

# Public Document Pack



## Executive Board

Thursday, 14 November 2019 2.00 p.m.  
The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

**Chief Executive**

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

#### PART 1

Item	Page No
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	<b>1 - 7</b>
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	
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.	
<b>3. CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO</b>	
<b>(A) FULL COST CLIENTS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>	<b>8 - 22</b>
<b>(B) HALTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT</b>	<b>23 - 84</b>

*Please contact Angela Scott on 0151 511 8670 or  
Angela.scott@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 12 December 2019*

Item	Page No
<b>4. RESOURCES PORTFOLIO</b>	
(A) DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020/21 - KEY DECISION	85 - 88
(B) MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/2023 - KEY DECISION	89 - 113
(C) 2019/20 QUARTER 2 SPENDING	114 - 142
(D) TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT 2019-20	143 - 149
(E) DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF	150 - 153
(F) REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES AND INCORPORATING THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW	154 - 171

***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.***

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 17 October 2019 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, S. Hill, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, M. Osborne and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: Councillor MacManus (Minute EXB 44 refers), Councillor Wall, one member of the public and one member of the press

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

EXB40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB41 HALTON HOUSING TRUST - ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the annual report of Halton Housing Trust, which provided an update on progress in 2019.

A verbal update was provided for the Board by new Chief Executive, Liz Haworth, with Deputy Group Chief Executive, Neil McGrath and new Chair, Clive Deadman from Halton Housing Trust. They reported on progress to date in delivering some key achievements, partnerships and strategic priorities.

It was reported that some of the key organisational achievements, detailed in the report were an additional £6.4m of investment in improvements to homes and neighbourhoods; completion of 32 new homes; achieved

*Action*

96.3% of collectable income; and embarked on a transformational project – ‘Customeyes’ - which would transform services to a pre-emptive approach. In addition, they had continued to actively support and contribute to a wide range of local strategic partnerships across Halton and the wider City Region.

Also noted were the organisational changes to the management structure at the Trust during 2019.

Having dealt with Members’ questions, all were thanked for attending.

RESOLVED: That the progress report be noted.

EXB42 PRACTICALITIES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL).

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which explained the practicalities of implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

At its meeting on 22 March 2019, the Board requested that a report be brought to Members on the practicalities of the Council introducing a CIL. The Board was advised that CIL was introduced by the Government in 2010. Its purpose was to generate additional funds to pay for infrastructure that was required to support new development, to show communities tangible community benefits from accepting new development.

It was reported that CIL permitted planning authorities to impose a charge on new development in their area to raise funds for local infrastructure. Those items of infrastructure permitted to be funded were set out in a pre-determined list, known since September 2019 as an ‘Infrastructure Funding Statement’. A local authority wishing to introduce a CIL had to set out a Charging Schedule which indicated the types of development where a Levy would apply, which would then be mandatory on qualifying developments. It was reported that, unlike Section 106 Agreements which were considered on a site by site basis, a CIL was non-negotiable.

The report set out details of the operation of the CIL and the potential introduction in Halton. It was noted that a Whole Plan Viability Study and review commissioned by Halton was available to view online. The scope for CIL had been reviewed and found not to be viable when all other

policy requirements or asks had been met, which was a priority under Government guidance.

RESOLVED: That, given the information provided, a Community Infrastructure Levy not be introduced at this time but that the matter be reviewed if changes in the Section 106 arrangements or other economic circumstances change.

EXB43 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SPATIAL PLANNING STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of two documents relating to the Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground.

The Board was advised that Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) were introduced in the 2018 update to the National Planning Policy Framework. Local Planning Authorities were to set out an agreed record of strategic matters between authorities together with details of how these matters would be addressed. It was reported that these new documents had to be formally endorsed on behalf of the Council, although they were not directly covered by either the Constitution or by schemes of delegation. It was noted that SoCG's did not take away or diminish the planning powers of the local planning authority; they provided the primary evidence of compliance with the duty to co-operate.

The report sought endorsement of the first two such documents prepared with, or presented by, neighbouring authorities, together with approval for subsequent documents and updates to be authorised by the Operational Director in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground be approved, and there is an agreement to sign the final document on behalf of Halton Borough Council;
  
- 2) Delegate the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, to hold the authoritative powers to agree minor wording changes to the LCR

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

Statement of Common Ground if proposed by the other Liverpool City Region local authorities or the Combined Authority during the approval process; and

- 3) Approve the ongoing delegation of power to the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment to approve further Statements of Common Ground, or revisions to those previously endorsed with appropriate bodies.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB44 SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP - "BETTER JOBS TO MAKE BETTER LIVES"**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the findings of the Scrutiny Topic Group report on "Better Jobs to Make Better Lives".

The Chair of the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, Councillor MacManus, advised Board Members that the Scrutiny Topic Group had considered how and to what extent any jobs created in the Borough were accessible to local people. It was noted that Members had evaluated the services provided by the Council and, identified the opportunities and challenges in delivery.

The report acknowledged the positive work undertaken to support residents into training or employment. It also considered actions already taken and actions that could be implemented to increase the number of residents accessing jobs in the future. The report set out a number of recommendations for Members' consideration.

Councillor MacManus, having dealt with questions from Members, was thanked for his attendance.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approves the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE  
PORTFOLIO**

EXB45 HALTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) CONSTITUTION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the Halton Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Constitution.

The Board was advised that the broad role of a SACRE was to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools. Each local education authority should work with its SACRE to review existing provision and consider if any changes were required to the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools. It was noted that a SACRE comprised of four groups representing Christian denominations, the Church of England, associations representing teachers and the local education authority. The Halton SACRE required a constitution to ensure it operated efficiently and fulfilled its statutory duties.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the Halton SACRE Constitution.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB46 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NHS HALTON  
CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP: JOINT WORKING  
AGREEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, on an extension to a Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At its meeting on 14 March 2019, Executive Board approved an extension of the current JWA to allow for a full review to be undertaken. A further report was considered by the Board on 19 September 2019 following the review and options for future working arrangements. Approval was given for the separation of the Continuing Healthcare and Community Care elements of the pooled budget. It was reported that, during a six month extension, work would be undertaken to ensure that the necessary changes were made to operational systems and processes, such as the financial systems, that supported the joint working arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) a six month extension of the current Joint Working Agreement be approved.

Director of Adult  
Social Services

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB47 HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY - A WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH 2019 - 2025 - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health on the development of Halton's Healthy Weight Strategy (the Strategy).

The Board was advised that the Strategy was Halton's first whole systems approach to addressing healthy weight issues. The approach would enable the identification of the broad and interlinking factors that influenced lifestyle, and to work with new partners to create a health enhancing environment to help find solutions.

It was reported that over the past ten years there had been a huge amount of work to help Halton residents maintain a healthy weight. The Strategy aimed to build on the success of programmes such as the Healthy Child Programme; Healthy Schools Programme; workplace health initiatives; and Sure Start to Late Life. The report set out details of the whole system approach, working in partnership with Leeds Beckett University; the priorities for action; and how success would be measured.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

To provide the Executive Board with the opportunity to comment on the Healthy Weight Strategy.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

There was no alternative option considered. The option of not having a Healthy Weight Strategy would not be in the interests of the population.

#### Implementation Date

November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

## **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB48 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on progress against key milestones/objectives for the first quarter of 2019/20.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and outward accountability.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 22 October 2019**

**CALL-IN: 29 October 2019 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 October 2019.**

*Meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.*

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director, People
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children, Education and Social Care
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Full Cost Clients in Residential Care
<b>WARD(S)</b>	Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Executive Board with information about the Council's current practice in relation to people who are placed in residential care as a full cost client, particularly the level of support that is provided by the Council.

1.2 The report also presents Executive Board with the option of ceasing this support (bringing Halton in line with most other local authority areas) or continuing to provide support but with a number of improvements to practice in order to mitigate the risks for the Council.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves implementation of the suggested practice improvements outlined at paragraph 3.6.

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 Background

3.1.1 A task and finish group has been established to look at current practice in relation to self-funders and consider whether any adjustments need to be made in light of the following:

- Legal Challenge – the Council has received a legal challenge from Care England, which has been prompted by HC One, raising concerns regarding the Council's fee rates and the Council's policy regarding self-funders, particularly the level of assistance provided to such persons by the Council. Although the challenge acknowledges that the Council is able to arrange care as per the Care Act, it alleges that the Council is providing financial assistance to self-funders by negotiating more favourable rates on their behalf. The Council is responding to this

challenge from a legal perspective on the basis that the Council is operating in line with the Care Act and there is no legislative provision that prevents the Council from supporting self-funders in this manner.

- Internal Audit – a recent report suggests looking at whether improvements could be made to the processes that are in place in relation to full cost clients (when the Council contracts with a provider on behalf of a self-funder, they are referred to as a full cost client).

3.1.2 The task and finish group requires that Executive Board make a decision regarding the future provision of support to self-funders. In order to assist, this report provides information on the Council's obligations under the Care Act, a summary of current practice in Halton, information on practice in other areas and an overview of the local and national context.

3.1.3 After considering that information, Executive Board are asked to decide whether the Council should continue to provide the current enhanced level of support to self-funders. If it wishes to do so, there are some suggested improvements that should be implemented in order to minimise the risks to the Council.

## **3.2 Obligations under the Care Act**

3.2.1 The Care Act stipulates that a person with assets above the upper capital limit is deemed as able to afford the full cost of their care; they are referred to as a self-funder. Local authorities are under no obligation to meet the care needs of a person if they:

- Have savings above the government's upper capital limit (currently £23,250); or
- Own property valued at more than the upper capital limit (unless it meets the criteria that would allow the property to be disregarded as part of the financial assessment).

3.2.2 Local authorities identify those people who are required to self-fund by either by carrying out a high level financial assessment or, where the person chooses not to disclose their finances.

3.2.3 Local authorities advise self-funders to contact them if their savings drop below the capital threshold, at which point the local authority will take over the funding.

3.2.4 With regards to self-funders, section 8.13 of the Care Act states:

*“A person with more in capital than the upper capital limit can ask the local authority to arrange their care and support for them. Where the person's needs are to be met by care in a care home the local authority may choose to meet those needs and arrange the care, but*

*it is not required to do so.”*

- 3.2.5 In addition, paragraphs 41-42 of Annex A of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance state the following in respect of self-funders who ask the local authority to arrange their care:

*“The Care Act 2014 enables a person who can afford to pay for their own care and support in full to ask the local authority to arrange their care on their behalf....*

*In supporting self-funders to arrange care, the local authority may choose to enter into a contract with the preferred provider, or may broker the contract on behalf of the person. Where the local authority is arranging and managing the contract with the provider, it should ensure that there are clear arrangements in place as to how the costs will be met, including any ‘top-up’ element.”*

### **3.3 Practice in Halton**

- 3.3.1 Halton’s policy is to commission services for anyone who meets the needs criteria, regardless of their financial circumstances. The contract is between the Council and the care home provider at the Council’s contracted rate. The Council invoices the client (known as a ‘full cost client’) for payment but ultimately the Council is responsible for the payments to the providers.

- 3.3.2 The number of full cost clients in Halton has risen significantly over the years. In 2010, full cost residential clients accounted for 16% of all placements (106 of the total 678 clients). By 2018 the percentage of full cost clients had risen to 33% (230 out of a total of 688 clients). Overall, full cost clients account for 25% of people invoiced by the Council.

- 3.3.3 The Council’s rate is generally lower than the rate that a self-funder would be charged if they arranged and paid for their own care directly with the provider (with no involvement from the Council). Please see appendices 1 and 2 for more information on the Council’s rates and rates for those who are self-funding directly with care home providers. The Council’s residential weekly rate is £438.79 compared to a rate of over £700 for a number of local care homes. For nursing care, some local providers charge private funders around £1,000 per week compared to the Council rate of £479.93 for nursing and £546.67 for nursing EMI placements.

### **3.4 Practice in other areas**

- 3.4.1 With regards to self-funders accessing the Council’s contracted rate, it has only been possible to able identify one other local authority (in Devon) that operates in the same way as Halton.

- 3.4.2 Limited information has been forthcoming from neighbouring

authorities with regards to their policy on self-funders. All of those that have shared information have confirmed that they have no involvement in arranging or paying for the care of self-funders (it is expected that this is the case in the most areas). Please see appendix 3 for more detailed responses from the North West finance leads.

### **3.5 National and Local Context**

3.5.1 Halton, much like other areas across the country, has an ageing population with increasingly complex needs. This means that more people than ever before are likely to require social care support in the form of a care home placement. Sustained reductions in funding from central government to local authorities has a knock-on effect on the care home sector. Taken together, these issues result in financial pressure for the care home sector.

3.5.2 A report by Age UK [‘Behind the headlines: ‘stuck in the middle’ – self –funders in care homes’](#) (September 2016) picks up on the issue of how self-funders are being adversely affected by the cost pressures faced by care homes:

*“As State funded care and support fail to keep pace with rising demand, growing numbers of older people who can no longer live at home and who need to move into a care home are having to pay their own way. It is well established that these so-called ‘self-funders’ pay more than a local authority would if it was funding an identical care home placement...The reason, of course, is that in many areas councils use their buying power as block purchasers to drive down the prices they pay. The outcome, however, is that self-funders are effectively subsidising the State.”*

3.5.3 The Age UK report provides a series of case studies based on calls to their advice line, which demonstrate that self-funding older people and their loved ones can face unfair contract terms and additional charges. The report states *“as these case studies suggest, older people who pay for their own care are vulnerable to being required to fill the growing funding gap as providers – perhaps small scale operators especially – struggle to keep their businesses going.”*

3.5.4 Whilst it is acknowledged that there are wider pressures on the care home sector as a whole (which is a national issue that requires action from Government), it is not fair for self-funders to bear the brunt and ‘pay over the odds’.

3.5.5 As a result, practice in Halton has always been to contract with providers on behalf of self-funders, therefore offering them additional support and protection in relation to their care home placement.

3.5.6 It is important to consider the local context when thinking about self-funders; in general, those deemed to be self-funders in Halton are

not wealthy people with high-value properties / substantial savings or pension income. Instead, they are people who may have a moderate amount of life savings and/or a comparatively low value home.

3.5.7 Self-funders in Halton are therefore generally not able to afford a placement in a care home providing a high quality, enhanced level of service costing £1,000 per week plus. It therefore seems appropriate to enable such people to access the local care home sector at the same rate as those who are assessed as eligible for having their care funded by the Council.

