

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

DATE: 29 October 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Halton Children & Young People's Plan Annual Review 2012

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks Board endorsement of the 2012 Annual Review of the Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14. This Review was formally approved by Halton Children's Trust Board in May 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Notes the contents of the report; and**
- ii) Endorses the Annual Review document.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Halton Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the agreed joint strategy of the partners within Halton Children's Trust, detailing how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing. It represents Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough, and provides strategic direction and determines how the Children's Trust Board will work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

3.2 The CYPP is a core element within the overall vision for the borough, as contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

3.3 Halton's first CYPP was published in 2006, covering a three year period to 2009. The second CYPP for Halton was published in 2009 and ran until March 31st 2011.

3.4 Although the Coalition Government removed the statutory footing for Children's Trusts in July 2010, it did reconfirm its commitment to

working in partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people through locally agreed partnerships. The reforms allow each local authority area to agree its own way forward in terms of delivering children and young people's services. The duty for partners to co-operate will continue, but the list of statutory partners reduced to remove the bureaucracy surrounding Children's Trusts or similar local partnerships for partners, and in particular schools.

3.5 Following the announcement of the reforms, the future of Halton Children's Trust was discussed at both the Children's Trust Board and Executive Group. At both there was universal agreement from all partners for the Trust to continue in its current format, as the overarching multi agency body that contains all children & young people's services in Halton. This reflects the breadth and strength of partnership working across the children & young people's agenda in Halton, as well universal understanding of the need to continue to work in partnership in the challenging economic climate currently faced.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Children's Trusts reforms in essence brought a reversal to the pre-April 2010 status of Children's Trusts.

4.2 The reforms removed the requirement to produce a CYPP. With agreement to continue the Children's Trust arrangements came the need for a CYPP to provide strategic direction and so a third CYPP for Halton was developed within the Children's Trust for a three year period from 2011-14. Following extensive consultation, the priorities for Halton Children's Trust for the period 2011-14 were agreed as

- Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support.
- Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning
- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively

4.3 The current CYPP is framed around these priorities.

4.4 Until July 2010, the need to have a CYPP in place included a requirement to review the Plan on an annual basis. For both previous iterations of the CYPP an annual review was undertaken each year. Although, this is no longer a national requirement, a proposal to undertake an Annual Review of the CYPP was approved by Halton Children's Trust Board in February 2012. The Review is a good practice exercise to reflect on the work undertaken by Halton Children's Trust over the last 12 months and ensure the CYPP remains fit for purpose.

4.5 The Annual Review is a short summary document that provides a supplement to the CYPP. It is not intended to replace the CYPP. The Review is primarily web based, available on the Halton Children's Trust website (www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust) but printed documents are available for partners on request and for distribution at events.

4.6 The Review contains:

- An introduction and explanation of what Halton Children's Trust is, as well as the purpose of the CYPP and the Annual Review.
- An overview of each overarching priority, what it means, the key achievements over the last 12 months and areas of focus in the year ahead.
- Progress so far against each Promise contained within the CYPP, which acts as the action plan for Halton Children's Trust.
- An update on national policy development, with particular focus on the new Ofsted Inspection Framework and what this means for Halton. The new Framework has a particular focus on ensuring evidence can be provided on the views of all stakeholders and also the 'journey of the child.' To support this, the Review provided an opportunity to map the potential journey of a child through services within Halton Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board. The diagram on page 7 of the Review maps services in Halton across the full age range within the context of the Halton Levels of Need Framework.
- Headline success stories from across Halton Children's Trust.

4.7 The Review document was approved by Halton Children's Trust Board in May 2012.

4.8 Work on the Review was led by the Principal Children's Trust Officer, in conjunction with relevant leads for each section of the Review as appropriate.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The CYPP is the key strategic document for Halton Children's Trust, within which all children and young people's services in Halton sits. The Plan outlines the main priorities for the Trust in order to improve

outcomes for children, young people and their families in Halton. This Annual Review provides a progress update after Year 1 of the three year Plan

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

The Plan has a strong focus on continuing to tackle the numbers of Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people in Halton, including through the promotion of apprenticeship opportunities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Although there is no longer a specific Health priority within the CYPP, Health remains a clear priority for the Children's Trust within the three priorities, fully involved and leading on working within each. Health indicators also remain a key element of the Performance Management Framework that supports the CYPP. Halton Children's Trust is closely involved within the development currently of the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board and structures that sit underneath it.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Plan looks at work being done around alcohol, anti-social behaviour and youth offending. In each of these areas the Trust works closely with the Safer Halton Partnership.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The CYPP highlights the development of further provision in Halton, including the CRMZ facility in Widnes and additional secure residential accommodation across Halton.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 It is vital that both the Council and Children's Trust continue to be clear about priorities for service delivery and that this strategy is noted by Elected Members.

7.2 The absence of a CYPP would:

- Reduce the ability to take account of the local community's aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Have serious implications for Partnership co-ordination between all the public, voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders that operate locally for the benefit of children, young people and their families;
- Potentially reduce the effectiveness of the Partnership through fragmentation of strategies.

7.3 These risks can be mitigated by the adoption of the CYPP and its implementation, monitoring and ultimate delivery. This Annual Review document provides a supplement to ensure the CYPP remains fit for purpose

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on the document showed that there are no negative impacts on any individuals and groups within Halton as a result of the Plan. The Children & Young People's Plan facilitates positive action for children and young people overall in Halton and for particular groups of children and young people as appropriate.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children Act 2004	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady
Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady