non Delegated Support	99	0	0	0
Special Education Needs Contingency	693	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	3,385	486	486	0
<u>Income</u>				
Dedicated Schools Grant	-2,587	-1,293	-1,293	0
Pupil Premium	-1,707	-1,015	-1,015	0
Total Income	-4,294	-2,308	-2,308	0
Net Operational Expenditure	-909	-1,822	-1,822	0
Net Departmental Total	-909	-1,822	-1,822	0

Comments on the above figures:

The Department for Education have recently announced Halton's allocation of the Pupil Premium, which will be fully devolved to schools in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant.

Due to the ring fenced nature of Dedicated Schools Grant , for reporting purposes it is shown as a nil variance.

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2011

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,312	1,730	1,672	58
Premises	34	6	4	2
Supplies & Services	1,512	501	493	8
Transport	13	0	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	2,356	1,655	1,655	0
Independent School Fees	1,523	748	748	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	779	-591	-591	0
Speech Therapy	120	60	63	(3)
1.1.1 Total Expenditure	10,649	4,109	4,044	65
1.2 Income				
Inter Authority Income	-578	-288	-288	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-6,658	-930	-930	0
Reimbursements	-689	-126	-126	0
Schools SLA's	-146	-17	-17	0
1.2.1 Total Income	-8,071	-1,361	-1,361	0
1.2.2 Net Operational Expenditure	2,578	2,748	2,683	65
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	265	88	88	0
Central Support Services	25	18	18	0
Transport Recharge Income	726	242	242	0
Net Total Recharges	1,016	348	348	0
Net Departmental Total	3,594	3,096	3,031	65

Comments on the above figures:




Overall revenue spending at the end of Quarter 2 is below budget to date.

The employee budget is currently under budget profile due to a Divisional Manager vacancy within 11-19 Division and a vacancy within SEN Service.

The supplies and services budget is marginally below budget.




8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Objective	Performance Indicator
Green		Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber		Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red		Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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