3.5.8 The Council recognises the pressures faced by care homes and will continue to support the local care home sector to ensure sustainability and quality of care. There are 25 registered care homes in Halton operated by 14 different providers. There is a total of 760 beds. Following the recent purchase of two homes, the total number of Council owned/run homes is now four. Halton performs above the sub-regional average for the percentage of care homes rated good/outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. There are no inadequate homes in Halton.

### **3.6 Options for changes to current practice**

3.6.1 Going forward, the Council has the following options, which Executive Board are asked to comment and advise on:

- i) The Council could simply choose to no longer become involved in arranging or paying for the care of self-funders. Once someone is financially assessed to be a self-funder (or they opt to self-fund because they don't want to undergo a financial assessment), they would need to arrange their own care and pay the provider directly (which may be at a higher rate than the Council's contracted rate). In line with the Care Act, the Council could still offer to broker the service but the contract would be between the self-funder and the care provider (at the provider's usually higher rate not the Council's contracted rate).
- ii) The Council could continue to support self-funders (by arranging and paying for their care and then invoicing them) alongside implementation of the following changes to strengthen practice and minimise the financial risks to the Council:
  - Cease contracting on behalf of those who fail to clarify their financial position. It could be explained that if financial circumstances cannot be clarified, the person will need to arrange their care directly with a provider and pay the provider's rate;
  - Cease contracting on behalf of self-funders opting for a placement outside of the borough;
  - A separate Understanding Adult Social Care Charges

Form (previously the 'Agreement to Pay' form) could be developed for self-funders, which could include the proviso that if the client or their representative does not pay invoices from the Council for a specified time period, the Council will cease making payments to the provider and the client or their representative will then need to pay the provider directly (the contract will then need to be between the client and the provider);

- Take a more pro-active approach to escalating issues to the Department for Work & Pensions (in the case of appointees who appear to not be acting in the best interests of the person whose benefit income they manage) and the Office of the Public Guardian (in the case of attorneys/deputies who appear to be misusing money or making decisions that are not in the best interests of the person they are responsible for);
- It is permissible for the Council to charge interest on the care fees whilst awaiting the outcome of an application to the Court of Protection for deputyship (when their family member lacks capacity). This practice is employed in another local authority area and it seems to encourage families to drive forward the application more promptly.

### **3.7 The case for continuing to support self-funders**

3.7.1 The preferred option identified by the task and finish group is option 2; to continue providing support to self-funders but improve processes as described.

3.7.2 The rationale for this is that it enables the Council to continue supporting vulnerable people in line with its duties under the Care Act and avoids the potential creation of a two tier system whereby two people could be paying entirely different rates within the same care home for the same level of service (i.e. those who are placed by the Council and those who are privately placed).

3.7.3 An options appraisal matrix is included at appendix 4 outlining the main risk and benefits associated with either ceasing or continuing to provide support to self-funders.

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The options presented above represent a change compared to existing practice, which will need to be fully considered and planned before implementation once Executive Board have advised on the preferred course of action.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Improving practice in relation to full cost clients will ensure that the Council is able to continue protecting the most vulnerable members of the local community by enabling them to access the local care home sector at a suitable rate, whilst also ensuring that the invoices raised by the Council in relation to such placements are paid promptly.

5.2 There are financial implications associated with the staff resource required to support full cost clients. Care Management staff resource is required in terms of needs assessment and review and Income & Assessment staff resource is required in terms of financial assessment and processing payments etc.

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

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The provision of residential care is an essential part of ensuring that those who are unable to continue living in their own home are able to live in a safe environment with their care and support needs being met.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

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

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Please see the options appraisal at appendix 4, which outlines the risks and benefits associated with the options described at 3.6.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.

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

None.

**Appendix 1: Halton Borough Council and Halton CCG (CHC) Residential and Nursing Home Price Rates 2019/20**

**RESIDENTIAL & NURSING HOME PRICE RATES 2019 / 20**

**Price Rates effective from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

<b>Rates per week</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Residential Dementia</b>	<b>Nursing</b>	<b>Nursing EMI</b>
<b>HBC</b>	<b>£438.79</b>	<b>£528.37</b>	<b>£479.93 + FNC*</b>	<b>£546.67 + FNC*</b>
<b>CHC</b>			<b>£645.49</b>	<b>£712.23</b>

**\* Excludes FNC Standard Rate of £ 165.56 per week (effective from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019)**

## Appendix 2: Care Home Private Funder Information

Care Home Name	Bed capacity	Voids	Number of Private Funders	Number of Private Funders on waiting list	Private Rates
Bankfield	6	0	0	0	LA Rate
Beechcroft	66	14	2	0	Nursing £924 + FNC Nursing Respite £1018 Nursing Dementia £963 + FNC Nursing Dementia respite £1057 Residential £751 Residential respite £835 Residential Dementia £780
Bredon Respite Service	4	0	0	0	LA rate
Croftwood	47	3	0	0	£570
Edward Street	6				
Ferndale Court	58	16	0	0	Nursing £924 + FNC Nursing respite £1018 Nursing Dementia £963 + FNC Nursing Dementia respite £1057 Residential £751 Residential respite £835 Residential Dementia £780

Care Home Name	Bed capacity	Voids	Number of Private Funders	Number of Private Funders on waiting list	Private Rates
Ferndale Mews	34	3	1	0	Nursing £924 + FNC Respite £1018 Nursing Dementia £963 + FNC Nursing Dementia respite £1057 Residential £751 Residential respite £835 Residential Dementia £780
Glenwood	12	3	0	0	LA Rate
Halton View Care Home	64	34	1	2	Residential £x Residential Dementia £760
Holmdale	6	2	0	0	LA rate
Madeline McKenna	23	0			
Maeres House	8	0	1	0	Unknown
Millbrow	44	1			
Norton Lodge	32	1	1	0	Owner will clarify
Ryan Care Residential	15	1	4	4	Residential £503.79 Residential Dementia £593.37
Simonsfield	63	5	4	0	Residential £740 Residential Dementia £819
Smithy Forge	6	0	0	0	LA rate
St Lukes Nursing Home	56	0			

Care Home Name	Bed capacity	Voids	Number of Private Funders	Number of Private Funders on waiting list	Private Rates
St Patrick's Nursing Home	40	0	0	0	£836 + FNC
Trewan House	44	0	12	0	Low dependency £615 Medium dependency £650 High dependency £685
Warrington Road	12				
Wide Cove	8	0	0	0	LA rate
Widnes Hall	68	0	29	0	£730
Woodcrofts	19	5	0	0	LA rate
<b>Total</b>	741	88	55	6	
		11.88%	8.42%		

### Appendix 3: Responses from other local authorities re involvement with self-funders

Question	St Helens	Blackburn with Darwen	Cheshire East	Bury	Liverpool
1. <b>What assistance do you offer to residential self-funders?</b>	Social Workers issue the approved list of care homes if they are involved in the care assessment, however no involvement by the council after that point.	None	None	None	None
2. <b>If self-funders ask you to arrange their care do you insist that they then pay the home direct to avoid issues around recovery? If not, do you have any stipulations at the point of the initial set up around consequences of non-payment?</b>	We don't arrange care for self-funders	Self-funders pay the home directly.	No, I think we inform them that we could stop paying the provider and that they would then need to deal directly with the home.	Don't know, never been asked.	No cases ever considered this way.
3. <b>Do you get self-funders to sign an agreement of any kind?</b>	No	No, but the provider will require an agreement between themselves and the service user.	No	No	Don't have any cases that have needed this.

Question	St Helens	Blackburn with Darwen	Cheshire East	Bury	Liverpool
4. <b>Do you have many self-funders applying for a Deferred Payment loan to cover the initial 12 weeks?</b>	None	None	No, very few ever	None	Only had 1 case since scheme started in 2015.
5. <b>Do you offer any loan arrangement outside of the DPA?</b>	No	No	No	No	No cases ever considered this way.
6. <b>Do you have any particular issues with self-funders?</b>	No, we only become involved when capital drops below the threshold.	None	Only that we have a lot in Cheshire East, which means that we struggle for reasonably priced beds. In many cases the market would prefer to keep beds empty than offer to us at a lower price as they can charge so much more to wait for a private client.	Only those self-funders who are awaiting Deputyship for access to funds.	We have enquiries around the rates of charges (LCC funded or self-funded) but nothing else.

## Appendix 4: Options Appraisal

Option	Benefits	Risks
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Council does not support self-funders in any way</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No risk of the Council accruing debt as it is not liable for payments to the provider</li> <li>• No risk of legal challenge to the Council</li> <li>• Halton's practice would align with practice in most other local authority areas</li> <li>• Increased income for providers</li> <li>• HBC in-house care homes could increase charges for self-funders</li> <li>• The Council could still act as a 'broker' if required</li> <li>• Individuals can choose their preferred care home, regardless of the Council's rates</li> <li>• Reduced requirement on staff resources (finance and social work teams)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable individuals / their family members would need to arrange their own care home placement at the provider rate</li> <li>• The client pays more for the same care, which could result in their finances falling below the threshold earlier at which point the Council would be responsible for funding their care</li> <li>• There would be potential for creation of a two tier system whereby those living in the same home receiving the same service are charged at different rates (Council rate vs. private rate)</li> <li>• The Council would not be aware of the placement so there would be no review process in place, which increases the risk to the individual</li> <li>• If the family does not pay provider fees the ultimate outcome could be to evict the individual (only aware of one case where this was considered; the Council stepped in to prevent it)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Council continues to support self-funders and improves practice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-funders can access local care homes at the Council's contracted rate and would not have to pay the higher rate charged by providers</li> <li>• Allows the Council to support vulnerable members of the community and ensure full compliance with safeguarding duties</li> <li>• Individuals are supported by a Social Worker, which includes regular reviews to ensure that the care continues to meet their needs</li> <li>• Avoids the creation of a two tier system</li> <li>• Risk of eviction is minimised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal challenge may be pursued by the independent providers</li> <li>• Council is responsible for payments to the provider; potential risk of debt accruing if client does not pay invoices (unless the contract is between the client and the provider but then the client would pay the provider rate and the Council would simply be a broker)</li> </ul>

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	14 November, 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director, People
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Children, Education and Social Care
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Halton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
<b>WARDS:</b>	Borough-wide

## 1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19 to the Board. This report provides a summary of the key actions and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards in the last year.

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

## 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 All Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce an annual report which summarises all of the key achievements and priorities the Safeguarding Adults Board has been working towards over the last twelve months. The report sets out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.
- 3.2 Membership of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) includes senior representatives from key partner agencies including Directors; lead Clinicians and Lead Officers who are responsible for safeguarding adults in Halton. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we work together as a community, to support and safeguard all adults who are most at risk in society.
- 3.3 To achieve this, the Safeguarding Adults Board continues to develop and establish strong partnerships to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are safeguarded and are free from fear; harm; neglect and abuse.
- 3.4 Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board continues to contribute to the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Halton's Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.5 In 2018/19 the focus of HSAB was self-neglect and hoarding, these

were areas that staff across all professions were keen to learn about and improve their practice. This work culminated in the re-launch of the Halton Self-Neglect Panel.

3.6 In the last financial year, Halton also saw a 1.6% decrease in the total number of safeguarding concerns received; 47% of these were subject to Section 42 enquiries, this is a 25% decrease from 2017/18. This decrease has been attributed to issues within and the closure of care homes in the borough in 2017/18.

3.7 The priorities for HSAB for the year ahead are as follows:

- Quality Assurance
- Learning and Professional Development
- Co-production and Engagement

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications identified at this point.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

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

None identified

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

None identified

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Annual Report contributes to the work of Halton's A Healthy Halton priority. The overarching purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help safeguard adults with care and support needs and to ensure the health, care and support needs are met for adults at risk of harm. The Annual report is a public document that enables the work of Safeguarding Adults Board and its member organisations to be scrutinised to help achieve a healthier population within Halton by ensuring resources are targeted, keeping adults most at risk of harm safe and well.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Production and publication of HSAB activities through an Annual Report ensures HSAB remains publicly accountable and responsive to the needs of Halton's population. This reduces potential safeguarding risks and concerns and also positively impacts the health and wellbeing of those adults at most risk of harm. The Annual Report:

- Is compliant with Care Act 2014 statutory duties.
- Concurs with national guidance on 6 principals of safeguarding.
- Has local implications for Halton Borough Council's priorities of a Healthy Halton

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

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

None.

# Halton Safeguarding Adults Board

## Annual Report 2018-2019



### Who are the Partners of the Board?



Halton CCG



National Probation Service



Bridgewater Community Services



Children and Young People Partnership Board



<b>ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS PAGE</b>		
<b>SECTION</b>		<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
	<b>Message from the Chair</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Our vision</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What the statistics for 2018/19 tell us</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Case Study</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Learning from reviews</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Progress against our priorities</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>The year ahead</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Appendix B</b> <b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Board members</b> <b>Partners and contributors</b> <b>Contact details</b>	<b>56</b>

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Independent Chair of Halton Safeguarding Adult Board I am very pleased to present the annual report 2018/19. All Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to publish an annual report and analyse the effectiveness of the work across agencies to safeguard those adults who require additional support and care. I hope you find the report informative and useful.

During 2018/19 Halton saw a slight decrease in the number of safeguarding concerns raised. Older adults (75 plus) remain the largest group to require support with safeguarding and if living at home, can be vulnerable to experiencing neglect or acts of omission.

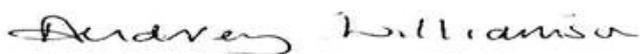
The Integrated Adults Safeguarding Unit remains a key strength in Halton and ensures that there is a prompt and consistent response to safeguarding concerns in the Borough. Work with care homes has also continued, with those homes that required improvement being a priority.

This year the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Forum has focused on self-neglect and hoarding; these are areas that staff across all professions were keen to learn about and improve their practice. This work has culminated in a recent relaunch of the Halton Self-Neglect Panel and the Forum chose to hold our annual event on these subjects. Merseyside Fire and Rescue service were particularly helpful in raising awareness of the potential high risks of hoarding by individuals and gave a very informative presentation.

Partnership working in Halton has continued with support for the Safeguarding Adult Board from the three key agencies, Cheshire Police, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and the Local Authority. In addition, the work of the sub groups have contributed to developing an accurate reflection of safeguarding activity in Halton and to develop and support work in the community. The Faith Sector sub group has been particularly supportive in this work. Safeguarding Adults work in Halton continues to be a key priority, despite the demand on limited resources.

Challenges remain; we still wish to strengthen the voice of those who require services and ensure they influence services and how they are delivered.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked hard this complex area and for the support provided to both the Board and myself over the last twelve months. It has been a very positive year and I'm confident that the commitment and work will continue.



**Audrey Williamson – Independent Chair, Halton Safeguarding Adults Board**

## SECTION 1: OUR VISION

Everyone deserves to live a safe and happy life and we have a duty to care for those people who may need more support to enable them to live a safe and happy life too.

Safeguarding Adults is managed well in Halton and Halton Safeguarding Adults Board has shown a continuous strive for improvement in fulfilling its statutory duties and a dedication to seeking and providing the best possible care and support to protect those members of our community that need it. This report provides a brief summary of the activities for the year 2018/19.

### Definition of adult safeguarding

The Care Act 2014 defines adult safeguarding as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It's about organisations and people working in partnership and everyone taking responsibility for learning about what abuse is and what to do if abuse happens. Safeguarding balances the right to be safe with the right to make informed choices.

### Six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work



<b>EMPOWERMENT</b>	People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. "I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens"
<b>PREVENTION</b>	It is better to take action before harm occurs. "I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help"
<b>PROPORTIONALITY</b>	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. "I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."
<b>PROTECTION</b>	Support and representation for those in greatest need. "I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. "I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they"
<b>PARTNERSHIP</b>	Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. "I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me"

## Halton Safeguarding Adult Board Strategic Aims for 2016-2018



## Duties of Safeguarding Adults Boards

As stated in the Care Act 2014 (chapter 14), the main objective of a Safeguarding Adult Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in it's area who meet the criteria set out; ie. the safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experience of abuse or neglect

The Care Act states that Safeguarding Adults Boards have three core duties:

- Develop and publish a Strategic Plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how member and partner agencies will contribute

- Publish an Annual Report detailing how effective their work has been
- Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews for any cases which meet the criteria

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) membership consists of representatives from each of the following:

- Halton Safeguarding Adults Partnership Forum Chair
- Elected member responsible for adult health and social care



### Accountability and Assurance

The Care Act 2014 states every SAB must send a copy of its report to:

- The Chief Executive and leader of the Local Authority;
- The Local Policing Body;
- The Local Healthwatch;
- The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

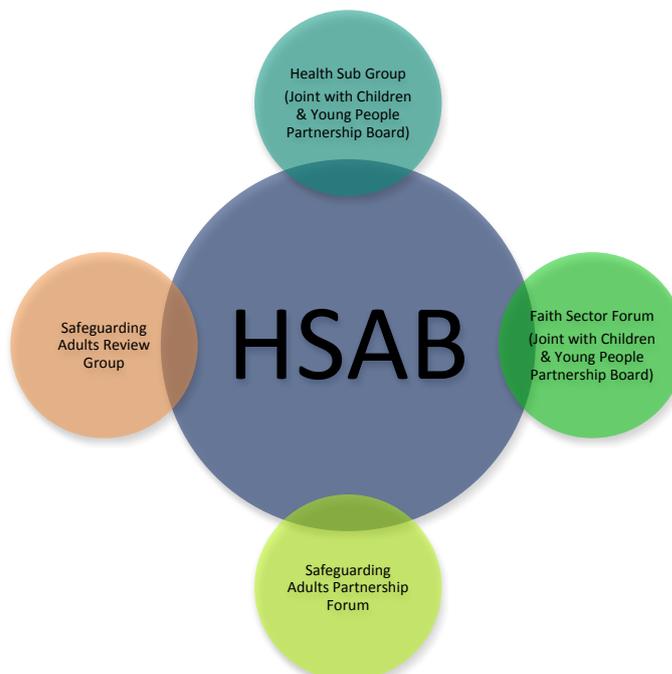
HSAB is also committed to recommendations from Department of Health Care and Support Statutory Guidance (issued under the Care Act 2014) which recommends using: *'Local Health and Wellbeing Boards to provide leadership to the local health and wellbeing system; ensure strong partnership working between local government and the local NHS; and ensure that the needs and views of local communities are represented. HWBs can therefore play a key role in assurance and accountability of SABs and local safeguarding measures'*.

HSAB provides updates including the Annual Report to Halton Health and Wellbeing Board. HSAB communicates with sub-groups, partner groups and forums, service users and wider

population. This year has seen continued growth in partnership building and establishing links across service providers and increased levels of engagement across the borough.

This year also saw the formation of a new subgroup for HSAB, the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) Group. This subgroup will enable HSAB to effectively and efficiently address any referrals for a SAR, ensure timely completion of Reviews, oversee implementation of action plans from recommendations of the Reviews and provide assurance to HSAB that duties and activities have been fulfilled.

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board sub groups are:



HSAB continues to receive data and intelligence from the following partner forums:

- Provider Forums (Care Homes and Supported Living)
- Halton Domestic Abuse Forum
- Safeguarding Champions Network
- Halton Safeguarding Children's Board

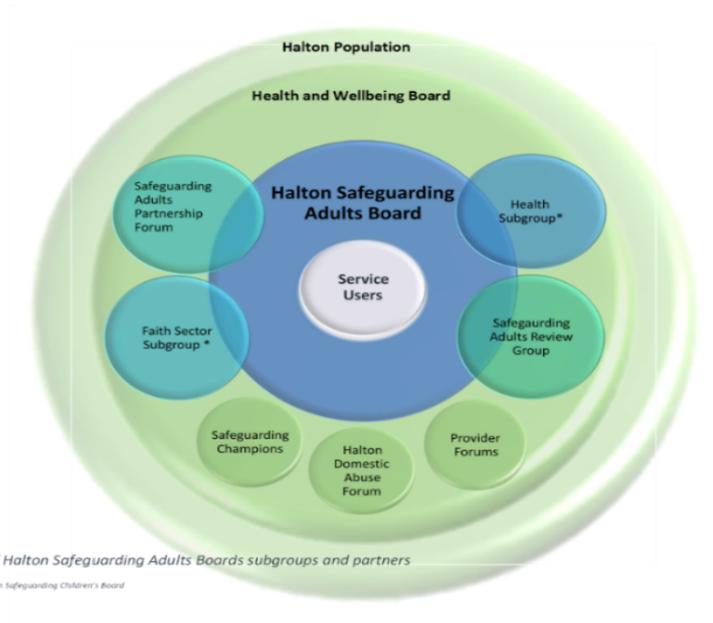


Figure 1: Structure of Halton Safeguarding Adults Boards subgroups and partners

- \*2018 subgroup with Halton Safeguarding Children's Board

## SECTION 2: WHAT THE STATISTICS TELL US

### Personalisation

54 per cent of individuals or their representatives were asked what their desired outcomes were and outcomes expressed

29 per cent were either fully or partially achieved

### Prevention

67 per cent of Frontline Staff have had Safeguarding Training during 2018/19 which is 6 percent higher than last year.

### Protection

There has been a 1.6 per cent decrease in the total number of concerns received. Of the concerns received, 47 per cent of those were dealt with under the section 42 safeguarding criteria; this is a decrease of 25 per cent from 2017/18.

### Partnership

Working with partner agencies, stakeholders to achieve strategic priorities.  
establishment of SAB Sub Groups and key agencies in attendance



## The Safeguarding Adults Collection

The Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) records details about safeguarding activity for adults aged 18 and over in England, reported to, or identified by, Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs or councils). The collection includes demographic information about the adults at risk and details of the incidents that have been alleged.

### Safeguarding concerns and safeguarding enquiries

Safeguarding Concerns (Alerts / Referral) is a sign of suspected abuse or neglect that is reported to the council or identified by the council. The collection captures information about concerns that were raised during the reporting year, that is, the date the concern was raised with the council falls within the reporting year, regardless of the date the incident took place.

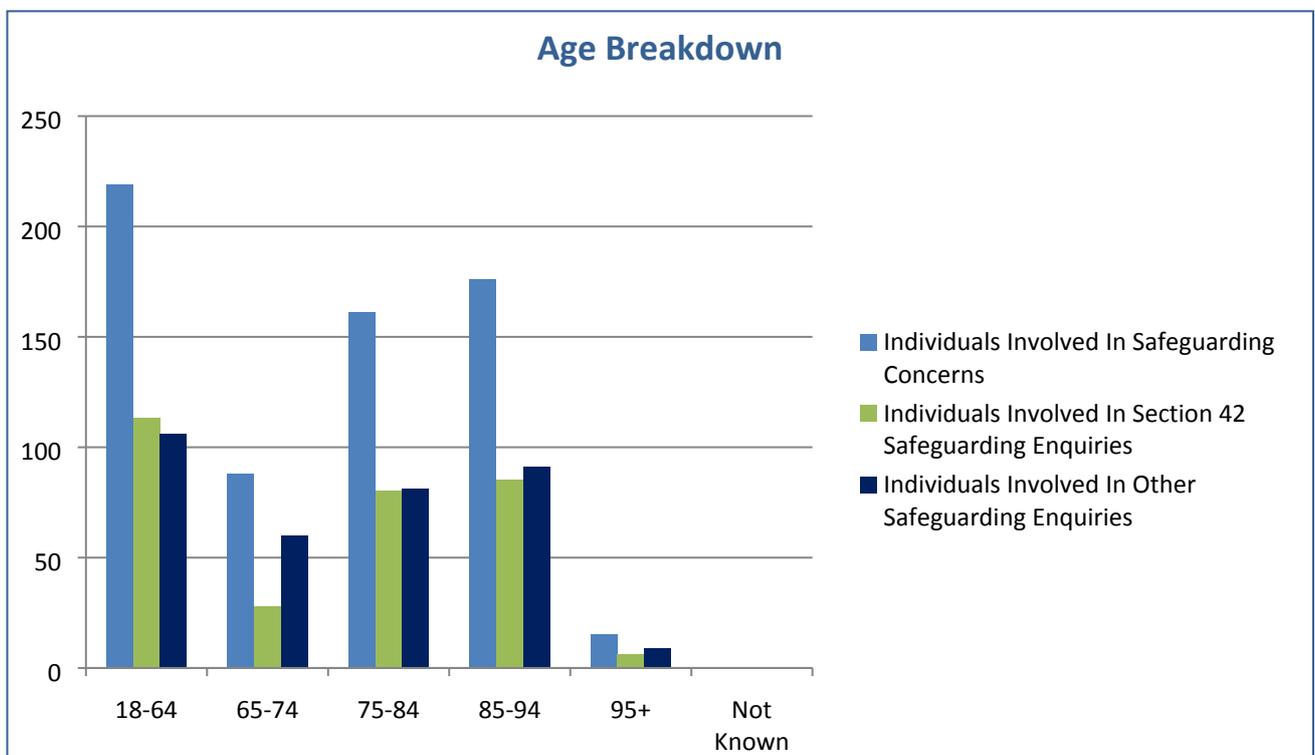
Safeguarding Enquiries (Strategy Discussion / Investigation) is the action taken or instigated by the Local Authority in response to a concern that abuse or neglect may be taking place. An enquiry could range from a conversation with the adult to a more formal multi-agency plan or course of action.

Both Safeguarding Concerns and Safeguarding Enquiries can include cases of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Self-Neglect.

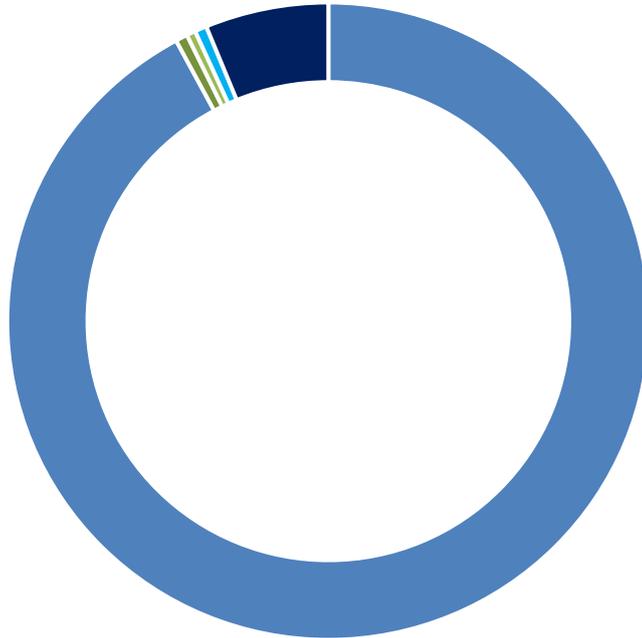
**Profile of adults at risk**



The population of Halton is approximately 127,595 with an adult population of around 99,200 of those 22,800 are aged 65 years and over, almost a quarter of the whole adult population. Halton has an increasingly ageing population with a projected 44% increase of adults aged 65+ by 2036.

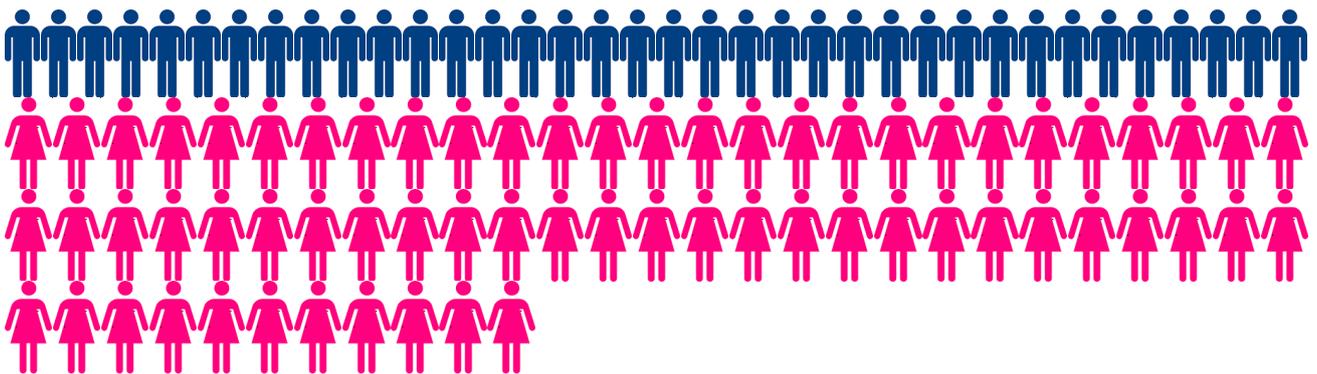


### Ethnicity Breakdown



■ White British ■ Asian/Asian British ■ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British ■ Other Ethnic Group ■ Undeclared/Not Known

### Gender Breakdown



**Mental Capacity** - Completed Safeguarding Enquiries (Section 42)



40% lacked capacity



28% had capacity



32% Unknown

### What does this mean?

There has been a 1.6 per cent decrease in the total number of concerns received. Of the concerns received, 47 per cent of those were dealt with under the section 42 safeguarding criteria; this is a decrease of 25 per cent from 2017/18, this could be attributable to previous issues within and closure of care homes within the area.

