

# Public Document Pack



## Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

Monday, 29 January 2018 at 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

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

**Chief Executive**

### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

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

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 511 8276 or e-mail  
[ann.jones@halton.gov.uk](mailto:ann.jones@halton.gov.uk) for further information.  
The next meeting of the Board is to be confirmed.*

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

**Part I**

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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, 13 November 2017 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Edge and C. Gerrard

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. McIntyre, A. Jones, H. Bell, D. Roberts, S. Williams and T. Coffey

Also in attendance: Mrs C. Alonso

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP18 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP20 HALTON CHILDREN'S TRUST MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the Halton Children's Trust meeting held on 21 September 2017 were submitted to the Board for information.</p>	
<p><u>Minute No 1 – THRIVE – Emotional Health and Wellbeing</u>. The Board was advised that this was the new name for emotional and health and wellbeing services in Halton for young people. It was a new way of working with the aim of de-stigmatising mental health issues in young people.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes are noted.</p>	

CYP21 14-19 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS AND WORK PRIORITIES (SAWP)

The Board received a presentation on the key data and information from the 14-19 Strategic Analysis and Work Priorities (SAWP) document.

It was reported that in April 2010, Halton Borough Council took over responsibility for the planning and commissioning of training and education for 16-19 year olds and for those with a learning difficulty up to the age of 25 from the Learning and Skills Council. The funding element of commissioning however moved to the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which had now been joined with another agency and was called the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Since this, Halton Borough Council had published a Strategic Commissioning Statement which later became the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement. Without the funding or responsibility for contracting that would allow the commissioning of provision Post 16, the content of the document was developed to focus on what the Local Authority and partnerships in the Borough were doing and needed to do to meet certain statutory duties related to young people. There were four statutory duties and these were described in the report and presentation. Members were provided with extracts of information from the Strategic Analysis and Work Priorities document relating to: cohorts; attainment at Key Stage 5; vocational training; apprenticeships and traineeships; attainment of Levels 2 and 3 by age 19; raising the participation age; and young people who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

Members welcomed the presentation and the following responses were provided to questions:

Are the numbers of pupils attending Riverside College less from Runcorn?

Yes there is a tradition of young people from Runcorn accessing provision outside the Borough instead of travelling to Widnes. However the College does promote and facilitate transport from Runcorn for young people.

Was there any data available on students moving on from higher education into employment?

28% of Halton's young people moved onto higher education

in 2015-16. In addition Key Stage 5 (KS5) Destination Measures data showed 57% of Halton KS5 6<sup>th</sup> Form and College leavers progressed into Higher Education in 2014-15.

Were there any retention figures?

Yes retention rates for Halton institutions had grown from 87.1% in 2012-13 to 93.1% in 2015-16. Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years old who were not in education or training would be supported by the 14-19 Team and encouraged to participate. Other than the Key Stage 5 Destination Measures published by the Department for Education, young people's progression Post 19 years old was not tracked by the 14-19 Team unless they had an Education Health and Care Plan.

Members requested an update on the Scrutiny Topic 'Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools' which was agreed at the January 2017 PPB meeting

The Group was chaired by Councillor Logan and three lines of enquiry were agreed: employer engagement; careers education information; and business needs.

Three meetings of the Topic Group had taken place; each meeting reviewed one line of enquiry. Further actions and areas for further investigation had been identified by the Scrutiny Group. These would need to be reported back to the Group before identifying the recommendations. This Scrutiny Topic was planned for completion within the 12 months timeframe, January 2018.

It was noted that a further Scrutiny Group meeting is due to be arranged before the end of the year.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the work identified within the 14-19 SAWP presentation that takes place to meet the Local Authority's statutory duties.

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## CYP22 EARLY YEARS STRATEGY

The Board received a presentation which provided an overview of the Early Years Strategy, Action Plan and the Guide to Parents.

As reported previously the number and percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) in Halton remained significantly lower than statistical

neighbours and other North West Authorities, and national child development remained a key priority for the Borough.

In order to address the challenges Halton faced, an independent Early Years Review was commissioned and undertaken by Early Education and a multi-agency working group was established. Members were advised that an Early Years Strategy and Action Plan had now been produced along with a Guide to Parents, which would be formally launched in November 2017. Members were presented with the following printed guides, *The Early Years – Newborn to 5 Years*; and *Early Years in Halton – working together to give every child the best start*.

The presentation outlined the vision of the Early Years Strategy; its priorities; what had been done to date; and what was planned for the future.

Members raised the following queries:

More information on the early years teaching school was requested

A bid would be put in led by the two federated nurse schools and the aim would be for the teaching school to provide support and training across the Borough and wider for early years providers. It was hoped that two primary teaching schools could be established.

Early Years was consistently an area of weakness for Halton – are we seeking best practice from other local authorities?

Halton had chosen Early Years as a subject for Peer Review and had presented its approach to other North West Directors of Children's Services. There were links with other local authorities who had benefitted from Lottery Funding such as Nottinghamshire and Officers continued to look both within the Borough and to others outside the Borough to improve performance.

Could parents be invited to become involved in classroom activities with their children in Early Years?

Yes and in some schools this was being done. However, it was purely voluntary and schools were struggling to get parents to participate.

The Chair requested that an update on this item returns to the Board at a future meeting. In the meantime Members were requested to contact Ann McIntyre with any

comments they might have with regards to the Action Plan.

It was noted that the booklets mentioned above would be distributed within the community and sent to parents, schools, health visitors, the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector for early years, Children's Centres and childminders etc. It was important that the information was relayed to parents regarding what the expectations of their child were before entering schooling. It was also suggested that this information be sent to Schools' Governors.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the presentation; and
- 2) a further update report on the implementation of the Action Plan be submitted to the next PPB meeting.

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Provision

#### CYP23 NEW SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

The Board received a presentation which informed Members of the requirements of the new inspection framework for children's social care services, which was due to be implemented in January 2018.

It was reported that an inspection would:

- examine the role of Members and the corporate role and contribution in ensuring that social care services delivered outstanding outcomes for children;
- look at all aspects of children's lives when they came into contact with the children's social care service including children at risk of harm, children in care and care leavers, and how they were supported in their education, training and employment;
- examine how effective the Council was at undertaking its statutory duties and how it performed as a corporate parent; and
- examine how the Council met the health needs of children in care and care leavers; both their physical health and their emotional health and wellbeing.

The presentation outlined the inspection system and the activities to be carried out outside of inspections with self-evaluation and annual engagement meetings. It also discussed the focussed visits scope and standard and short inspections.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

CYP24 THE ANNUAL HEAD TEACHER REPORT ON THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The Board received the annual update on the educational outcomes for Halton's Children in Care (CIC) for 2016-17.

It was reported that Halton had a small number of children in care within each key stage cohort. This made comparison with the general population and year on year performance very difficult as each child in care had a high statistical significance, making both the gap and trend analysis volatile.

The Board was advised that 2016-17 saw changes to the way English and Maths GCSE results were awarded, from a letter grade to a point scale of 9-1. All other GCSE's remained as letters for this year but would also move to the same point scale from next year.

The Board was advised that the Halton Virtual School provided educational support and activities over and above those delivered through schools and used Pupil Premium Plus. This support was available and offered to all Halton children in care, regardless of whether they lived or were educated in Halton or out of Borough. A copy of this year's activity programmes was attached at Appendix 1.

It was noted that the data provided within the report compared the performance of Halton children who had been in care for 12 months or more, to that of their non-care peers within each key stage. The report provided the outcomes for: Early Years Foundation; Y1 Phonics; Key Stage 1; Key Stage 2; Key Stage 4; and exclusions.

Members raised the following queries:

Was there more access to Pupil Premium Plus this year?

Yes – there was an increase in Personal Education Plan's (PEPs) where PP+ was awarded.

Are adopted children included in the CIC data?

Yes and there is guidance and advice available to adopting parents to ensure that they are supported after adopting a child from the care system. There was also a statutory duty on schools to promote the education and welfare of CIC and those adopted.



What was the exclusion rate of CIC?

CIC were more likely to be excluded from school. There was one primary exclusion and 14 secondary so far this year. Schools were encouraged to interact with the Virtual Head as soon as problems began to occur, so that intervention could be arranged.

What is a good outcome?

This was discussed and suggested that it should be an outcome according to the ability of the individual (so what was good for them), not matching them according to a national figure.

Key Stage 3 – it was noted that this was no longer measured.

Was there a correlation between deprivation and exclusions?

Schools were advising the Authority that this was the case as families were experiencing stress and breakdowns due to financial pressures which then caused behavioural issues in children.

The Chair conveyed thanks on behalf of the Board and requested a follow up report at a future PPB, containing information on examples of post 16 CIC successes or otherwise.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the information provided.

CYP25 ANNUAL REPORT - COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2016 - 31ST MARCH 2017

The Board received the Annual Report for Comments, Complaints and Compliments relating to Children's Social Care Services, from the Strategic Director – People.

It was noted that the complaints were processed under the *Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure*; available to Children and Young People to have their concerns resolved swiftly and wherever possible by the people who provided the service locally. The report outlined details of the 4 categories to the representation process: Statutory Complaints; Representations; Customer Care

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Issues; and Compliments.

The presentation and report provided information such as numbers of complaints received; how they were made; types of statutory complaints and outcomes. It also provided information and data on compliments and positive feedback in the Children's and Families Service.

Overall it was noted that there had been a 36% decrease in the number of complaints made the previous year and was the lowest since 2010/11. Officers advised that this could be attributable to a more settled workforce in place which had resulted in a better service for clients.

In response to a Member's query, it was noted that Children in Care were allocated their own Independent Review Manager, who met with them one to one and explains to a child their right to complain and how to complain. The aim was to reassure young people in care that they had the same rights as others despite their age.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the report.

CYP26 COMPLIMENTS (SERVICE USER FEEDBACK) RELATING TO PEOPLE DIRECTORATE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2016 - 31ST MARCH 2017

The Board received an update on feedback and compliments made by clients and positive feedback from workers / professionals relating to Children's Services in the People Directorate.

Data was provided on the number of compliments by year, showing comparisons, as well as compliments received by the Operational Directorates: Education, Inclusion and Provision; and the Children and Families Service, and the departments within these.

Members welcomed the report and enjoyed reading the comments and feedback provided by service users and other agencies. On behalf of the Board the Chair passed on his congratulations to all staff involved in Children's Services and commended the good work that they do which clearly makes a difference to people's lives.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the report.

*Meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.*

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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**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:** 29 January 2018

**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.

**Appendix 1****Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board****EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017**

<b>EXB62</b>	<b>HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Independent Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board, on the Halton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2016/17.

Richard Strachan, Chair of the LSCB, attended the meeting and described how organisations and individuals across all sectors were working together to safeguard children and young people. The Annual Report provided a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The report included details on lessons from learning and improvement activity within the reporting period, including Serious Case Reviews, Practice Learning Reviews and Child Death Reviews and audits. In addition, it listed contributions made to the LSCB by partners as well as details of its expenditure.

It was noted that since November 2013, the LSCB had become subject to review of their effectiveness. In 2014, the LSCB was reviewed by Ofsted, alongside the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers.

A summary of the report's content was set out for Members' information. It was reported that the Children and Social Work Act 2017 would abolish LSCBs from 2019. There was an expectation that key safeguarding partners such as the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group, would establish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding children processes and practice.

Mr Strachan dealt with Members questions and was thanked for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the report and associated Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

<b>EXB63</b>	<b>SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2018-19 – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the introduction of a National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools and high needs.

The Board was advised that in July 2017, the Secretary of State confirmed the introduction of the national funding formula and announced an increase in per pupil



funding and a minimum per pupil funding level for primary and secondary school pupils in 2018/19. It was reported that local authorities were advised that the minimum funding rates would be used by the Department for Education to determine the total allocation of funding to each authority.

On 11 October 2017, Schools Forum received a report which highlighted the key changes to the funding of schools. Following the release of indicative budgets a consultation paper was sent to all schools in the Borough setting out three options for their consideration. The consultation also addressed the issue of Halton's previous financial commitments for High Needs against the key budget headings as well as its current commitments. Details of other key changes to funding the Schools Block were detailed in the report and a copy of the consultation responses were attached at Appendix B.

It was proposed that during the two year transitional phase, Halton move to an interim formula so as to retain the primary lump sum, and to follow the principles of the transitional national funding formula in all other factors. It was further noted that to address the budget shortfall in High Needs a transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block budget would be required.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure that there was a fair distribution of resources across schools in the Borough.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to either retaining the existing funding formula with uplift for the increase; however, this was not an option supported by the schools. Implementation of the transitional NFF was considered but this would have an impact on the smaller schools.

#### Implementation Date

1 April 2018.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) an interim funding formula for 2018/19 and 2019/20 be approved, to allow the retention of the primary lump sum at 2017/18 levels to support small schools within the Authority; and
- 2) the decision to transfer 0.5% from the Schools Block to High Needs Block be noted.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017**

<b>EXB78</b>	<b>COUNCIL PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the future delivery of Council Provision of Residential Care for Children.

Following the de-registration and review of Edinburgh Road Children's Home it was reported that a significant financial investment would be required so as to meet the required standards of a skilled team of staff and management structure to support it. The Board was advised that it was likely that an external provider would have access to, and be able to supply experienced staff and the management structure to support the service. The service would be procured on the basis of the Council maintaining ownership of the building and leasing it to a provider as part of a contract.

The report set out details of the financial implications; it was envisaged that the first placements would be of young people returning from Out of Borough provision, with future placements reducing the need to spend on external provision.

RESOLVED: That the option to commission a third party provider be approved.

<b>EXB79</b>	<b>SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on a revised approach to supporting care leavers in their own accommodation.

The Board was advised that for many care leavers, there was a transition period between living in residential or foster care and taking up their own tenancy, often referred to as semi-independent or supported living. In recent times, the number of Halton care leavers had increased due to the increased number of older young people entering the care system. It was noted that some of these care leavers required significant support to make progress towards independent living.

The Care Leaver Service had tried to change the way it delivered its services to meet the challenge of efficiency while ensuring customer focus, value for money and demonstrating best practice. Members were advised that in order to develop the offer for Halton care leavers, it was proposed that support for young people be commissioned which ensured the delivery of a number of outcomes including financial support, personal safety and increasing self-esteem and resilience. A second phase would be to work with local housing providers to develop a small group setting for care leavers. The report provided further detail on both proposed phases for Members to consider.

RESOLVED: That the proposed approach be endorsed.

**EXB80****SERVICES TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING TENDER**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the award of a contract for the delivery of services to encourage participation in education and training.

The Board was reminded that in July 2017, it had granted authority for Halton to lead on a joint procurement process for the delivery of a service with Liverpool, Wirral and Knowsley authorities. The tender opportunity was advertised in October 2017 and the evaluation process was completed on 23 November 2017. After the initial assessment stage, a provider was identified as meeting the criteria to go forward to the next stage. This process was completed after the Board report was written and the successful contractor was named and confirmed at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategic Director, People, be authorised to enter into a contract with Career Connect to deliver services to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education and training. The contract will be awarded for a period of one year with the option of three additional one year contracts.

**EXB81****THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS UPDATE – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided an update on the financial modelling undertaken and the national funding formula for schools and high needs.

The Board had previously received a report on the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools. Extensive modelling had been undertaken to retain the lump sum value and minimise losses to Halton schools whilst keeping within the funding available. However, it was reported that there were a number of reasons why it had not been possible for Halton to introduce an interim funding formula, details of which were set out in the report. It was now recommended that the use of the transitional NFF model for 2018/19 and 2019/20 be agreed.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure that there was a fair distribution of resources across the schools in the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to either retaining the existing funding formula with uplift for the increase, and retaining the 2017/18 lump sum level but retaining the principles of the NFF. However, this had not proved to be affordable or practically possible to introduce and would create some significant reductions to the budgets of some schools.

Implementation Date

1 April 2018.

RESOLVED: That the funding of schools based on the transitional National Funding Formula model be approved.

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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Special Strategic Partnership Board minutes

**WARD(s):** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The draft minutes relating to the Children and Young People's Portfolio to be considered by the Children's Trust Executive Board at its meeting being held on 22 February 2018 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 23.11.17**  
**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College, Widnes**

**Present:**

Cllr Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services HBC (Chair)
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision, HBC
Tracy Ryan	Assistant Policy Officer, People, HBC (Minutes)
Alan Fairclough	Cheshire Police
Denise Roberts	NHS Halton CCG
Mary Murphy	Principal, Riverside College
Eileen O'Meara	Director of Public Health for Halton
Libby Evans	Bridgewater Healthcare NHS Trust
Richard Strachan	Chair, Halton Safeguarding Children Board
Dorothy Roberts	Principal Policy Officer, People, HBC
Jaymie Armitage	North West Borough Hospitals
Sarah Wilson	Bridgewater Healthcare NHS Trust
Jane Tetlow	Cheshire Police
Anne Simmons	Sts Peter and Paul Catholic College
Matthew Machell	Children in Care Council
Sarah Jones	Participation and Inclusion Officer, HBC
Matthew Walker	Halton Youth Cabinet
Sheila McHale	NHS Halton CCG
Dr Elspeth Anwar	Consultant in Public Health, HBC
Tisha Baynton	Health Improvement Team, HBC

**Apologies:**

Shélah Semoff	Partnership Officer, Policy, People, Performance & Efficiency, HBC
Dave Sweeney	NHS Halton CCG
Gareth Jones	Head of Service, Youth Justice Services
Vicky Jolly	North West Borough Hospitals
Mil Vasic	Strategic Director People, HBC
Kelly Collier	Policy Officer, Children & Young People, HBC
Tracey Coffey	Operational Manager, Children & Families, HBC
Cleo Alonso	Vol Sector rep
Simon Parsonage	Cheshire Police
Cllr Dave Cargill	Community Safety Police and Crime Panel
Angela Woolfall	Foster Carer
Sharon Canavan-Daly	Foster Carer
Ewan Jago	UK Youth Parliament
Anne Doyle	Bridgewater Healthcare NHS Trust
Pat Hansen	Halton Housing Trust
Jessica Burton	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

**For Information:**

David Parr	Chief Executive HBC
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Item		Action	Deadline
1.0	<p><b>PART A - TOPIC ITEM</b></p> <p><b>Smoking/E-cigarettes Discussion</b></p> <p>Elsbeth and Tisha delivered the Topic Discussion session, highlighting that in Halton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking has reduced from 30% in 2001 to 16.6% in 2016;</li> <li>• Smoking is still the leading cause for preventable death and disease;</li> <li>• Smoking rates remain higher than England as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst E-cigarettes are often used as a gateway to taking up smoking by young people.</p> <p>Questions considered by members during the discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What more could we be doing in local schools and colleges?</li> <li>• What more could we be doing in the community?</li> <li>• What more could we be doing about e-cigarettes?</li> <li>• What more could we be doing to reduce underage sales?</li> </ul> <p>Members completed templates in response to the questions, which drew lots of engagement in discussion, particularly around E-cigarettes/vape pens e.g. sales on street corners, confiscation issues in schools and parents requiring return of them due to the cost of the kits/pens.</p> <p>Elsbeth and Tisha will attend the next meeting to present the feedback in response to the issues raised.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elsbeth and Tisha to attend the February 2018 meeting to present the Smoking/E-cigarettes You Said, We Did</b></li> </ul>	EA/TB	Feb '18
	<b>PART B - BUSINESS ITEMS</b>		
2.0	<p><b>You Said, We Did - Mental Health/THRIVE</b></p> <p>Sheila provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Strategy to help publicise the service</li> <li>• The new name of the service is 'Heads up Halton'</li> <li>• All schools have a Mental Health Link Worker that liaise closely the school nurses.</li> <li>• The new website has been launched <a href="http://www.nwbh.nhs.uk">www.nwbh.nhs.uk</a></li> <li>• The 'Hub of Hope' is being explored as a directory of services/support.</li> </ul> <p>Mary Murphy noted that FE/Post-16 (Riverside College) do not</p>		



	<p>have a Mental Health Link Worker which has been raised on several occasions with Halton CCG.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sheila to follow up FE/Post-16 issue raised by Mary</b></li> <li>• <b>Mary to keep members posted on progress of this</b></li> </ul>	<b>SMcH MM</b>	<b>asap Feb '18</b>
2.1	<p><b>Minutes/Actions 21.9.17</b> Minutes accepted as accurate.</p>		
2.2	<p><b>Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) &amp; Action Plan 2018-2021</b></p> <p>Dot distributed a hard copy of the finalised Plan to members, noting that it had also been issued by email from the Policy Team. Consultation with members on content and design had taken place at each Trust meeting since the Priorities Workshop was held in January 2017.</p> <p>Now that the Plan has been issued it was agreed that the next steps would be to progress the 'Plan on a Page' which had been previously discussed and agreed by members.</p> <p>Dot noted that the Action Plan is still in 'draft' for comment and that Kelly will be reviewing with Ann following the meeting. Progress updates will be sought from relevant members as required. Snapshot update from the Action Plan will be reported on a regular basis at future meetings.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kelly to develop the 'Plan on a Page', review Action Plan with Ann and seek updates from members as/when required</b></li> <li>• <b>Tracy to forward plan meeting agenda item – Action Plan Snapshot Update</b></li> <li>• <b>Members to report progress of key tasks from the Snapshot Update</b></li> </ul>	<b>KC</b>  <b>TR</b>  <b>Appropriate Members</b>	<b>Feb '18</b>  <b>Feb '18</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>
2.3	<p><b>Children's Trust website</b></p> <p>Dot explained that the Policy Team were working on the changes previously discussed and would email members shortly with the web-link to the updated website.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Policy Team to circulate web-link to updated Trust website</b></li> </ul>	<b>PolicyTeam</b>	<b>Feb '18</b>
2.4	<p><b>Participation Update</b></p> <p>Matthew noted that only one consultation response had been received from Ann regarding ideas on the future</p>		

	<p>redevelopment of the INVOLVE Group. At a subsequent meeting, Matthew met with Mil and Tracey to consider the next steps for regenerating the group.</p> <p>It is proposed that INVOLVE redevelop to become a forum for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members to consult with parents, carers, children and young people representatives;</li> <li>• Parents, carers, children and young people to identify key issues and invite appropriate partners to meet with them to address these;</li> <li>• Parents, carers, children and young people to develop their collective priorities.</li> </ul> <p>Members acknowledged the need for the INVOLVE Group to continue in a new format. However, as Matthew is moving on to further his own career, it is unclear who will lead the redevelopment ideas. Tom and Ann agreed that discussions would need to take place with Matthew outside of this meeting to assist plans in moving forward.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tom, Ann and Matthew to meet and progress future plans in moving forward</b></li> </ul>	<p>TMcI/AMc &amp; MW</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
	<p><b>PART C - INFORMATION ITEMS</b></p>		
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><b>Corporate Parenting; Children in Care/Care Leavers, Local Offer and Personal Adviser Support</b></p> <p>Tracy reminded members about the consultation deadline which was 27 November '17.</p> <p><b>Key Partner Updates</b></p> <p><u>Matthew Walker – Halton Youth Cabinet</u> See Campaign Card below regarding the online Mental Health survey <a href="http://w2.haltonyc.com">w2.haltonyc.com</a></p> <div data-bbox="343 1529 1018 1973" data-label="Image"> </div>		

3.2	<p><u>School Councils Council Event held on 21 November '17</u> Ann asked Tracy to provide an overview of the event that Phil McClure had organised for local schools. Tracy explained that this was the first event of this type held and had 20 pupils from The Heath, The Grange, Cavendish and Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, several HBC colleagues and Tom in attendance.</p> <p>Initially, pupils were a little nervous about speaking up with ideas and joining in the discussion but this was soon remedied after Tom gave them a well-rounded pep talk.</p> <p>Matthew and Phil led a discussion on Mental Health and Tracy led the discussion on Transition.</p> <p>Phil sought their interest in attending Children's Trust Question Time Panels so pupils could put questions to Trust members – this was duly agreed and welcomed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ann, Phil and Policy Team to make arrangements for the Question Time Panels in 2018</b></li> </ul> <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><u>Venue for future meetings</u> Members thanked Anne Simmons for volunteering to host the Trust meetings at Sts. Peter and Paul however it was felt that a venue closer to the centre of Widnes would be more ideal alternated with a Runcorn venue e.g. CRMZ/Riverside College.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tracy to make venue arrangements for 2018 meeting dates and confirm venue</b></li> </ul>	AMc/PMcC/ Policy Team	asap
	<p><b>2018 Meeting Dates/Time</b> <b>Riverside College, Kingsway Campus, 4.30-6.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thurs 22 February '18 – Classroom A8, Ground Floor</b></li> <li>• <b>Thurs 24 May '18 – Classroom A8, Ground Floor</b></li> </ul> <p>Venue/dates for below will be confirmed asap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thurs 13 September '18</b></li> <li>• <b>Thurs 22 November '18</b></li> </ul>	TR	Actioned

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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**SUBJECT:** Children Social Care Performance Report

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To receive a presentation from Tracey Coffey, Operational Director for Children and Families on the current performance of Children's Social Care.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board**

- i. **Considers the contents of the report and presentation.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The presentation aims to provide the members with an overview of the performance of Children's Social Care and keep members informed of the key service developments. It will include information on the following areas:

- Caseload breakdown;
- I-CART activity;
- Contacts;
- North West Profile;
- Assessment Timescales;
- Children in Need;
- Children in Care;
- Placement Stability; and
- Current activity and developments within the service.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the new Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services 2018 members are expected to have knowledge and awareness of the context for the delivery of LA children's services, and to be able to scrutinise and take action to ensure that the services provided are effective and improve outcomes for children and families.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

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

Performance shows how the local authority is performing in meeting the needs of children and young people who require support and services because of their needs.

### **5.2 A Healthy Halton**

None

### **5.3 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Supporting children to be safe and secure enables them to succeed in their education and their future as adults

### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

Children may be at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour and at risk of offending if they are not supported to feel safe and secure in their families. Equally, it is important to support parents and carers who are affected by domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol, mental health and disability in reducing risks to themselves and in turn their children.

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

None.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Failure to provide high quality services that improve the outcomes for children and families and reduces the risk of harm and serious injury or death exposes the local authority to being judged inadequate by Ofsted, with responsibility being removed from that local authority by the Secretary of State.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Services must be responsive to their needs of individual children and their families in providing services to them.

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

None.

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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**SUBJECT:** Neglect Strategy 2017-2019

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to members Halton's Neglect Strategy 2017-2019

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board**

**i. Receives and endorses the strategy.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Halton's Neglect Strategy has been developed under Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB). It is a multi-agency document which outlines the definitions and responses to neglect and the background and prevalence to neglect in Halton.

3.2 The strategy is accompanied by a multi-agency action plan which details how agencies and partners should identify and respond to neglect and how HSCB will scrutinise and monitor the impact and effectiveness of the strategy,

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The strategy is essential in determining how all partners identify and response to neglect. Ofsted are reporting on neglect following a number of Joint Targeted Area Inspections (most recently Cheshire West and Chester in November 17) and will be re-visiting this area as part of its new Inspection of Local Authority Services inspection from January 2018. It will also be returning to neglect as a theme in 2018 to determine if lessons have been learning and practice and outcomes have improved as a result of its reports. Halton may receive either inspection during 2018.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

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

Children and Young People who have experienced neglect can have a number of poorer outcomes as a result without early identification, support and safeguarding.

### **5.2 A Healthy Halton**

Children who have experienced neglect can experience poorer outcomes with their education and future aspirations.

### **5.3 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Children who have experienced neglect may be young carers for adults in their family who have difficulties and who are not able to provide safe and secure care for their children. This increases the risk of harm to children in their local communities as they are vulnerable to others in terms of exploitation and abuse.

### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

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

None.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Failure to address the reasons and causes of neglect exposes children to poorer outcomes in their health, education, emotional health and wellbeing and to their safety and security.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Services must be responsive to their needs of individual children and their families in providing services to them.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-experiencing-neglect-may-to-december-2017>

# Neglect Strategy

## 2017-2019



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## Halton's Vision

“Halton’s ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, ready to be Halton’s present and Halton’s future”

## Introduction

Halton’s Neglect Strategy is a two year strategy that aims to set out the strategic aims and objectives to preventing and reducing neglect in Halton.

A better understanding and more strategic approach to neglect is essential for everyone with responsibilities for safeguarding because we know that when children are neglected this impacts on their development through childhood, adolescence and into to adulthood.

Our efforts today to prevent and reduce neglect in Halton will not only serve to protect individual children, but also have the potential to anticipate and avoid a wide range of health and other potential problems cascading down through future generations, as a result of neglect.

This strategy has been developed in conjunction with multi-agency partners working across the Halton partnership and should be considered alongside other key strategies and plans such as the Children and Young People’s Plan 2017 – 2020, Halton’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017 – 2022. It has also been developed as a response to both national and local knowledge regarding the causes and effects of neglect. This includes learning from serious case reviews and thematic reviews at a national level as well as local learning in Halton.

Halton Multi-agency partnership is committed to raising awareness, prevention, identification and intervention in respect of neglect and its negative impact on children and young people and identifies a practical delivery plan for local implementation which addresses the key priority areas of work in order to improve our collective response to neglect.



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## What do we mean by Neglect?

Neglect is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) as:

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### Six classifications of neglect

Horwath (2007) identified six different classifications of neglect:

- 1 **Medical neglect** – the child's health needs are not met, or the child is not provided with appropriate medical treatment when needed as a result of illness or accident.
- 2 **Nutritional neglect** – the child is given insufficient calories to meet their physical/developmental needs; this is sometimes associated with 'failure to thrive', though failure to thrive can occur for reasons other than neglect. The child may be given food of insufficient nutritional value (e.g. crisps, biscuits and sugary snacks in place of balanced meals); childhood obesity as a result of an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise has more recently been considered a form of neglect, given its serious long-term consequences.
- 3 **Emotional neglect** - this involves a carer being unresponsive to a child's basic emotional needs, including failing to interact or provide affection, and failing to develop a child's self-esteem and sense of identity. Some authors distinguish it from emotional abuse by the intention of the parent.
- 4 **Educational neglect** – The child does not receive appropriate learning experiences; they may be unstimulated, denied appropriate experiences to enhance their development and/ or experience a lack of interest in their achievements. This may also include carers failing to comply with state requirements regarding school attendance, and failing to respond to any special educational needs.
- 5 **Physical neglect** – The child has inadequate or inappropriate clothing (e.g. for the weather conditions), they experience poor levels of hygiene and cleanliness in their living conditions, or experiences poor physical care despite the availability of sufficient resources. The child may also be abandoned or excluded from home.
- 6 **Lack of supervision and guidance** – The child may be exposed to hazards and risks, parents or caregivers are inattentive to avoidable dangers, the child is left with inappropriate caregivers, and/ or experiences a lack of appropriate supervision and guidance. It can include failing to provide appropriate boundaries for young people about behaviours such as under-age sex and alcohol use.

## The impact of neglect

The experience of neglect during childhood can have significant and long-lasting consequences, affecting all aspects of a child's development. These effects include cognitive and other physical development, educational achievement, children and young people's emotional wellbeing, and behavioural difficulties.

Early impacts of neglect include:

Insecure attachments	Delayed/declining cognitive development	Decreased language function	Low self-esteem
Low confidence	Negative self-representations	Withdrawal, difficulty in making friends	Acting out / aggression / impulsivity
Poor coping abilities	Poor problem-solving skills	Disorganised attachments	Low achievement in school

For Adolescents:

- Depression, anxiety
- Dissociation
- Poor affect/emotion regulation
- ADHD symptoms
- Running away
- Anti-social behaviour
- Violence and delinquency
- More likely (than peers) to be arrested for violent offences
- Substance misuse and addiction
- Social withdrawal, social isolation
- Conflict and hostility in relationships
- Poor educational achievement
- Longer-term mental health problems, including PTSD and personality disorders, such as 'borderline personality disorder'
- Suicide attempts
- Physical health problems, such as increased risk of hypertension and chronic pain

It can also result in children and young people having difficulties making and keeping relationships, which can affect how they parent their own children and can perpetuate inter-generational cycles of neglect.

## Contributing factors to neglect

There are certain groups of children that are more vulnerable to abuse by virtue of their circumstance.

**Children with Disabilities** are more dependent on their care needs being met which can be complex. Inspections completed by OFSTED have identified that for some disabled children parental neglect has not been identified until a significant period of time has passed.

The majority of children with disabilities receive love and support from their parents and carers. However, as a recent Ofsted thematic report has highlighted:

*“Disabled children are more dependent than other children on their parents and carers for their day-to-day personal care; for helping them access services that they need to ensure that their health needs are met; and for ensuring that they are living in a safe environment. The impact of neglect on disabled children is therefore significant. This is not always recognised in time. In many of the child protection cases examined by inspectors, where neglect was the key risk, children had previously received support as children in need for a long time. Despite the lack of improvement for the child there were delays in recognising that the levels of neglect had met the threshold for child protection. In many of these cases the impact of poor parenting on the child was not clearly seen and the focus on the child was lost.”*

This Strategy aims to address the awareness and training of agencies to recognise Neglect for all children but will ensure a particular focus is given to the needs of disabled children.

Other children who are identified as being vulnerable to **Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing from Home, criminality or substance misuse** may have or may be experiencing neglect from their care giver. Assessments on these children must consider what their experiences are and identify, what has led to risky behaviour if positive outcomes are to be achieved.

**Cultural Difference** - Partners must be aware of the impact of cultural and religious beliefs and attitudes of parents where these impacts on children and young people’s safety and development. Partners must be sensitive to cultural and religious needs; however this must not detract from the focus and impact on the child’s basic needs and development. Each agency must ensure that their staff have had equality and diversity training to ensure they give enough weight to cultural and religious needs.



**Parental mental health difficulties** can lead to deterioration in their ability to perform parental tasks. Sometimes a preoccupation with their illness makes parents unresponsive to the needs of their child. Professionals need to consider what support is available to the

parent/carer in order to mitigate the associated parental risks. It is important that mental health workers including G.P's consider the potential impact on their patient's ability to meet the needs of their children in these circumstances. Likewise parents experiences with depression reduce parental responses to recognise the child's needs for comfort, warmth and understanding. The possible impact on older children should not be underestimated as it can impact on the parent's response to the child's behaviour with fewer positive and reinforcing reactions.

Parents suffering from **anxiety disorders** were found to be less responsive to their child, more likely to be critical or accepting of differences in opinion, less affectionate, smile less, and be more likely to overreact

### Substance and alcohol misuse

are serious risk indicators for child maltreatment across the full range of potential mechanisms for abuse. Prior to birth, the effects of alcohol and drug use can impact of the baby's growth and will probably result in withdrawal symptoms and neonatal distress. The longer term effects for the child are likely to impact on their health and wellbeing. The impact of



of substance and alcohol misuse on parenting capacity is likely to reduce the parents ability to focus their energies on fulfilling the basic parenting tasks which are replaced with a preoccupation in serving their own needs. Living standards may be affected, income may be misappropriated, parental relationships may be negatively affected and criminal activity may become a feature of their lives. Supervision standards may become lackadaisical, which considerably increases the child's vulnerability to neglect and other forms of abuse.