### What can we do?

To continue to work closely with provider services and stakeholders to ensure that services continue to get the appropriate support and training.

The Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit will complete the screenings/triage of Safeguarding Alerts to ensure that there is a consistent approach applied to determine when a Safeguarding Alert meets the thresholds for a Section 42 Enquiry.

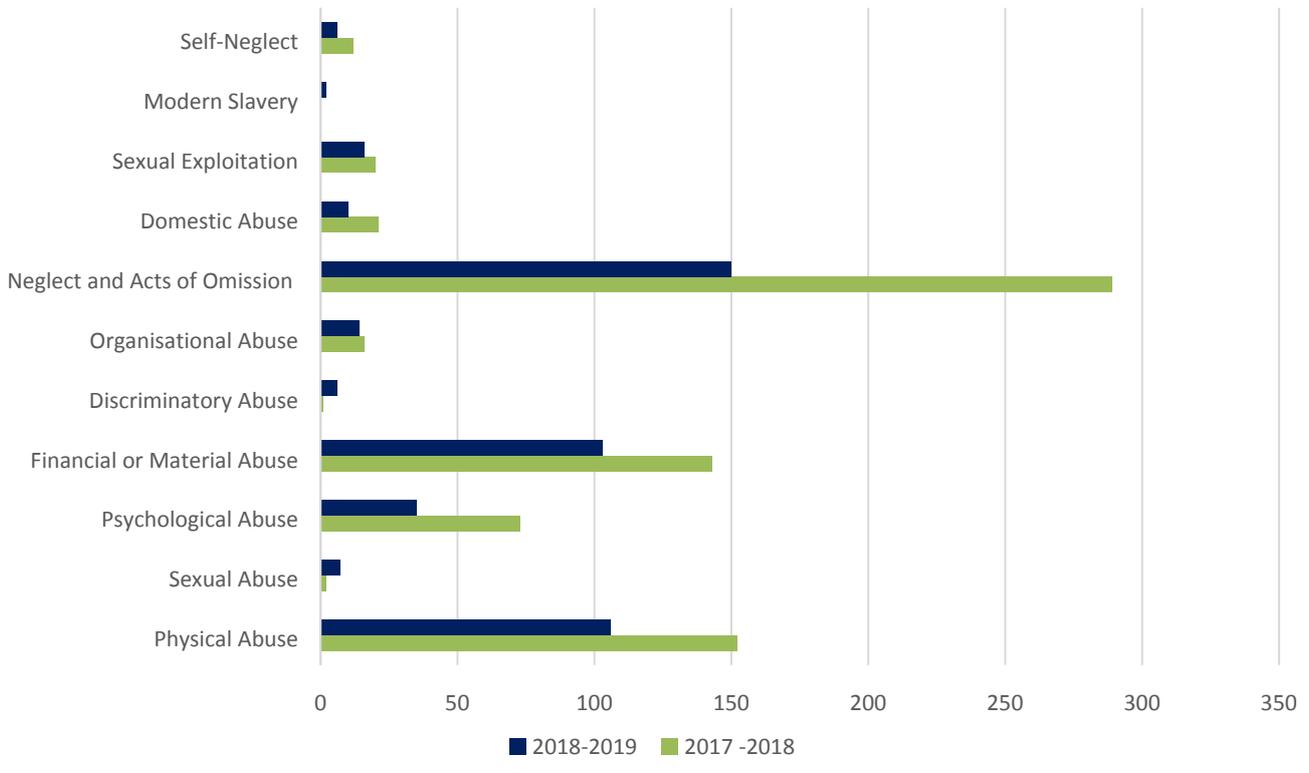
### What has been reported?



Prevalence of section 42 enquiries by type of abuse / location / perpetrator / alerter

In 2018/19, the following summarise the significant changes which have occurred in reported safeguarding alerts in Halton.

### Comparison of section 42 enquiries by type



### Type of Abuse



There has been an increase on 1.2% in **Sexual Abuse**



There has been a 3% increase in **Psychological Abuse**



There has been a 13% decrease in **Neglect and Acts of Omission**



Location of Abuse



There has been a 9% decrease in abuse occurring in a person's own home



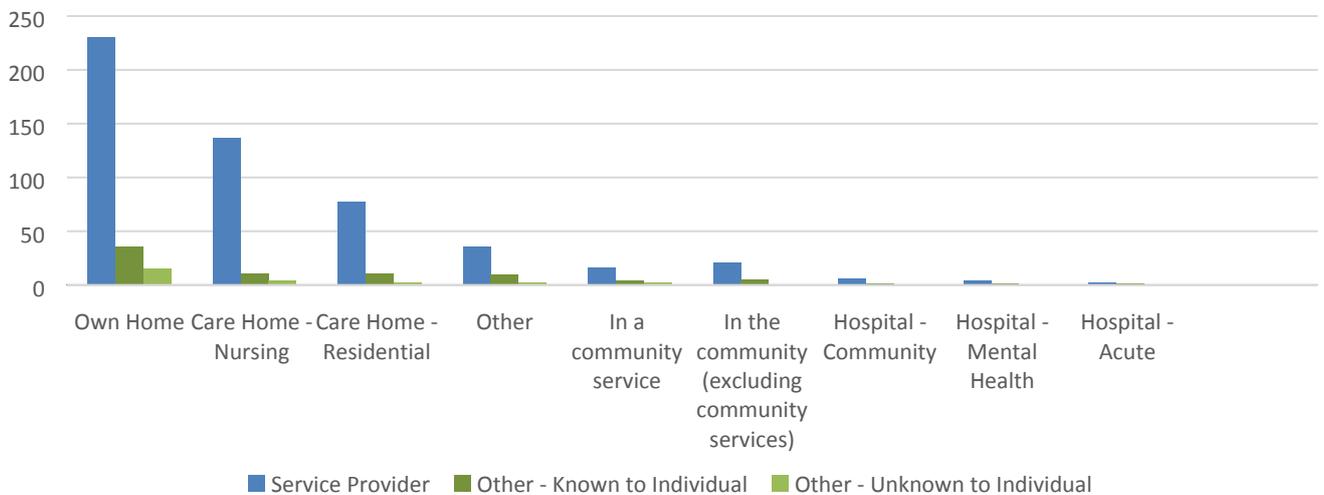
There has been a 15% increase in the number of alerts raised in residential care settings



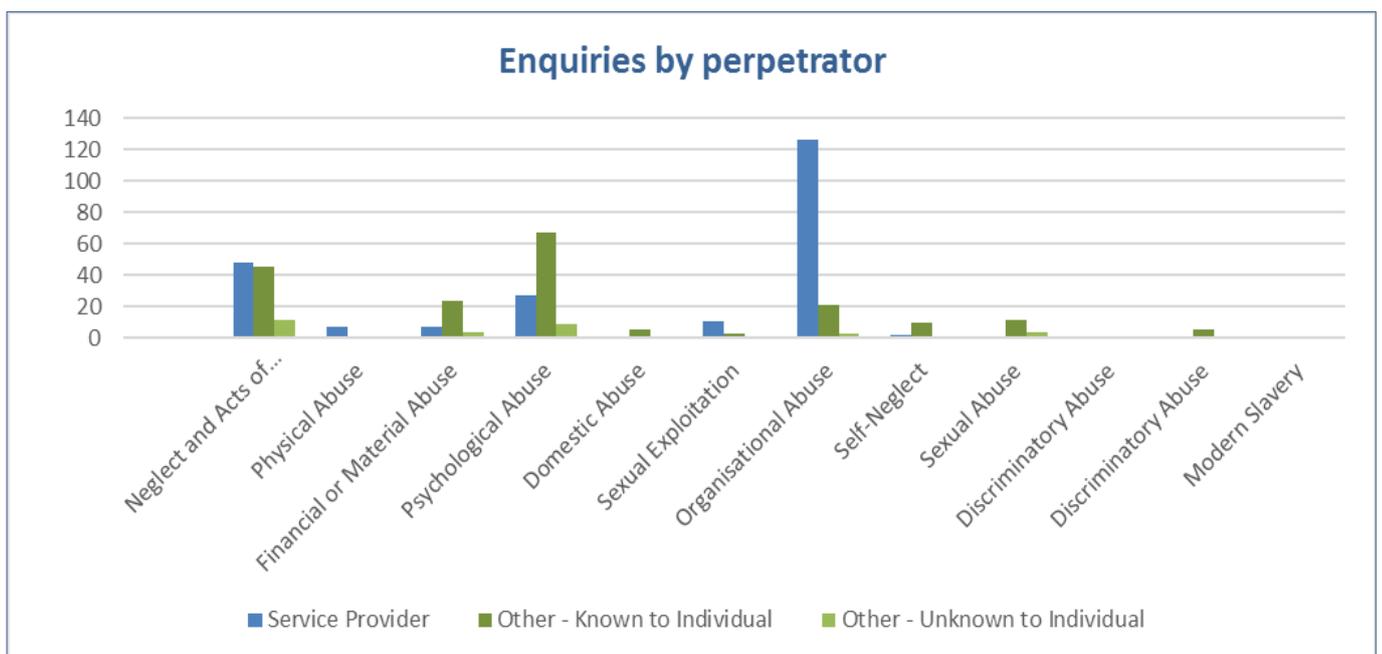
There has been an 8% decrease in the number of abuse alerts occurring within a nursing care setting

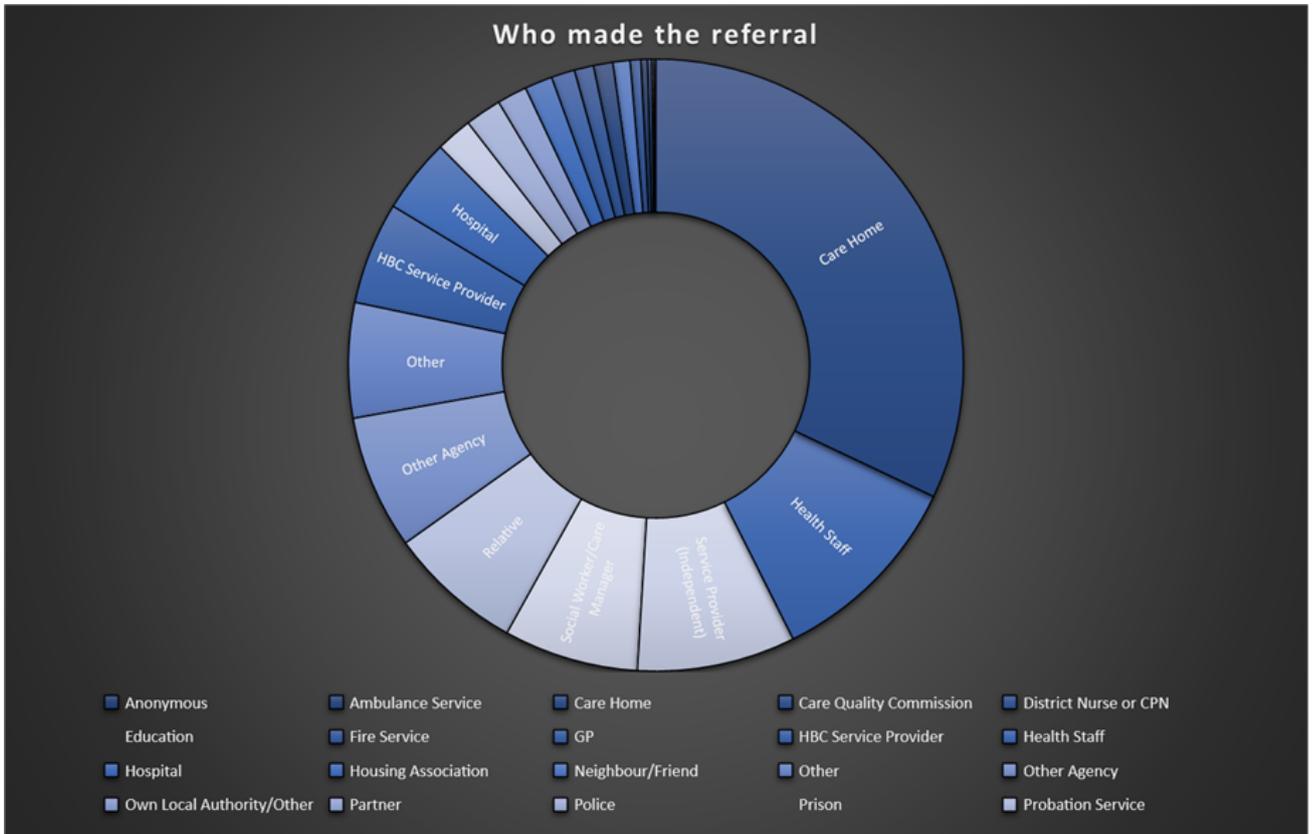


Enquiries by Location & Perpetrator



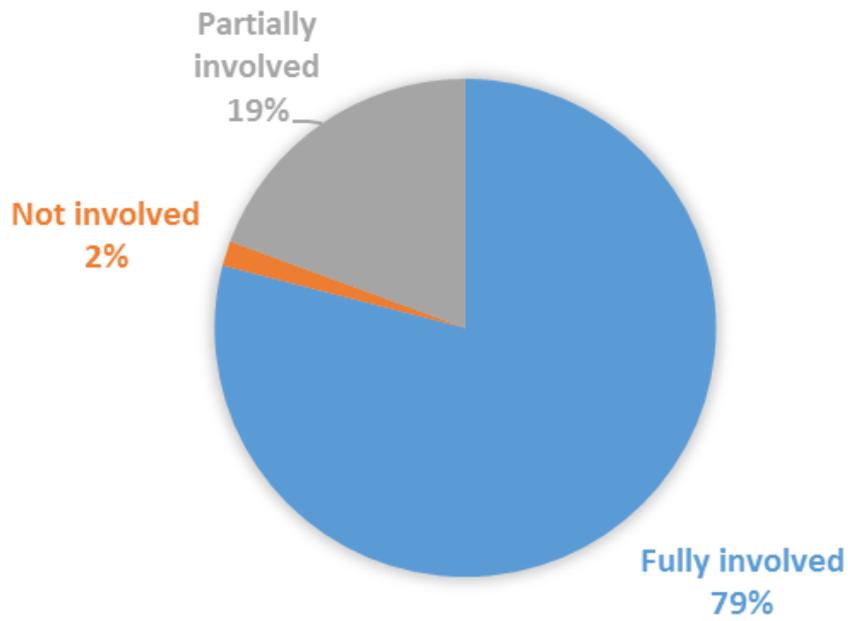
In 2017/18 in Halton, there was a significant increase in the number alerts relating to neglect and acts of omission. This increase was attributed to issues with care homes experienced at that time. This year, we have seen a significant decrease in alerts for neglect and acts of omission, and in alerts occurring within nursing care settings and a person’s own home.



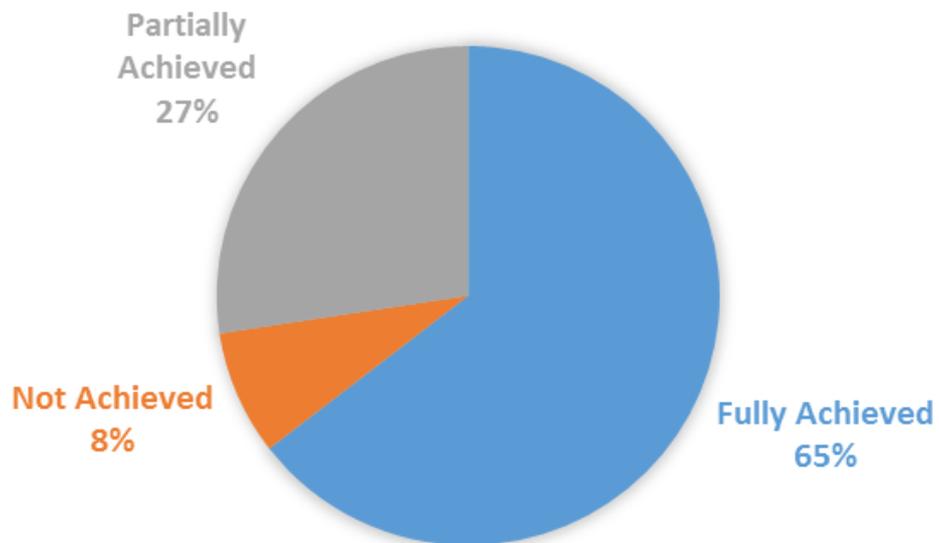


**Making Safeguarding Personal**

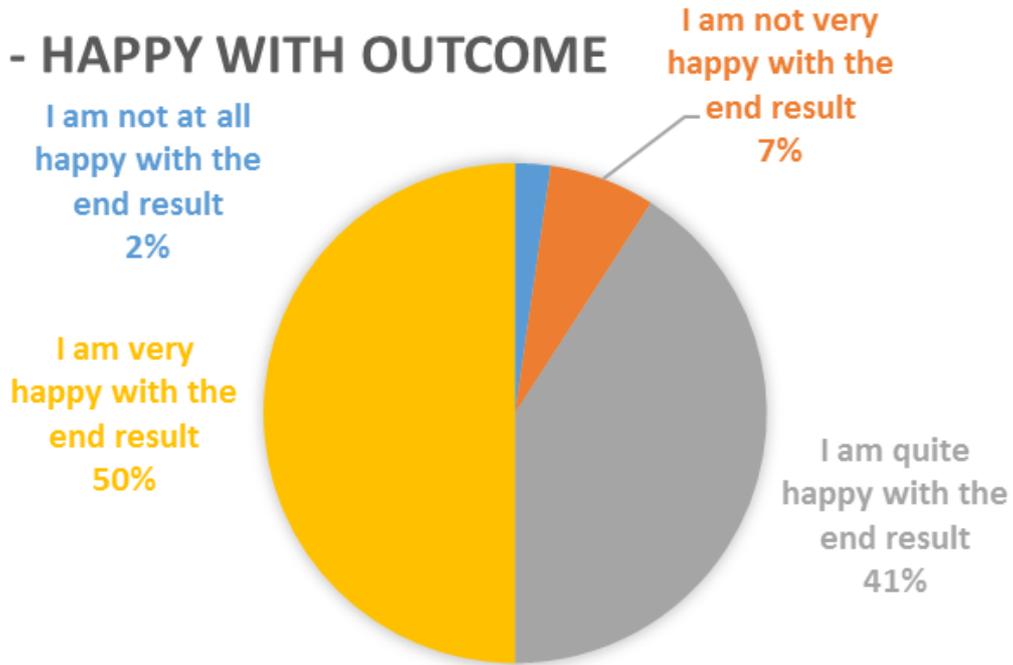
### MSP - INVOLVEMENT



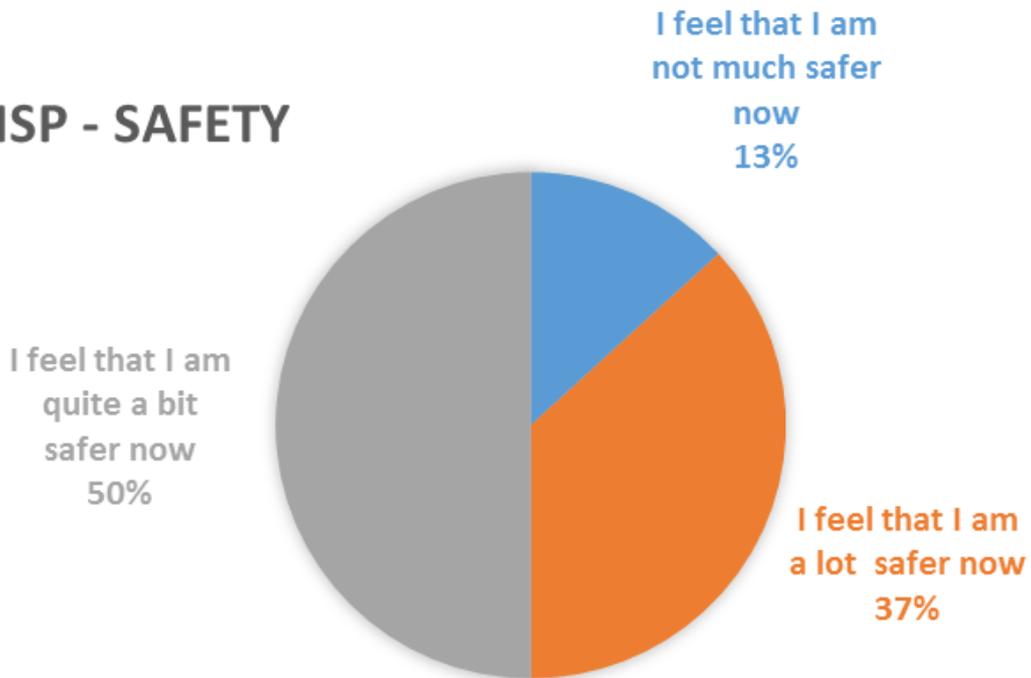
### MSP - OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

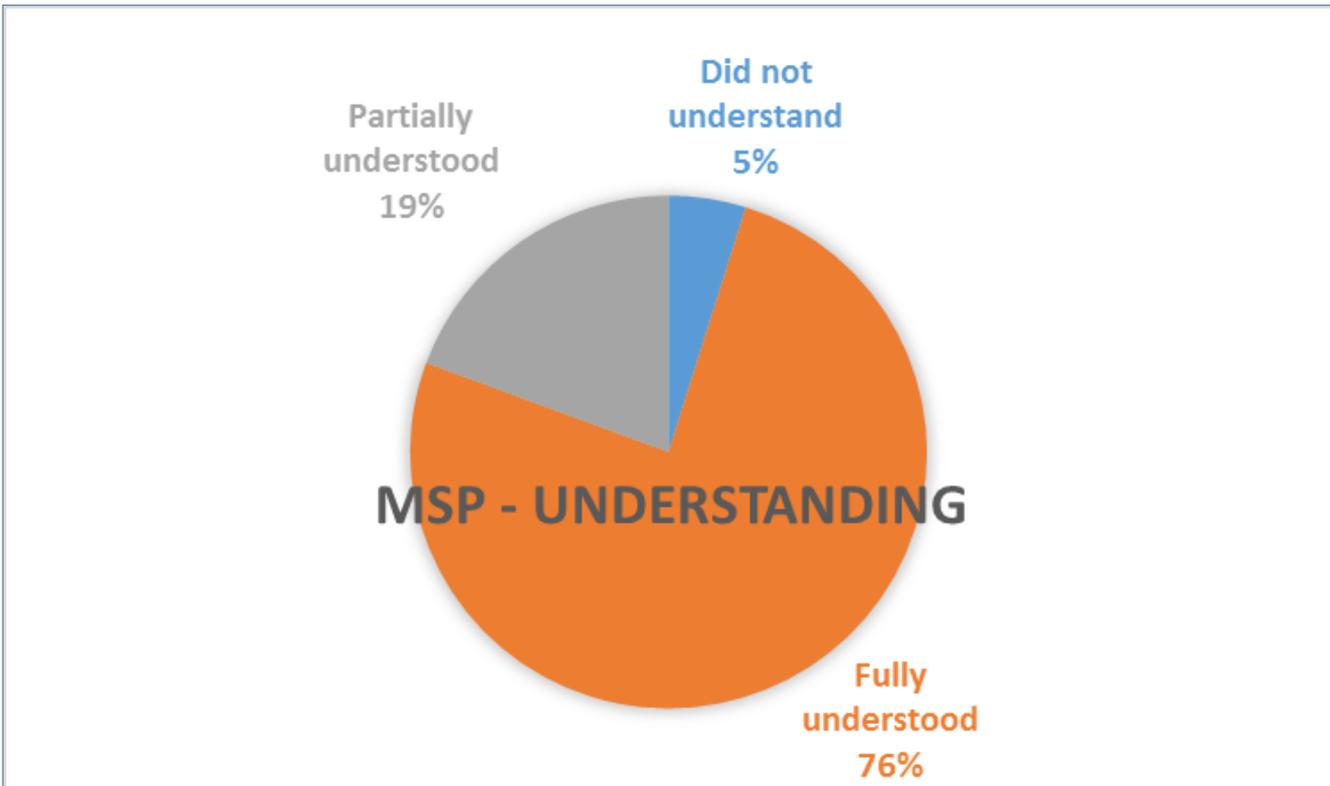
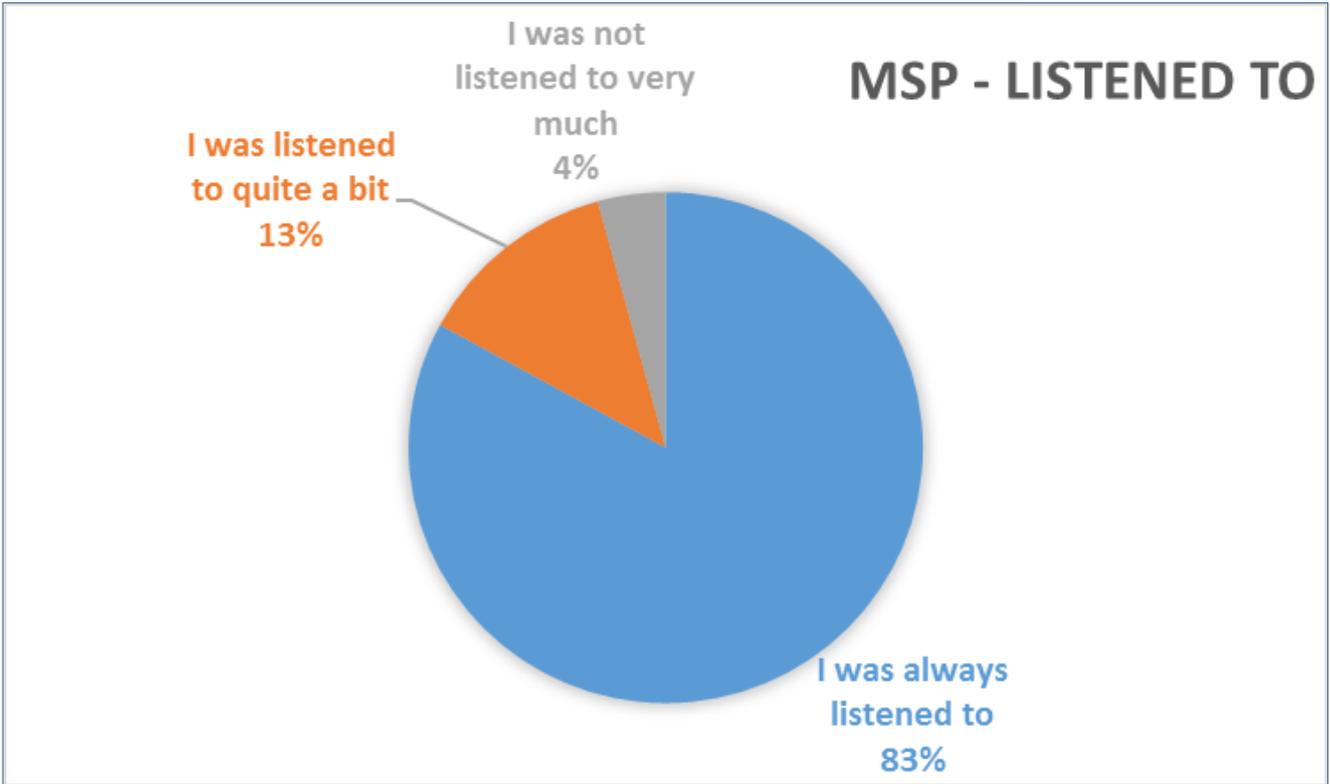


### MSP - HAPPY WITH OUTCOME



### MSP - SAFETY





What does this mean?

**Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)** is embedded within the Care Act 2014 and is an approach to Adult Social Care which aims to develop an outcomes focus to safeguarding work, and a range of responses to support people to improve or resolve their circumstances. It is about engaging with people about the outcomes they want at the beginning and middle of working with them, and then ascertaining the extent to which those outcomes were realised at the end.

MSP seeks to achieve:

- A personalised approach that enables safeguarding to be done with, not to, people
- Practice that focuses on achieving meaningful improvement to people's circumstances rather than just on 'investigation' and 'conclusion'
- An approach that utilises social work skills rather than just 'putting people through a process'
- An approach that enables practitioners, families, teams and SABs to know what difference has been made

During 2018-2019, Halton Adult Social Care piloted a new MSP Framework developed by ADASS, which aimed to measure how Halton were ensuring MSP remained at the heart of Safeguarding interventions.

In terms of **involvement**,

- **79%** of Adults at Risk were fully involved in the process.
- 19% of Adults at Risk were partially involved, with **2%** of Adults at Risk not being involved. This would be for a range of reasons, including lacking capacity, determination in health or involvement would be with a representative either family or advocacy.

In terms of **Outcomes** being achieved,

- **65%** of Adults at Risk had their outcomes fully achieved
- 27% of Adults at Risk had their outcomes partially achieved, with **8%** of Adults at Risk not having their outcomes achieved. An example of why outcomes were not achieved could be due to police led investigations where there is not enough evidence to pursue, or outcomes may not have been achieved through the safeguarding process.

In terms of Adults at Risk being **happy** with their outcomes,

- **91%** of Adults at Risk were happy with their outcomes
- **9%** of Adults at Risk were either not happy or not very happy with their outcomes.

In terms of Adults at Risk feeling **safer** as a result of their enquiry,

- **37%** of Adults at Risk feel a lot safer, following their enquiry
- **50%** of Adults at Risk felt quite a bit safer, whereas **13%** of Adults at Risk feel not much safer as a result of their enquiry. In terms of safeguarding, enquiries can be closed at times where the risk towards the Adults at Risk remains. Examples of

this could be Self Neglect cases, civil matters or if enquiries are not able to substantiate evidence of abuse.

In terms of Adults at Risk feeling **listened to**,

- **96%** of Adults at Risk felt either always listened to, or quite a bit listened to.
- **4%** of Adults at Risk felt they were not listened to much.

In terms of Adults at Risk **understanding** the process,

- **76%** of Adults at Risk fully understood the process
- 19% of Adults at Risk partially understood, whereas **5%** of Adults at Risk did not understand.

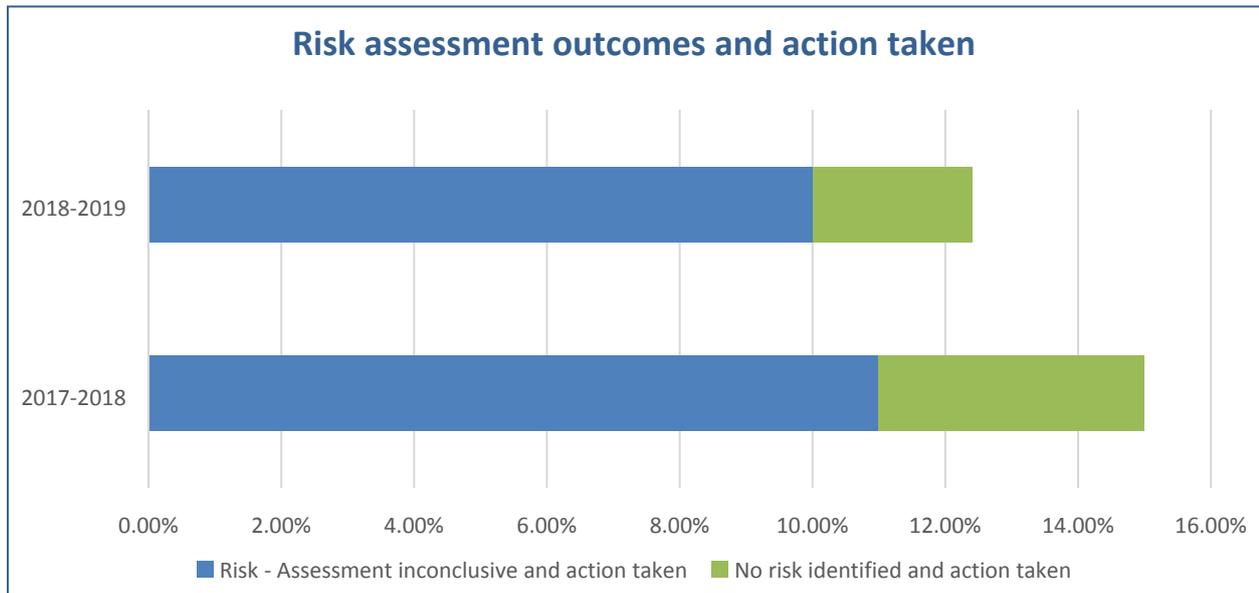
#### What can we do?

Adult Social Care will continue to develop the culture of Making Safeguarding Personal across services. This includes

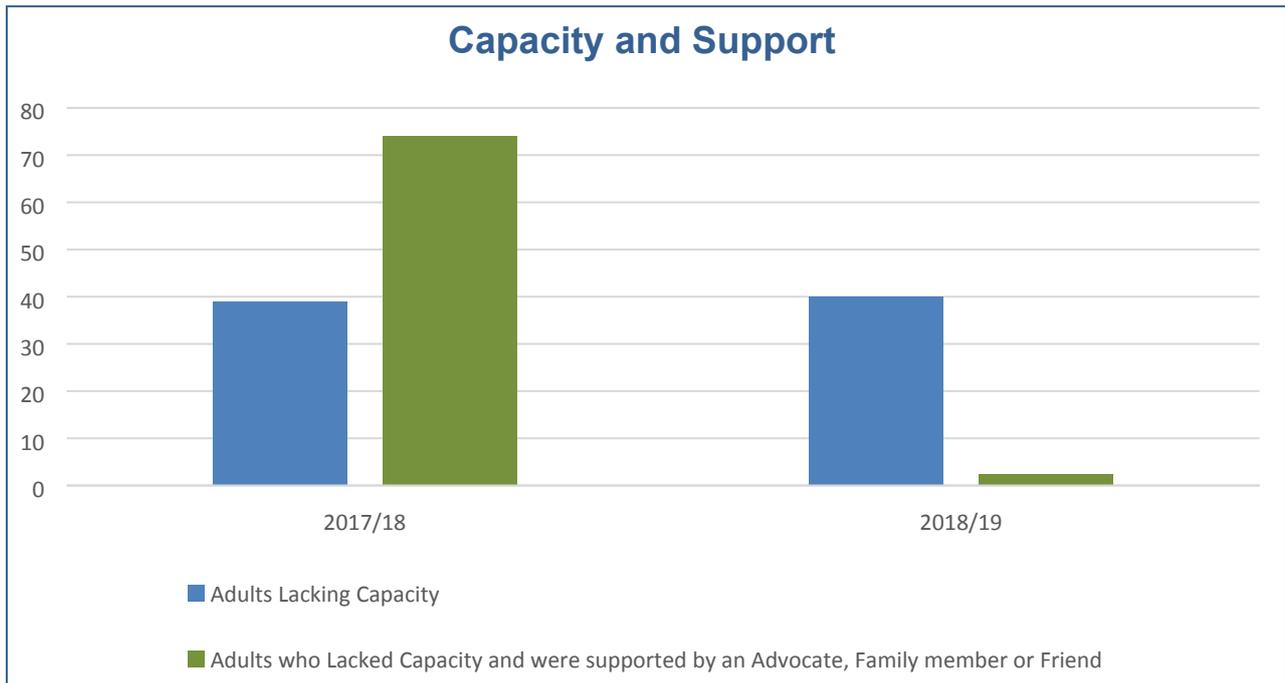
- Continuation of the MSP Practitioner Group Meetings
- Quality Assurance and Audits continue to capture MSP within the framework
- Halton and HSAB training schedules to continue to develop professionals understanding of MSP
- HSAB to ensure that the voice of Adults at Risk are heard and listened to, to further develop practice.



Risk assessment outcomes / mental capacity and advocacy and support



There are clear discrepancies between the figures for 2017/18 and 2018/19, this could be due to



reporting, and this is being investigated by our performance team, who will implement training should this be the case.

**What does this mean?**

The figures above suggest a decline in the number of people who lacked capacity and received support for this, however this could be a reporting issue and is being investigated by our performance team.

**What can we do?**

If this is a reporting issue, our performance team will implement training for all staff involved in completing safeguarding enquiries.

Adult Social Care will continue to develop the culture of Making Safeguarding Personal across services. This includes

- Continuation of the MSP Practitioner Group Meetings
- Quality Assurance and Audits continue to capture MSP within the framework
- Halton and HSAB training schedules to continue to develop professionals understanding of MSP
- HSAB to ensure that the voice of Adults at Risk are heard and listened to, to further develop practice.

## SECTION 3: CASE STUDIES

### Case Study 1

Mrs A. An Older Person living within a 24 hour Residential Setting. Mrs A had physical health problems and needed support to maintain her level of independence.

A Safeguarding Alert was raised by the lady's allocated Social Worker within a care management team, following the identification of a substantial amount of money withdrawn from Mrs A's bank account, it appeared from the care manager that this was by Mrs A's daughter who may have taken the money.

It was considered by the care manager that Mrs A lacked capacity to decide how her funds are managed and she was advised that the referral was going to be made. Mrs A was reluctant for the referral to be made as she was concerned about her daughter being reported to the Police. However, due to the concerns raised, the care manager made a Safeguarding Alert to refer the case to the Police. Consent was gained although this was reluctantly.

In the interim, the bank fraud team put a block on the account so that telephone and internet banking could not be set up. It was arranged so that only Mrs A was able to access any funds from her bank account. All of the advisors in the local branch were to direct Mrs A's Daughter to a designated person if she did try to withdraw funds from her bank account.

A visit was made to Mrs A's to assess her mental capacity in regards to a Police investigation. The visit was a joint visit with social services and the police. It was established that Mrs A did have capacity to decide not have Police involvement.

Mrs A confirmed that she still did not want Police involvement as she didn't want to get anyone in trouble specifically her daughter

### Was Desired Outcome achieved?

Yes the case was closed as per Mrs A's wishes. Various visits were made to the lady to build a rapport. On the final visit the lady confirmed that she still didn't want Police involvement as she didn't want to get anyone in trouble specifically her daughter. It was confirmed with Mrs A that she now felt that her finances were safe, she was pleased with the outcome.

### Impact of our work with the adult at risk

This case evidences Making Safeguarding Personal. The lady acknowledged that her daughter had been taking money from her bank account however she also stated that despite this she is her daughter who she loves. The lady has agreed to measures put in place to ensure her money is safe however she did not want any action taken against her which was respected. The impact was positive. Support was also offered to the daughter, regarding her housing and financial affairs, in an aim to evidence preventative and proportionate approaches to Safeguarding. This case highlighted good multi-disciplinary team working between Adult Social Care, the Bank, the Police and the care provider.

**What does this mean?**

- This case evidences Making Safeguarding Personal and application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, supporting the Adult At Risk to make informed decisions regarding her welfare.
- This case evidences that the rights of the Adult at Risk have been protected and adhered to
- The case highlights that having time to follow and apply Making Safeguarding Personal to Section 42 enquiries can achieve positive outcomes for people
- 

**What can we do?**

- Ensure that Making Safeguarding Personal, updates and case law is discussed at the Provider Forum and Champions Forum
- SAB training schedule for Provider Services is free and will cover Safeguarding Awareness and Making Safeguarding Personal
- IASU will continue to complete Audits/Quality Assurance of Safeguarding cases internally, which aims to provide feedback on good practice and any areas for improvement
- MSP Practitioner Group is established and has attendance from Advanced Practitioners from each team internally, which reviews cases, allows for challenge and reflects on approaches to safeguarding
- SW Matters forum is established and allows for the sharing of good practice
- Safeguarding Training which includes Making Safeguarding Personal is mandatory for Adult Social Care Staff internally
- Halton BC staff are able to access additional resources through Ripfa
- Stakeholders to continue to ensure that Making Safeguarding Personal is at the heart of any approach

## Case Study 2

Mr S is a young man with a physical disability, living in his own home with support from a provider service

A Safeguarding Alert was received from the manager of a domiciliary support agency. Mr S had disclosed that a member of his support team has been providing sexual relief to him for several months, in exchange for additional shifts (as Mr S manages his own rota) takeaway food and expensive gifts. The original alert was quite brief in nature and it was unclear at this stage whether Mr S had consented. There are no concerns around Mr S's ability to make decisions for himself.

On the day that the alert was received by Halton, an Initial visit is carried out to identify desired outcomes. Mr S had consented to the visit. Mr S demonstrated a good understanding of the situation and was happy for safeguarding enquiries to be made, however did not wish for police involvement. The support worker involved is suspended pending further enquiries

Mr S no longer wanted this particular agency to provide his package of support, he has requested a Personal Health Budget (as he is fully Continuing Health Care funded).

Mr S was also worried that the particular support worker may in the future, work with somebody who does not have a full understanding of what may be happening. Even though Mr S knows what is happening is wrong, he feels that he had some control as he is free to disclose.

Upon learning of the disclosure from Mr S, his mother called the police and alleges that her son has been sexually abused. Mr S states that although he told his mother of the disclosure, he did not want her to report to the police.

The Police made contact with safeguarding social worker to ask for more detail, which resulted in the police requesting a joint home visit with safeguarding to clarify that no crime has been committed. Mr S agreed to this.

A joint visit between safeguarding team and police was completed. Mr S assured officers that he was in agreement with the arrangement between himself and the support worker. The police were satisfied that there is no criminal investigation needed.

Mr S's desired outcomes were relayed to allocated care manager, who worked alongside a Continuing Health Care nurse to explore a Personal Health Budget. This was agreed and notice was served to the agency, meaning that Mr S is now in receipt of a Personal Health Budget.

Following an internal hearing, the support worker is dismissed from his role and the DBS was made aware of the dismissal.

### **Was Desired Outcome achieved?**

Mr S was very happy with the outcomes and stated that he would feel confident in raising any issues regarding his care in the future.