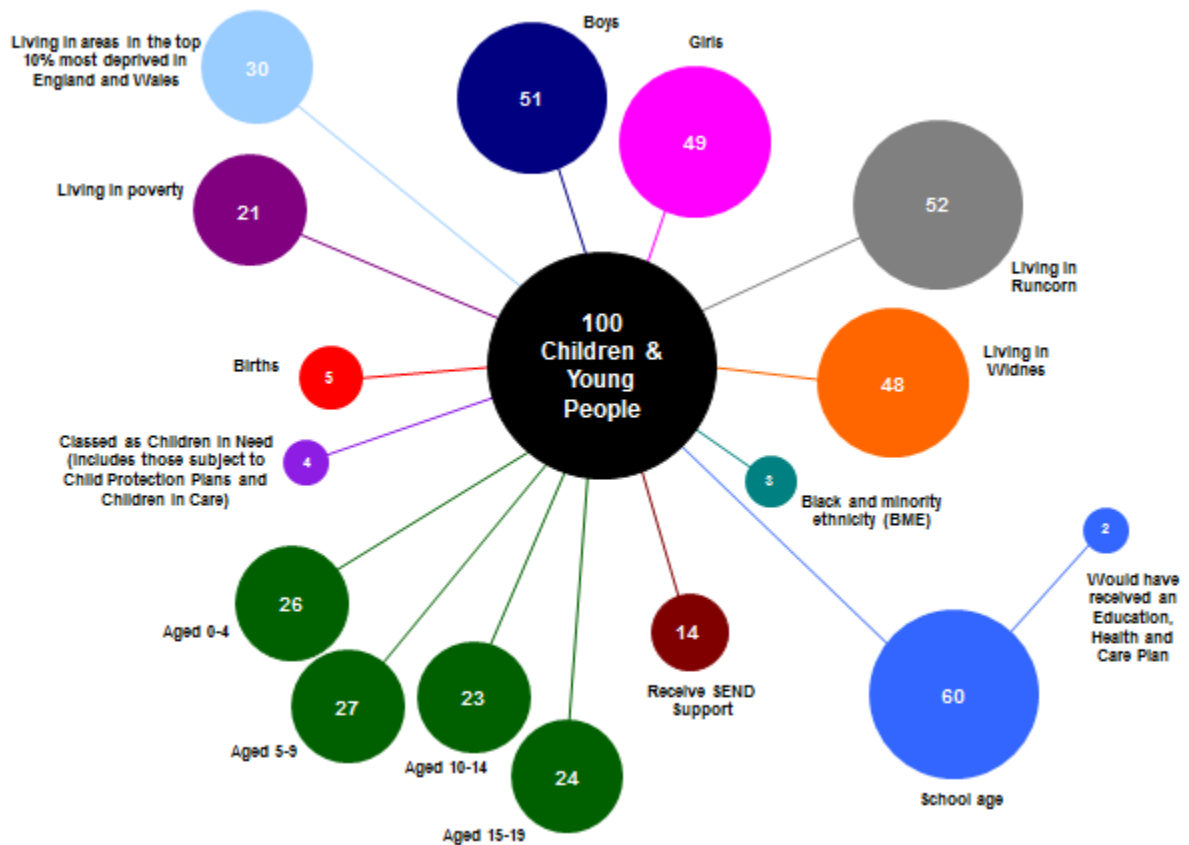
**Living in poverty** damages physical and psychological health in children and their families and harms relationships; poverty often brings social isolation, feelings of stigma, and high levels of stress. In spite of the extraordinary levels of organisation and determination to parent effectively in situations of poor housing, meagre income, lack of local resources and limited educational and employment prospects, the majority of poor families do not neglect their children. Yet the increased stress associated with poverty can make coping with the psychological as well as the physical and material demands of parenting much harder. In this respect poverty can add to the likelihood of poorer parenting and neglect and be one of many cumulative adversities a child experiences.



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## Local Context

Halton has population of 126,900 (Office for National Statistics 2016), which was an increase of 380 from the previous year and an increase of 1,180 since 2011. If Halton was a village of 100 people:

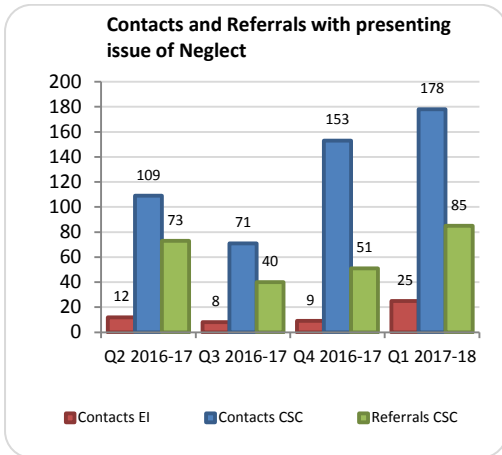


### In the last 12 months

- **54** contacts have been received in relation to Early Intervention where the presenting issue was neglect.
- **511** contacts have been received in relation to social care where the presenting issue was neglect.
- **249** referrals have been received by social care where the presenting issue was neglect.
- Of the children who are open to children's social care at child in need level in July 2017, 274 have some recording in relation to neglect historic or current. This is **41%** of the cases open.

- Of the children who are subject to a child protection plan in July 2017, 105 have some recording in relation to neglect (historic or current). This is **71%** of the child protection plans.

The trend is that of **increase** with more contacts and referrals with the presenting issue of neglect, quarter on quarter.



The deprivation levels in Halton are higher than the national average.

Compared with benchmark: ● Better ● Similar ● Worse ○ Not Compared



Indicator	Period	Halton		Region England		England		Worst	Range	Best
		Count	Value	Value	Value	Value				
Deprivation score (IMD 2015)	2015	-	-	31.9	-	21.8	42.0			5.7
Children in low income families (under 16s)	2014	↓	6,415	25.9%	22.8%	20.1%	39.2%			7.0%
Statutory homelessness	2015/16	↑	81	1.5	1.0*	0.9	8.9			0.1
GCSEs achieved	2015/16	-	781	55.8%	56.6%	57.8%	44.8%			74.6%
Violent crime (violence offences)	2015/16	↑	2,169	17.2	17.3	17.2	36.7			6.7
Long term unemployment	2016	↓	358	4.5*	3.9*	3.7*	13.8			0.7

(Public Health England Profiles)



## What is working well

Halton Safeguarding Children Board offers a range of training to the multi-agency partnership on safeguarding children. 'Working Together' training provides a comprehensive overview of the multi-agency levels of need, expectations and responsibilities.



In addition the Halton Safeguarding Children Board also offers Neglect training which supports professionals to; develop a clear understanding of the impact of neglect identifying Neglect, identifying Neglect and managing neglect cases including the use of the Graded Care Profile.

Multi-agency audits completed by the Safeguarding Children Board include the auditing of Neglect cases through the continuum of need. Messages from those audits have identified that positive outcomes for children rely on strong partnership working, clear and consistent support to families and innovative thinking.

Lack of Dental care for children can be the first signs of neglect for children In Halton there are a number of initiatives to reduce the risks associated with dental neglect. Poor rates of oral health tend to be higher in areas of high deprivation, however according to the DHNA for Merseyside it is identified that Halton's dental care for our young people is better than the national average although lower than the North West average. Within Halton the dental strategy is working to reduce the dental decay seen in other arears of similar deprivation. (DHNA Merseyside report).

## Halton's Priorities

- To improve awareness of and the recognition of neglect so that families receive help at the earliest stage reducing the risks of neglect.
- Children and families receive effective support from a skilled multi-agency workforce.
- The work force and resources are developed to support early identification and consistency of approach across multi agency partnership.

The most effective interventions are often those that are preventive instead of reactive. Preventive interventions address risk factors likely to result in future problems for particular families, without waiting for those problems to emerge. We want to ensure that there is early recognition and response to child neglect in Halton and that multi-agency intervention from early help to child protection is consistent and focussed on strengthening parental capacity and enabling children to thrive.

The NSPCC reports that Neglect is the most common type of abuse experienced by children and young people in England; it is highest reason for referrals to Children Social Care Services and Child Protection planning across Britain.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/statistics-and-information/child-protection-register-statistics-england.pdf>.

The statistics identify that:



- 1 in 10 children in the UK are effected by Neglect (NSPCC 2016)



- 29% of children contacting the NSPCC in 2016 related to Neglect.
- 60% of serious case reviews involved Neglect
- Some children are particularly vulnerable. At risk groups include children born prematurely, Children with Disabilities, adolescents, Children In Care, runaways and asylum seeking children.

Whilst the impact of neglect on children within the first 18 months is well documented, neglect at later stages of life is just as damaging. Studies have highlighted that were neglect is continual for a child; practitioners can become accustomed to it and therefore may not respond quickly enough in order to limit the impact.

Neglect is also challenging for practitioners as it is frequently passive and not always intentional. It is more likely to be a chronic condition than crisis led and this impacts on how agencies respond. It is often combined with other forms of maltreatment.

Neglect can be difficult to define because professionals sometimes base their judgements on their personal perceptions and are influenced by their professional backgrounds. What is 'good enough' care is also sometimes difficult for practitioners to agree on and as a consequence there are occasions when vital information may be overlooked and communicated.

Families often need long term support and professionals may not agree about the threshold for intervention in the absence of a clear cut agreement about what constitutes neglect. Therefore it is important to have an agreed framework and a range of tools to support them to reflect on individual circumstances for children and to assess the impact to ensure appropriate actions.

### Working across services

Children are at greater risk of experiencing neglect where they live with parents who have mental health problems, drug and alcohol issues and are in abusive relationships. Professionals working within organisations who come into contact with adults who experience these difficulties should be vigilant in how the presenting issue impacts on their capacity to care for their children. Communication with colleagues in children's services is essential in identifying earlier, issues of neglect and providing the right support at the right time. Professional's in the adult partnerships need to understand the signs of neglect on children and likewise support professions in the children's partnership to recognise increasing risks in adult's behaviour as a consequence of mental health, substance misuse or abuse.