### Impact of our work with the adult at risk

Mr S had reported that as the issue that he disclosed was one of a sensitive nature, he was happy that it wasn't his allocated case worker who was making enquiries as this would have been embarrassing for him.

Mr S stated that he felt that his disclosure was taken very seriously and his views have been taken forward until his desired outcome has been achieved.

Mr S also felt that he may have had a part in being able to protect other people who may be supported by the particular support worker in the future.

### What does this mean?

- The adult at risk made a serious disclosure regarding the conduct of a staff member
- The service provider acted swiftly to mitigate risks and met ASC expectations
- Making Safeguarding Personal was at the heart of the enquiry, reviewing and re-negotiating a desired outcome, to which the adult at risk was happy about and felt involved throughout
- In order to achieve a person's desired outcome, it is key to have knowledge of a range of service provision, and how to access this
- This enquiry evidences good Multi-Disciplinary working between health and social care teams to ensure Desired Outcomes can be achieved fully.

### What can we do?

- To continue to have a collaborative approach to safeguarding adults across stakeholders, ensuring that Making Safeguarding Personal remains at the heart of any approach
- To share this case as an example of good practice
- Continue to embed Making Safeguarding Personal within Section 42 Enquiries
- For health and social care to continue to promote and implement Personal Health Budgets and Personalisation, which gives people who use services more control, freedom and flexibility over their care provision

## SECTION 4: LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

Under the Care Act, Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) are responsible for Safeguarding Adults Reviews. Halton SAB commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) and Halton CCG commissioned a Multi-Agency Review (MAR) during 2018/19 with resulting Action Plans derived to address the recommendations within these reviews. SABs also hold responsibility to manage and monitor the progress of Action Plans from all safeguarding reviews.



### Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme

Halton SAB also oversees the local reviews from the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme.

#### What does this mean?

Information is shared within Halton CCG regarding LeDeR, which includes findings, outcomes and recommendations following LeDeR's

Halton CCG informs SAB of any learning identified within reviews, to actions can be set and any learnings shared within SAB Members, SAB Sub Groups and across health and social care

#### What can we do?

Ensure that any learnings identified continue to be shared within appropriate forums, so that any actions can be measured and monitored to improve the experiences of people with a Learning Disability.

It is vital that people with a learning disability have the same level of care and treatment as everyone else. This means that any learning or gaps identified needs to be explored, actioned and monitored.

### Safeguarding Adults Review and Multi-Agency Review

During 2018/19 there has been no referrals made to request a Safeguarding Adult Review or a Multi-Agency Review

The Safeguarding Adult Review Group (SARG) has been established, where health, Police, Local Authority and other Stakeholders are represented. This was a recommendation

following the completion of the SAR and MAR in 2017, which is captured within the HSAB Annual Report of 2017-2018.

#### What does this mean?

- Within the SARG, major stakeholders meet on a quarterly basis to review any SAR or MAR referrals that have been made to the Local Authority and if applicable, review the decision made
- The SARG accesses the national archive of SAR's which have been completed to identify and share any learnings with SAB. This can result in working groups to ensure that learnings are shared across health and social care
- Learning events and action plans following the SAR and MAR of 2017-2018 have been completed

#### What can we do?

- To ensure the SARG to continue in its function
- To ensure that Stakeholders continue to contribute to the SARG Group
- To ensure that the SAR Policy is reviewed at review date, to ensure that approaches, methodology and practice continues to be contemporary and meets legal requirements



#### NHS Providers and Independent Hospitals (CQC ratings)



Outstanding

The service is performing exceptionally well.



Good

The service is performing well and meeting our expectations.



Requires improvement

The service isn't performing as well as it should and we have told the service how it must improve.



Inadequate

The service is performing badly and we've taken action against the person or organisation that runs it.

<p><b>Good</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Halton General Hospital</li> <li>➤ North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>➤ Gateway Recovery Centre (independent Hospital)</li> </ul>
<p>Inspected and rated</p> <p>Requires Improvement</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</li> </ul>



## SECTION 5: PROGRESS AGAINST OUR PRIORITIES

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board and its partners value the positive relationships that have been built which enable continued partnership working. This approach helps utilise existing community assets, addressing safeguarding issues from early identification and prevention through to improving specialist skills and services to address safeguarding issues raised. The sub-groups of the board have evidenced their dedicated commitment to assisting HSAB to fulfil its statutory and moral duties for the benefit of Halton and in particular to improve the lives of adults at risk of harm.

As highlighted in last year's Annual Report, Halton Safeguarding Adults Board set out three key priorities for sub-group and partners to work towards. The priorities were set using data and information gathered through previous Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC), local intelligence and consultations with service providers and service users, the Safeguarding Adults Review and Multi-Agency Review and Thematic Review findings and recommendations, along with recommendations from the Halton Adult Safeguarding Peer Review facilitated by St.Helen's Council.

The following is a snapshot of the work and activities from Halton Safeguarding Adults Board, its sub-group and partners, that took place during 2018-2019

### **Priority 1: Creating a safer place to live for all adults living in Halton (Safeguarding Prevention)**



This year saw the establishment of a dedicated Safeguarding Adults Review Group following the commission and completion of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR). This SAR linked closely to a Multi-Agency Review (MAR) which was conducted by Halton Clinical Commissioning group (CCG) and a Thematic Review that Public Health undertook during 2016-2017 which HSAB had oversight of.

HSAB has worked proactively towards developing effective coproduction and engagement opportunities in all its activities, including public and practitioner events, developing the training and marketing plan and resources, information sharing routes to and from HSAB to sub-group and partner groups and the public; ensuring inclusivity and accessibility in practice and implementation through its activities.

A Pan-Cheshire Modern Slavery Strategy and Pan-Cheshire Harmful Practice Strategy has been published. These and all other local, regional and national strategies and guidance are available on HSAB website: [www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk)

Halton's Partnership Forum, chaired by CEO MM Age UK Mark Lunney has further established its forum, discussing and sharing relevant information to key stakeholders and providers. This includes developments in Housing and Homelessness, GDPR and Persons in Positions of Trust (PIPOT). There was also presentations completed by the Department of Work and Pensions to discuss the

impact of Universal Credit, as well as the Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care, Marie Lynch, sharing information and key issues within her role.

All safeguarding adults information and leaflets have been updated to ensure compliance with The Care Act, these have been disseminated to all partners and it is expected that partners will embed 6 principles of safeguarding and Making Safeguarding Personal approaches into their professional practice.



Healthwatch Halton has a positive working relationship with the HBC Quality Assurance Team both prior to and following enter and view activities to care homes across the Halton. Healthwatch Halton Advocacy HUB includes a IMHA, IMCA, Care Act, DoLs and general advocate service who have undertaken continuous Safeguarding training provided by HBC which they strictly consider when appropriate when dealing with vulnerable adults and older people in the Halton Community, through working within the policy and legislative frameworks We are also in the process of ensuring that Staff and Volunteers undertake refresher Safeguarding Training with HBC. Several care concerns and appropriate Safeguarding referrals have been made through the appropriate policies procedures and legislative framework. Healthwatch Halton is in the process of developing a training matrix for Volunteers and staff.



Age UK Mid Mersey holds its own accredited internal quality framework as part of its national affiliation and in which has a significant focus on safeguarding vulnerable people. Age UK Mid Mersey has met all its standards for quality in this area and carried out a full

audit review in late 2018. The model ensures we apply considerations for Making Every Adult Matter, Making Safeguarding Personal and applying Mental Capacity considerations

when appropriate. All staff were asked to reflect on the content of the framework and to review this against Halton culture. Staff were encouraged to report any observations of this as part of consultation and were made aware of training opportunities available. Team meetings were asked to add this to their agenda.



Gateway Recovery Centre (GRC) reviews data which advises of themes, types of abuse, outcomes and lessons learnt. GRC promotes person centred care with each individual. At GRC every victim of abuse is spoken to, to gain their wishes and views. Individuals who lack capacity at GRC are assessed under the MCA followed by a Best Interest decision/ meeting and a least restrictive care plan is put into place.



Halton Housing Trust have a Safeguarding Policy that is provided to all new starters and mandatory training in safeguarding is provided. Our approach to cross sector partnerships is inclusive and the various groups where we are partners or within the groups we manage our partners include: community safety, the police, health professionals, we work with MH services other housing providers, local support agencies and substance misuse. Internally and locally we have developed and agreed a methodology to identify individuals facing multiple disadvantage and the information is quality checked to ensure that the person's needs, and risks are fully taking into account. We ensure that all agencies are aware of any adults that are at risk are being looked at and offered the correct support. We are very aware of the risk of modern slavery, CSE, signs of adult abuse and staff are provided with training that is quality assured to keep their skills up to date.

We use the following documentation for customers in supported housing:

- Support plans or waivers
- PEEPs (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans)
- Risk Assessments
- Person centred fire risk assessments

All customers are required to sign a GDPR/Information Sharing, which allows us to seek out the best support for that person Attend Professionals Meetings and \Multi-Agency Meetings as requested to ensure that all agencies are providing a person-centred approach when support is being discussed and checking that their consent and mental capacity when providing consent has been checked. To provide quality assurance on being 'customer led' on any cases that we are asked to get involved with, internally we ensure that evaluation includes the impact on individuals, on local services and systems. We use Qualitative methods when reviewing referral, response and outcome processes and quantitative methods, resulting in a mix of data about wellbeing, customer experience, service use and cost. The teams work closely with Changing Lives in respect of Domestic Abuse, attend MARAC and deliver target hardening works were required, attend various Multi-Agency Meetings as requested, including, Tasking and Coordinating, MAM, iDAT and weekly Police Beat Meetings to ensure that all agencies are aware of any adults that are at risk are being looked at and offered the correct support. The Approach ensures the partnership has the right people involved who understand local need.

- Clear guidance on the organisation's approach to safeguarding
- Joined up approach, with support tailored to the individual
- Promotion of person-centred approach when providing the housing support service
- GDPR compliant.
- Link in with partner agencies.
- No duplication of work, so less impact on the client.
- Joined up approach, tailoring support to the needs of the client
- Ensures we are meeting the desired need of the client.



Halton Disability Partnership provide Training for all staff. Have engaged with an external evaluator of new SA service (R.A.G.). New SA officers subject to performance management review and core objectives. Comprehensive register of PAs. Safeguarding review both registered and current clients by SA lead CEO. Clients have real choice and secure safety both in setting up care and clients and new referral's active follow up care.



- Discussions have taken place at Forum meetings regarding adult self-neglect, consent and how adults can be encouraged to accept support, utilising other service providers eg Fire and Rescue
- Several members attended the self-neglect and making safeguarding personal training sessions
- The C of E faith has just finished a national safeguarding audit
- A national safeguarding audit is underway in the Catholic faith
- A weekly drop-in safe space for refugees, asylum seekers and those who have been trafficked has been set up in Trinity Methodist Church, Widnes, run by volunteers, all of whom have been safely recruited, using processes and procedures based on good practice in the sector, in recognition of the changing demographics of the area and the wish to become more inclusive
- A safeguarding audit has been carried out at St Wilfrid's Church Parish, Widnes by the Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese, as part of the national one. Records have been updated and agreed as current. Attendance at the Archdiocese Safeguarding Reps' meeting in March which shared updates and good practice
- People are more aware of issues of consent and of how to engage other service providers. One specific case of self-neglect has been moved forwards. More people are aware of self-neglect and making safeguarding personal and know how to refer. A report has just been published into the findings
- Several people attend the drop-in weekly; food, clothes, cycles, toiletries and information are given out; partners e.g. Red Cross provide specialist information and support; English lessons are provided, and a simple lunch is eaten by attendees and volunteers. Attendees are made to feel very welcome and are treated with kindness and compassion.
- Updated database of who is doing what in the Parish and who has a DBS check is agreed good practice has been shared with the clergy to be actioned within the next few months
- 



To promote person centred approach across services within Halton. Safeguarding Adult Team have held weekly meetings with MH staff to ensure that they are recognising signs of abuse and neglect and supporting patients to make their own choices in line with Making Safeguarding Personal.

Making safeguarding personal audit completed

Within the next reporting year it is planned that we hold a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) workshop to support staff to utilise the MSP local Government national toolkit to ask Patients what their views are and what their desired outcomes are. To also support staff in recording patients outcomes within documentation



Bridgewater undertook a stocktake of our position in relation to Making Safeguarding Personal Audit and how mental capacity was considered and recorded by community nursing teams. Development of a proposal for enhanced, practical training in applying the MCA.



- Forum set in with LA to review retrospective referral data for safeguarding enquiries with a clinical element to help identify emerging themes and trends and enhance learning.
- Halton CCG contributed to an executive review the processes and learning from a SAR and MAR completed for Halton
- This event highlighted areas for improvement to strengthen the recognition of diversity and culture and its impact both in practice and in safeguarding reviews. This has been included as a quality marker in the SARG. Halton CCG is represented as a core panel member of SARG
- Regular audits provided to the sub group – this is a standing agenda item. Learning from audits is shared and subject to peer support by the group. Designated professionals have oversight of audit activity through the safeguarding assurance frame work in place with commissioned healthcare services
- HCCG safeguarding assurance framework assures providers have policy and training in place in respect of the mental capacity act and the effectiveness is reviewed regularly through audit activity
- Identified targeted areas for learning and improvement. Forum is on-going and evolving

- Quality framework in place to support and underpin future safeguarding adult reviews. This will ensure effective learning and improved outcomes for adults at risk
- Assurance of scrutiny of practice to ensure in line with legislation, policy and best practice
- Outcomes and voice of the adult/making safeguarding personal heard
- Best practice and learning shared across the whole health system.
- Effective application of the MCA and adults at risk supported in the least restrictive way.



Level one and two adult safeguarding training is delivered via e-Learning, it was realised that some staff groups had limited access to computers. Therefore Increased access to

Safeguarding adult level one and two training had been facilitated via face to face sessions late in the evenings.

A program of level three training has been put in place to upskill all band 7 and above staff to ensure they are confident and able to address safeguarding concerns and support junior members of staff. Slides and training session have been updated to include information about making safeguarding personal and ensuring staff are aware of how their care act their responsibilities apply to all patients they come into contact with. Level three training information is shared with staff following their attendance as an aide memoir.

MCA/DoLS training is facilitated on a face to face basis with a training aid to support staff in their practice after attending the sessions.

Greater awareness of safeguarding adults across the organisation is evident.