The impact of experiencing a neglectful childhood can be seen as the young person moves into adulthood, increased likelihood of mental health difficulties, low self- esteem, criminality and substance misuse are all increased risks for the neglected child. By tackling neglect earlier together we reduce the prevalence of later difficulties and generational issues.

### Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

An action plan has been drawn up which has taken account of where we are now, what we plan to do, milestones along the way and who has responsibility to drive the key priorities forward. Progress will be measured, challenged, supported and monitored through these forums.



- The Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Board will monitor progress of the Neglect Strategy and the desired outcomes.
- Agencies will undertake audits within their organisations and engage in multi-agency audits, whereby findings will support continued development and evidence impact and outcomes for children.
- Adults Safeguarding Board will support the recognition and identification of neglect ensuring attendance at safeguarding training.

## Action Plan

	Priority	Action	Timescale	Outcome
1	Improve awareness of and the recognition of neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality training to be delivered to the multiagency partnership</li> <li>All agencies will ensure that their reporting systems include Neglect as part of their reporting framework.</li> </ul>	Annual and rolling Training programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practitioners will have a shared understanding of neglect and of the levels of need ensuring support is delivered at the right stage</li> </ul>
2	Children will receive help at an earlier stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a range of assessment tools that support practitioners to inform decisions and support families to understand change.</li> <li>Improve links to Adult Services</li> <li>Tested at audit that Multi agency partnership working at all stages of the levels of need, know what services, commissioned and statutory, are available to families.</li> </ul>	<p>April 2018</p> <p>Sept 2018 Audit programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in Common Assessment Frameworks undertaken.</li> <li>Reduction in numbers of children exposed to neglect</li> <li>Parents will have access to services that support their individual needs and understanding</li> </ul>
3	Children and families will receive effective support from a skilled multi-agency workforce to ensure that protection is given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop and make available a range of assessment tools (i.e.Neglect Protocol) and resources setting out the key lessons from research, local and national SCRs around the dangers of drift and the impact of neglect on child development, so that agencies can have a good understanding of the research base to inform the way they apply the threshold for intervention.</li> <li>To train Multi-agency partnership to understand what good looks like and the threshold for intervention</li> <li>Monitor quality assurance of multi-agency working to ensure standards of services continue to improve outcomes for children</li> </ul>	<p>April 2018</p> <p>Annual and rolling Training programme. Audit programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of assessments, informed by tools such as the homes check and Graded Care Profile</li> <li>Children's exposure to neglect and it's impact will reduce</li> <li>Families will understand expectations of care and what needs to change</li> <li>Plans for children will be informed by robust assessment, shared goals and appropriate support</li> </ul>
4	Neglect will be seen as an across all services issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide joint training with adult services</li> <li>Clear communication pathways between adult services and children's services</li> <li>Learning from Serious Case Reviews and Practice Learning Reviews will be disseminated to all front-line staff to inform their practice on messages learnt.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's and adults needs will be met to reduce Neglect</li> <li>Reduced number of re-referrals for Neglect</li> </ul>



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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**SUBJECT:** Business Planning 2018 -19

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the proposed priorities for the Children, Young People and Families elements of the council's single Business Plan to Members for approval.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board**

- i. Notes the contents of the report; and**
- ii. Approves the priorities for the Children, Young People and Families elements of the council's single Business Plan.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### Business Plan Development

3.1 Since 2015 a single Business Plan has been developed for the local authority as a whole. This plan has focused on the key medium term issues rather than providing extensive narrative of every area of work of the local authority.

3.2 To ensure that the Local Authority is producing a Business Plan that enables the Local Authority to meet the priorities identified within the Corporate Plan, the information from each Directorate will be set out under the Council's priority headings;

- Children & Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills
- A Safer Halton
- A Healthy Halton
- Environment and Regeneration
- Corporate Effectiveness and Efficiency

- 3.3 Objectives and performance measures identified within the Single Business Plan will continue to form the basis of Directorate and PPB priority based quarterly monitoring reports, along with any key developments or emerging issues identified within the relevant reporting quarter.
- 3.4 Each Directorate is compiling their contribution to the council's Single Business Plan and is seeking approval for their priorities from their respective PPB. The information will then be compiled into a single Business Plan which will be presented to Executive Board in March 2018.
- 3.5 Our vision for children and young people is set out in our Children and Young People's Plan 2018- 2021:

"Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, ready to be Halton's present and Halton's future."

- 3.6 To deliver our vision during the business planning process last year we identified 5 key priorities that we need to address to make progress. It is crucial we continue the work we have started on each of these priorities in 2018/2019. The proposed priorities for 2018/2019 are, therefore, as follows:
- Keeping Children and Young People safe by improving practice.
  - Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective multi-agency early intervention.
  - Improve progress and attainment across all key stages and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers.
  - Raise Achievement in Early Years.
  - Improve the offer for children and young people with SEND.
  - Improve participation and skills for young people to drive Halton's future.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Business Planning continues to form a key part of the Council's policy framework and reflects known and anticipated legislative changes and other policy developments that impact upon the work of each directorate.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Arrangements for the provision of Quarterly Monitoring Reports to Management Team, SLTs and Elected Members would continue and would provide demonstrable assurance that information is being used routinely to support the decision making and scrutiny functions of the Council.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

- 6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national, are linked to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities. By organising the Business Planning information under each of the council priority headings, it is much clearer what impact policy changes are having on the council's ability to deliver real change and the difference that directorates are able to make to those priority areas.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The development of a Business Plan will allow the authority to both align its activities to the delivery of organisational and partnership priorities and to provide information to stakeholders as to the work of the Council over the coming year.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 Directorate Business Plans, and the determination of service objectives, are considered in the context of the Council's equality and diversity agenda.

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

There are no relevant background documents to this report.



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

**DATE:** 29 January 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Enterprise, Community & Resources

**SUBJECT:** Performance Management Reports for Quarter 2 of 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 second quarter period 01 July 2017 to 30 September 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 second 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**

9.1 Not applicable

## Children and Young People Priority Based PPB Report

**Reporting Period:** Quarter 2, 01 July 2017 – 30 September 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 Speech and Language (AMc)

Halton Borough Council and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have taken the opportunity to jointly commission Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy Services so that they are delivered by a single organisation to all children and young people in Halton with communication needs. The Council and the CCG will share responsibility for all parts of the service and for children and young people's outcomes. Services will include delivery of high quality, evidence based provision and specialist assessment and intervention for children and young people with needs at all levels, provided in schools, nurseries and other education settings, in clinic and a range of community venues.

The organisation awarded the contract is ChatterBug Ltd, a social enterprise that also provides speech and language therapy services in other local authority areas. The new service started 1 September 2017. Staff from previously commissioned organisations have transferred to ChatterBug via the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations and so wherever possible children and young people will continue to receive services from the same speech therapist. The new service will operate from bases in both Runcorn and Widnes.

#### 2.2 Categorisation Letter (AMc)

In September 2017 each Headteacher and Chair of Governors in Halton received a categorisation letter. The categorisation process uses a variety of information to decide upon the differentiated level of support and challenge, provided as a universal offer to schools, by our School Improvement Advisors. The purpose is to provide a rigorous, objective and transparent categorisation process which will help to inform school self-evaluation. The change to the process reflects the requirements within the Common Inspection Framework (August 2016) to take account of:

- *The overall consistency in performance, trends of improvement or decline, and differences between groups.*
  - *The accuracy of the schools assessment of pupils' progress and attainment.*
- (School Inspection Handbook, August 2016, p23, paragraph 78)

### 2.3 School Funding 2018-19 (AMc)

In July 2017 the government confirmed the introduction of the national funding formula (NFF) for schools. It also announced the new arrangements for funding high needs provision. There will be a two year transitional period with increased funding across the two years, before full implementation of the NFF in 2020-21.

The Secretary of State announced that there will be a 0.5% increase per pupil in primary and secondary schools and that a minimum per pupil funding level would be introduced at £3,300 for primary pupils in 2018-19 and £4,600 for secondary pupils. There is to be a further 0.5% per pupil increase for 2019-20 while the minimum per pupil funding level would be increased to £3,500 for primary pupils and £4,800 for secondary pupils.

The Minimum funding guarantee remains in place although local authorities have the flexibility of setting at between 0% and -1.5%. More funding will be allocated to schools on the basis of deprivation and low prior attainment but the lump sum allocated will be reduced.

The indicative school allocations were released by the Department for Education in early October 2017. These show the difference between the current allocation a school receives and that they would receive under transitional NFF or full NFF. This information showed that some of Halton's smaller primary schools and Halton's secondary schools would not be allocated sufficient funding to meet their increased costs. Representation was made to the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb MP, however he did not agree to make any changes.

## 3.0 Emerging Issues

### 3.1 Horizon scanning/National drivers

#### Capital for SEN (AMc)

In August 2017, the Department for Education announced Special Provision Capital Funding for local authorities to invest in the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities aged 0-25 to improve the quality and range of provision available to the local authority. The funding is for a range of provision types where this benefits children and young people with education, health and care plans (EHCP) between 0-25 years old.

The total funding allocation across all local authorities is £215m and Halton's allocation of a three year period is £500,000 (three payments of £166,666 each year if approved). Officers are reviewing current provision and identifying areas of potential need. Once this review has been undertaken the local authority will be consulting with parents, carers, schools, colleges and other institutions which offer special educational provision. From this the local authority will determine how best to invest the capital funding over the three year period to maximise the benefit of provision. The local authority is then required to complete and submit a plan to the Department of Education and publish the plan on the Council's Local Offer page by 14 March 2018, with continued updates in March 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Council's Executive Board will consider any capital expenditure proposals in a report in Spring 2018.

#### Children and Social Work Act 2017 (TC & AMc)

Consultation is now underway on the relevant sections of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. One consultation is on the expanded role of the Virtual School Head and additional

duties for schools for children previously in care. Another consultation is on the statutory principles for local authorities and partners to follow as Corporate Parents, and the extension of duties to care leavers up to the age of 25 (currently 21), which may have resource and financial implications to the local authority.

### 3.2 Halton Specific

#### Preventing Exclusion (AMc)

In 2015-16 there were 25 permanent exclusions of Halton pupils. In 2016-17 this figure rose to 53 permanent exclusions of Halton pupils.

2015-16		2016-17	
Key Stage	Reasons for Exclusion	Key Stage	Reasons for Exclusion
KS2 = 4	Weapon related = 1	KS2 = 5	Weapon related = 6
KS3 = 8	Drug related = 2	KS3 = 27	Drug related = 6
KS4 = 13	Assault = 7	KS4 = 22	Assault = 7
	Behaviour = 15		Behaviour = 34

These figures show that there is a concerning increase in the number of exclusions taking place in Halton, with verbal abuse and persistent behaviour being the predominant reasons. Proportionally we have much higher levels of permanent exclusions than many other boroughs.

The majority of these children and young people have Social and Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties as defined by the SEND Code of Practice (paras 6.32).

*Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or attachment disorder.*

Halton have devised a new protocol for schools to use where pupils are identified with challenging behaviour. The protocol will:

- Support schools to carry out the “Assess, Plan, Do, Review” cycle of the SEND Code of Practice for children with SEMH. (Paras 6.45 – 6.54)
- Underpin the partnership work between schools and Halton local authority to ensure that there is good discipline in schools, as it is agreed that this is essential in ensuring that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education (Exclusions guidance September 2017 page 6)
- Support schools in the early identification of unmet needs of children and young people and remove barriers to engagement and learning (Exclusions guidance Point 19)
- Support schools to promote positive mental health by supporting them to use best practice as outlined in the advice document ‘Mental Health and behaviour in schools’.
- Ensure that schools have a robust, clear and evidence based approach to the identification of and response to SEN (SEN COP Parag 6.14).

- Ensure that everyone fulfils their responsibilities and is accountable in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEMH and in sustaining them in mainstream provision, if this is assessed as being appropriate by multi-agency professionals.
- Ensure that there is no drift in providing advice, support and, where robustly evidenced and assessed as appropriate, additional resources in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEMH.
- Ensure that resources across schools and the local authority are being used to create an inclusive ethos for all Halton pupils.
- Identify any critical urgent issues as they are emerging in order to utilise the combined resources of schools and the local authority to address these and remove barriers.

#### 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	96 hours		
PED01 02	Reduce the number of young people who repeatedly run away in Halton (SCS SH04)	156	115	83		
PED01 03	Monitor the number of young people going missing in the year	395	N/A	229		
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	24		
PED01 05	Reduce the number of children subject of fixed term exclusions	244 instances 181 children	270	61 instances 48 children (July – Sept)		
PED01 06	Reduce the rate of permanent exclusions	0.046 %	0.035 %	0.033% 6 children		
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	650	705		
PED01 08	Monitor the rate of referrals to Children’s Social Care per 10,000 0-18 year olds	368	N/A	349		
PED01 09	Reduce the number of children and young people who enter the care system	97	70	40		

Supporting commentary:

PED01 01, 02 and 03: During the quarter there have been 113 individuals reported as missing, and this is a slight decrease on the number of individuals in quarter 1. With regard to repeat individuals there are 38 individuals responsible for 155 instances of missing.





PED01 04: The numbers have remained stable, and multi-agency meetings ensure that there is effective and pro-active action to support those at risk of CSE.

PED01 05 and 06: Data for this quarter includes the summer holidays. During the last academic year there was a significant increase in exclusion activity. Please see the emerging issue section above for new protocol for schools and the local authority.

PED01 07: CAF data shows an increase in those involved in CAF during the year to date.

PED01 08: Whilst there was a reduction in referrals in quarter 2 from quarter 1, the rate remains stable for the end of year forecast.

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)	
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.

PED01b & PED01e: Early Intervention managers participate in a monthly performance challenge meeting with Divisional Managers, Children's Social Care managers, and the Operational Director which monitors trends and performance.

PED01c: We are focussing on strengthening partnerships including attending a range of multi-agency forums and exploring colocation within partner sites. We attended an interview as part of an expression of interest process to request continued support from Making Every Adult Matter and involvement in a complex adults piece of research. Adults performance have agreed to support internal performance reporting.








### 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	69%		
PED02 02	Increase the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in writing at KS2	65.9%	N/A	72%		
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	56%		
PED02 05	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for reading	-0.32	N/A	-0.05		
PED02 06	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for writing	-1.47	N/A	-0.48		
PED02 07	Increase the average key stage 1 to 2 progress score for maths	-0.51	N/A	-0.41		
PED02 08	Increase the percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 (SCS CYP16)	Refer below				

Supporting commentary:

All attainment data provided is provisional unvalidated data only.

PED02 08: Analysis of individual children in care is available from the Virtual Head Teacher. Positive outcomes overall are reported.

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 has been undertaken. See Key Developments section above for detail.

PED02b: Comment to follow in Q3.

PED02c: High level performance data on schools performance has been shared with primary and secondary head teachers and the Education Strategic Partnership Board.











PED02d: Unvalidated KS2 outcomes were shared with Children and Young People's PPB in September 2017. A more detailed information analysis will be provided in January 2018.

PED02e: The Children in Care and Care Strategy has been drafted with each agency identifying key areas of development and support over and above their statutory duties. This is now being finalised ready for publication and sign off by the CIC Partnership Board and the Children's Trust. The strategy will run from 2017-19.

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 have been sent their categorisation letter in September. Please see the Key Developments section above.

### 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	47%	20%	49%		
PED03 03	Increase the take up of Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds	93%	92%	98%		
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%	97%		
PED03 05	Reduce the good level of development attainment gap for disadvantaged children and their parents at EYFS	24%	19%	Not available		





Supporting commentary:

All attainment data provided is provisional unvalidated data only.

PED03 03: There is a more encouraging picture for take up of Early Years Entitlement at this point.

Additional measure information around the take up of 2 year olds shows that target of 497 from DfE has been exceeded with 544 in Halton.

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

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).	
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. The new strategy and parents' guide has been completed and will be issued to all partners in November.

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	109		
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: In the recent Triage meetings with schools they are requested to submit their data on the progress of all those having additional funding from the High Needs budget. We will be exacting in our new procedures to challenge use of budget on progress evidence towards longer term outcomes.



PED04b: This is ongoing. There is an additional budget of £50,000 from DfE to spend on specialist resource over the next 3 years. Data research has been organised to look at the presenting and predicted needs of children in order to focus our development priorities.

PED04c: See Emerging Issues section above.

PED04d: Analysis of the POET Survey 2017 shows increased satisfaction with Halton's services and processes for both Children and young people and their families. In some cases the data shows Halton exceeding the national average. A full analysis of the survey will be reported to SEND Strategic Board in November.

**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%	Refer comment		
PED05 02	Reduce the percentage of 16-17 year olds whose activity is not known	0.8%	0.8%	Refer comment		
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	54.4%	54.4%	Awaited		

	achieving a Level 3 qualification					
PED05 05	Monitor the percentage of young people progressing to Higher Education (SCS CYP13)	28%	28%	Awaited		
<p>Supporting commentary:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PED05 01 and 02: Data not reported at this point due to the timing of the start of the academic year not aligning with the reporting quarters. From 1<sup>st</sup> September every young person Post 16 becomes NEET as their previous placement expires and until confirmation has been received of them starting a new academic year they remain NEET.</p>						
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Milestones</b>					<b>Quarterly Progress</b>
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).					
<p>Supporting commentary:</p> <p>PED05a: The previous 14-19 Commissioning Statement document format has been revised to better meet the needs of the 14-19 team and Strategic Analysis and Work Priorities. The document has been ratified by Senior Leadership Team and shared with the Halton Association of Secondary Headteachers.</p> <p>PED05b: Monitoring framework has been written in draft form so it can be linked to School Improvement Strategy when revised.</p>						

## 7.0 Financial Summary

## 7.1 EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PROVISION

**Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2017**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Employees	5,970	2,923	2,936	(13)
Premises	112	31	31	0
Supplies & Services	2,624	1,056	1,003	53
Transport	5	1	0	1
Schools Transport	926	233	371	(138)
Commissioned Services	2,678	890	890	0
Agency Related Expenditure	1,595	752	745	7
Independent School Fees	2,463	1,036	1,036	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	175	1	1	0
Pupil Premium Grant	83	43	43	0
Nursery Education Payments	5,129	3,120	3,120	0
Special Education Needs Contingency	91	45	45	0
Capital Finance	150	118	118	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>22,001</b>	<b>10,249</b>	<b>10,339</b>	<b>(90)</b>
<i>Income</i>				
Fees & Charges	-301	-295	-291	(4)
Government Grants	-639	-582	-582	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-933	-411	-411	0
Schools SLA Income	-181	-168	-166	(2)
Transfer to/from Reserves	-587	-487	-487	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-13,052	0	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	15	15	0
Rent	-104	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-16,375</b>	<b>-1,928</b>	<b>-1,922</b>	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>5,626</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>(96)</b>
<i>Recharges</i>				
Central Support Services Costs	1,770	836	836	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-79	-39	-39	0
Premises Support Costs	226	113	113	0
Transport Support Costs	209	79	79	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>7,752</b>	<b>9,310</b>	<b>9,406</b>	<b>(96)</b>

**Comments on the above figures**

Supplies and services are currently projected to be under budget. However, this could change within the year as various aspects of these budgets are used for needs led services within the divisions.

Schools Transport is still showing quite a large over spend. This has been the case for the past couple of years, and the figures are based on current projections. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs pupils with transport and there is currently a large demand for this. All efforts are being made to try and identify where efficiencies in the service could be made. The projection for Schools Transport will continue to be monitored and will be updated throughout the year.

Agency Related Expenditure is still showing a projected under spend and again this is subject to change. As mentioned in the Supplies and Services section this is needs led expenditure and this could increase if any more schools require additional support from the LA.

Budget Holders are making every effort to ensure that expenditure is tightly controlled and kept to the minimum. Based on current demand it is forecast the department will have a year-end overspend against available budget in the region of £200k.

#### **Capital Projects as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Capital Expenditure	2017/18 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Asset Management Data	5	1	1	4
Capital Repairs	815	322	322	493
Asbestos Management	38	8	8	30
Schools Access Initiative	55	0	0	55
Basic Needs Projects	396	0	0	396
School Modernisation Projects	68	47	47	21
Lunts Heath	200	91	91	109
Universal Infant School Meals	2	2	2	0
Early Education for 2yr Olds	8	8	8	0
Hale Primary	3	2	2	1
Fairfield Primary School	655	670	670	-15
Weston Point Primary	128	100	100	28
Kitchen Gas Safety	50	0	0	50
Small Capital Works	106	15	15	91
The Bridge School vocational centre	360	0	0	360
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>2,889</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,623</b>

#### **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 and Summer holidays. Remaining works are planned to be completed before financial year end.

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

Work has commenced on Lunts Heath classroom extension and this is expected to be completed by the end of October 2017.

School modernisation project works have been completed. The final invoice is expected soon.

Hale Primary classroom extension, Early education for 2 year olds and Universal School Meals projects are complete.

Fairfield Primary construction work to the infants and junior schools and MUGA pitch are now complete. Works have commenced to enhance the grass playing field. Overspend on this project is expected to be funded from underspends on other projects within the Education Capital programme.

Weston Point classroom extension works commenced May 2017 and will be completed by the end of October 2017.

A feasibility study has been carried out at The Bridge School vocational centre. Work is expected to commence prior to the financial year end.

## 7.2 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

**Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2017**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance to Date (Overspend) £'000
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Employees	8,850	4,136	4,121	15
Premises	264	112	107	5
Supplies and Services	930	424	460	(36)
Transport	6	3	43	(40)
Direct Payments/Individual Budgets	228	133	274	(141)
Commissioned Services	277	108	94	14
Out of Borough Residential Placements	3,706	1,500	2,978	(1,478)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	57	57	0
Out of Borough Fostering	612	145	1,034	(889)
In House Adoption	215	87	154	(67)
Special Guardianship	1,092	572	718	(146)
In House Foster Carer Payments	1,829	802	802	0
Care Leavers	164	86	74	12
Family Support	53	31	33	(2)
Emergency Duty Team	89	0	0	0
Contracted Services	4	2	2	0
Capital Finance	6	0	0	0
Early Years	97	28	109	(81)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,502</b>	<b>8,226</b>	<b>11,060</b>	<b>(2,834)</b>
<i>Income</i>				
Adoption Placements	-45	-11	0	(11)
Fees and Charges	-15	-6	-5	(1)
Sales Income	-26	-26	-26	0
Rents	-97	-24	-24	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-47	-24	-24	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-345	-237	-235	(2)
Government Grants	-67	-67	-67	0
Transfer from Reserves	-93	-93	-93	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-735</b>	<b>-488</b>	<b>-474</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>10,586</b>	<b>(2,848)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>				
Premises Support	374	191	191	0
Transport Support	47	21	21	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,215	1,092	1,092	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>20,403</b>	<b>9,042</b>	<b>11,890</b>	<b>(2,848)</b>

**Comments on the above figures**

The net departmental expenditure is £2.85m above budget profile at the end of the second quarter of the financial year, most of which directly relates to social care services.

Expenditure relating to employee costs is £15,000 below budget profile at the end of the second quarter. This is due to some vacancies not being backfilled whilst the recruitment process takes place and the use of agency staff reducing significantly compared to the first half of the last financial year. This has resulted in a reduction in agency costs from £258,480 in the first half of 2016/17 to £88,282 in the first half of this financial year.

Supplies and Services expenditure is above expected budget to date. Every effort is made to keep controllable costs to a minimum and managers carefully monitor this expenditure, making sure that only essential goods and services are purchased. Included within supplies and services are court costs of £79,886, which are £43k over budget at the end of the second quarter. These costs are difficult to control as they are dependent upon the outcome of court cases and they will continue to be a budget pressure.

Transport related expenditure is also above anticipated budget at the end of the second quarter. This is due to increased demand around the service. Contracts will need to be carefully monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to make sure that they are for essential journeys only.

Expenditure relating to Direct Payments/Individual Budgets is over budget profile. This is due to demand continuing to grow in this area and the children coming into the service with additional levels of complex needs is increasing. Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) is robustly carrying out continuing healthcare assessments, which has resulted in the number of joint funded packages of care reducing. All packages of care need to continue to 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. The anticipated outturn forecast for 2017/18 is estimated to be £2,852,000 over budget. In quarter two an additional eight children entered the service at a cost of £741,263 to the end of the financial year, one child's costs increased by £81,479 to the end of the financial year and one child moved to a foster placement reducing costs by £102,475. One child also left the service reducing annual costs by £176,144. There continues to be 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. These figures are 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 outturn forecast for 2017/18 is estimated to be £1,785,000 over budget. This has increased from £1,620,000 at the end of quarter one. This increase directly relates to the number of children who have come into the service from the beginning of July to the end of September. Nine additional children have entered the service in quarter two at a cost of £249,467 and three placements ended in the same period reducing costs by £84,722. This resulted in an increase in the costs to the end of the financial year of £164,745. Included in these costs are one group of three siblings whose costs are £88,299 to the end of the financial year and one group of four siblings whose costs are £92,930 to the end of the financial year. Of the packages that have ended one child returned home and two moved into residential placements which are at a much higher weekly cost. 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.

Expenditure relating to In House Adoption is above budget to date. This mainly relates to residence orders and adoption allowances. Residence orders are similar to special guardianship orders, but the carer does not have parental responsibility. At present there are twenty eight children subject to a residence order, at a total cost of £1,966.98 per week. There are fourteen families with a total of twenty five children receiving an adoption allowance at a total cost of £2,254.49 per week. 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.

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.

Special Guardianship Orders expenditure is also over budget profile and will continue to be a budget pressure this financial year. At present there are one hundred and twenty two children subject to a special guardianship order at total cost of £27,255.29 per week. 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 £81,000 over budget at the end of the second quarter. Expenditure relating to employee costs at the two day care centres, Warrington Road Integrated Centre and Ditton Early Years Centre is £10,500 over budget profile as a result of expenditure on agency staff. Halton Borough Council's day care centres offer full cover for 0-5 year olds between 8am to 6pm. However employees are contracted to a 37 hour week, whereas in the private sector it is 40 hours allowing them to cover this 10 hour day without the need for overtime or agency staff. Income to date is below target by £72,000; Warrington Road Integrated Centre £44,000 and Ditton Early Years Centre £25,000 are the main areas 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. Fees had not increased since 2013/14 until a review was carried out and a £1.00 per day increase was implemented at the beginning of the new academic year which started in September. However, if the fees were to increase again to a level at which the day care centres became self-sustaining, they could find it difficult to compete with places offered in the private sector and occupancy levels could fall. Therefore this option would also not be enough to provide 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.

The expected outturn position for the department to 31 March 2018 is anticipated to be circa £5.7m, based on the current levels of children receiving services.






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