This is noted from the increased variety in the category of abuse of safeguarding notifications to the adult team and in where the information has come from. For example a member of the finance team who supports the trust with non EU patient charges, notified us of a patient she felt may have been trafficked, A/E staff had let the safeguarding team know however it was reassuring that non clinical staff had also picked this up. A further example came from a vigilant nurse who noticed clues regarding a possible honour based violence situation.

The adult team has noted a remarkable increase in adult safeguarding notifications of 34%.

Please observe the charts and information below for details of 17/18 and 18/19 activity and the types of abuse highlighted.



All employees of Plus Dane (PD) are provided with safeguarding training.

We have a team of 12 Designated Safeguarding Leads across all areas of the organisation. Our approach is that safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff.

Increase in the number of safeguarding concerns being raised. Increased awareness/knowledge of safeguarding issues and how to deal with them across the organisation.



Cheshire Constabulary fully recognise the importance of quality assurance. The Constabulary engage in all audits identified in the safeguarding board and ensures that good practice and learning is shared with its officers and staff.

Within Halton, we are co-located in Municipal building with the local authority. This means that referrals received in to the Police (both internally and externally) are reviewed quickly and with a person centred approach. Cheshire Constabulary share these referrals with adult social care as well as other agencies identified as being supportive to the needs of the person involved.

The Constabulary has recently undertaken training in relation to the Vulnerable Person Assessment (VPA) and has seen an improvement in the standards of those submitted. This allows the right agency to be identified at the earliest opportunity.

**Priority 2: Providing the skills and knowledge to enable genuine care and understanding for adults at risk of harm (Awareness-raising and Training)**



The Training and Marketing Plan was completed, using a coproduction approach consulting with stakeholders. An awareness campaign concept was developed and designed with accessible language for the marketing campaign and free multi-agency training sessions based on demand, need and again accessibility to a wide audience was designed. Delivery of the training will be over the next 12 month with an evaluation at the end to identify further/ongoing support needed.

The website for Halton Safeguarding Adults Board has been successfully established. The website hosts free toolkits, access to information around safeguarding and support services; advice on abuse- with indicators, local and national policy and guidance as well as resources from external providers e.g. SCIE and RiPfA. The learning resources available include videos, toolkits, and access to free ELearning for all HSAB partners and adults who provide care or support,

additionally there is free multi-agency training for all partners including volunteers and personal/family carers.

Following the success of HSAB's first Awareness Day Event in March 2018, the board have made a commitment to host annual Awareness Days and take more opportunities to raise the public profile of safeguarding adults and the work of the HSAB. In March 2019, the focus of the event was Self Neglect. This was well attended and feedback given was really positive. This has informed the SAB training schedule for the year ahead, where there is now free training regarding Self Neglect Awareness.

A marketing campaign was also developed in consultation with stakeholders across the community. The marketing campaign will address the top three most prevalent types of abuse for adults in Halton, will raise the general profile of adult safeguarding and help to inform people of potential risk indicators for safeguarding and how to respond to these.

All safeguarding adults information and leaflets have been updated to ensure compliance with The Care Act, these have been disseminated to all partners and it is expected that partners will embed 6 principles of safeguarding and Making Safeguarding Personal approaches into their professional practice.

In early 2019 and as part of the Good Neighbour Scheme, an offer of free Safeguarding Adult awareness was offered to general public. Attendance was excellent and the feedback was positive. This initiative will aim to continue each year.

Within Adult Social Care, there is an established Safeguarding Champions forum, which reports to the board. This is led by the Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit and provides a forum for provider services to share learnings, good practice, raise issues and develops positive relationships.

The website address is: [www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk)



Healthwatch Halton promotes a positive culture through promoting a duty of care for staff volunteers and Advocates. Healthwatch Halton therefore ensures access to Safeguarding Training is available through accessing HBC free training and resources to ensure personal awareness of any care concerns or safeguarding issues and risks in relation to vulnerable adults and older people, and to importantly ensure that that they are confident and compliant with safeguarding reporting. Healthwatch Halton is committed to continuous learning and Professional Development. Advocates and staff have undertaken Safeguarding Training which is due for renewal this year.



Four staff from Age UKMM attended refresher training on safeguarding in the period. Including the CEO. Staff are better equipped and aware of key responsibilities in the borough and how to use and communicate them.

All staff and volunteers access induction days that have safeguarding as a key module.



GRC continue to improve their skills and competencies. All practitioner at GRC have a duty of care and a responsibility to make themselves aware of safeguarding risks.



Halton Housing Trust has a comprehensive staff training programme which in 2018-19 included:

- Dementia friends (17 staff trained)
- Time to Talk Champions (20 trained staff)
- Mental health awareness (108 staff trained)
- Suicide prevention (86 staff trained)
- Self-harm awareness (10 staff trained)

The above is supported by a comprehensive e learning platform which includes the following modules:

- Safeguarding adults – care certificate
- Safeguarding children – care certificate
- Working in a person-centred way
- Trained and knowledge workforce who can identify and report suspected safeguarding cases and ensures we are up to date with legislation and our duty.



HDP whole team skills audit, SA training for all, Team support with 200 PAs.

All clients being followed up / reviewed by SA assessor, documented and intervention if required. One year into new service staff appraisals provide evidence of competence and commitment.



- HSCB and HSAB training has been publicised in the weekly Parish newsletter
- A safeguarding refresher session, which included trafficking/modern slavery, financial and other types of abuse not commonly discussed in previous training, was delivered by P Ruth to members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, volunteers who visit vulnerable people in their homes
- Those who visit people in their own homes or in care/nursing homes were reminded of their duty to report appropriately anything that they deem to be a possible safeguarding concern
- A discussion has taken place on updating the Parish lettings policy and procedures to ensure safeguarding is more prominent in it
- A discussion has taken place on new procedures for children's liturgy
- Awareness has been raised and hopefully, those who attended have gained new/updated information
- Better trained staff and volunteers who put training into practice and share with others
- People are more aware of keeping themselves safe as well as those with whom they come into contact
- Awareness has been raised and information shared to ensure health and safety policies and procedures are up to date and being followed
- More knowledge was gained by attendees and a rich discussion took place on issues which are becoming more common/more highlighted
- Hopefully, concerns will be raised in an appropriate manner and will be dealt with to ensure people are safer and have their needs met more effectively
- The policy and procedures will be updated and circulated to those who hire premises
- The procedures will be re-written and rolled out during the next few months



**North West  
Boroughs Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

- Mental Capacity Act 2005 survey monkey short summary
- Following on from Mental Capacity Training delivered across the Trust, A survey Monkey was conducted to assess the requirements for future training and development
- 100 staff members completed the survey, the responses were across all adults services including Learning Disability/Mental Health and Community Services
- Based on the range of responses key themes emerged regarding future training needs including:

- Applying the act practically
  - Recording mental capacity and best interests
  - Training needs to be specific to service types
- Mental Capacity Audit has identified the need for on-going support for staff in completing Mental Capacity Assessment and how to record decision specific information
  - Identified staff need for specialist training which specific to their service needs
  - Joint Mental Capacity Act Training to be delivered by Halton Borough Council Safeguarding Team and NWBH Adult Safeguarding Service. Dates to be arranged for later 2019. This training will support existing training available to staff within the Trust.

## Bridgewater Community Healthcare

NHS Foundation Trust

Bridgewater provided Level 2 Safeguarding Adult Training via e-Learning for all staff. Team leaders in clinical roles will also undertake Level 3 Training.

Group Supervision opportunities were provided to District Nurse and Urgent Treatment Centre staff to support the development of skills and competencies.

Whether arising from incident reports or by direct contact via telephone/email, there has been a significant increase in contacts from Trust teams who required Safeguarding Adult support and advice.

## Halton

Clinical Commissioning Group

- Halton CCG seeks assurance from commissioned health care services that the workforce and volunteers are trained in respect of safeguarding in line with the intercollegiate guidance for healthcare staff- children and adults.
- Halton CCG has a training needs analysis in place and supports staff to access the appropriate safeguarding training.
- Halton CCG are a key partner in local safeguarding adult arrangements and have active input to the Safeguarding Board, and sub groups. These forums are utilised to support and share learning and professional development.
- Halton CCG Designated Nurse- safeguarding adults, has engagement with the regional designated professionals network and supports system wide learning and leadership

- Designated professionals have taken action to raise awareness of safeguarding within PC through practice visits, training sessions, safeguarding forum meetings, and targeted support as required.

A program of level three training has been put in place. Slides and training session have been updated to include information about making safeguarding personal and ensuring staff are aware of how their care act their responsibilities apply to all patients they come into contact with.

MCA/DoLS training is facilitated on a face to face basis with a training aid to support staff in their practice after attending the sessions.

The safeguarding Adult team have attended SAB based training as well as access other relevant external courses to ensure knowledge and practice is kept up to date.

The Named Nurse safeguarding Adults has completed a Mary Seacole safeguarding adult leadership program and has gained 50 credits at level 7 Masters study in safeguarding related study, this has supported the Trust in delivering the safeguarding adults agenda.

All CBU leads receive learning from SAR and internal incidents where safeguarding has been identified; via Safeguarding Committee. Where actions arise from this learning, leads are asked to report progress via high level briefing papers and actions are monitored via the safeguarding committee work plan.

In instances where information from a SAR or internal incident requires sharing with and where no action is required CBU leads are asked to ensure that they take information back to their CBU meetings for dissemination across their areas.

Services are delivered by staff who are trained re safeguarding to deliver safe effective care and recognise and act upon any safeguarding concerns in line with legislation and local policy.

GP safeguarding lead in place in every practice. Referral pathways and safeguarding resource pack in place in every practice.

Training provided re:

- Coding safeguarding concerns
- FGM
- Neglect
- Domestic Abuse.

Attendance at safeguarding forum has doubled.

Calls for advice from designated professionals have increased.

Greater awareness of safeguarding adults across the organisation is evident.

This is noted from the increased variety in the category of abuse of safeguarding notifications to the adult team and in where the information has come from.

Increased knowledge and understanding of safeguarding within the safeguarding team has improved the quality of training and day to day advice/support provided across the Trust.

Domestic Abuse, adult only notifications continue to increase for the adult team with 125 cases reported in 17/18 and 18/19

Please see the tables below detailing the improvement in training compliance between 17/18 and 18/19



Learning is a key focus of the Constabulary. We are currently delivering training around Domestic Abuse as well as other areas of vulnerability (both adult and children). The

Constabulary recognises that the vast majority of demand is in relation to vulnerability and the safeguarding of adults within the Community.

Further to this, the Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Board has identified the prevalence of County Lines within Cheshire and the impact of those vulnerable adults who are being exploited in their own home.



All NPS case holding staff and line managers are required to undertake Safeguarding Adult eLearning and two days classroom training.

**Priority 3: Gaining a greater understanding of how mental health can impact adults at risk being protected and cared for in the best way possible ( Mental Health)**



Healthwatch made a commitment to work with Halton Safeguarding Adults Board to design a questionnaire and information gathering process and disseminate to partners and the local population to help establish local needs and knowledge around safeguarding and mental health. The questionnaire is available to access and comment on via Healthwatch and HSAB websites.

The SAR and MAR reviews highlighted mental health as an issue and as a result of the recommendations revision of local provision has taken place. Further details can be found in Section 4.



Healthwatch Halton works collaboratively with residents whose behalf they are working on. This is evidenced through documenting their feelings and wishes when working on their behalf, which is evidenced through advocacy services and various outreach and enter and view activities.

Healthwatch Halton works collaboratively with statutory health and social care organisations through representation and attendance at various strategic board meetings working collaboratively with statutory and voluntary sector organisations across the various sectors. To ensure that as a responsible organisation we meet the core duties of the SAB as required by The Care Act (2014). Engagement and Co-production is a key feature of Healthwatch Halton as an organisation and we will continue to do so using a wide range of tools and methods, to ensure compliance with our duties as a SAB member and safeguarding under the Care Act (2014).



The CEO is the current Chair of the HSAB Partnership forum and as a result fully collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders and key safeguarding teams across the local authority. Our

organisations has Safeguarding at its highest possible level of involvement in its core strategic planning and development.



GRC collaborates and works together with partner agencies. E.g. HBC safeguarding teams, Cheshire Police, HBC Advocacy Services. Welfare services.



- Tenancy Services Manager has a place on the Adult Safeguarding Board
- Amethyst Living Manager and the Tenancy Services Manager have a place on the Safer Halton Partnership, to ensure all meetings are covered.
- Health and Wellbeing Officer has a place on the One Halton Population Health Board
- Halton Housing is a member of the Halton Dementia Action Alliance and regularly attends their conferences and training courses
- Halton Housing is a member of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum

Attend Professionals Meetings including MARAC and Multi-Agency Meetings as requested to ensure that all agencies are providing a person-centred approach. Strong partnership relationship between Halton Housing and Halton Borough Council. Increased awareness of inter-agency arrangements. Joined up approach, with support tailored to the individual.



HDP founded on co – production. Liaison with client carer and volunteer based consultation group. More than 50% trustees have disability and vulnerability issues.



Lottery bid authorised investment to develop a Safeguarding Adults service which involved full consultation with group and was co-authored by C.E.O as Safeguarding Adults lead who regularly liaised with social work teams including individual assessment, complex care and mental health.



### Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum



The existence of the Faith Forum is to enable inter-agency arrangements and to ensure the faith sector is carrying out its safeguarding responsibilities. This does involve cooperating with statutory partners in specific cases and discussions have taken place at meetings about considering adults' wishes and feelings in decision making

St Wilfrid's Catholic Parish, Widnes: As well as what is stated above, we are cooperating in the safe space drop-in with members of our Parish volunteering.

More recognition of the diversity of Widnes' population and the issues facing the attendees. More knowledge gained of asylum seeking processes and support available.



Safeguarding Adult Named Professional is a member of Halton Safeguarding Adult Review Group. Together with the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults regular discussions are held to ensure that information is shared and that we work collaboratively to support the SAB in fulfil its core duties

Advanced Practitioner for Safeguarding Adults has a close working relationship with Halton Borough Council Adult Safeguarding team. Regular discussions are held to ensure that safeguarding concerns are referred in a timely manner. Joint thresholds have been produced to ensure that NWBH staff are clear on what information needs to be shared.

*Making safeguarding personal audit short summary:*

*The Care Act (2014) statutory guidance states that all safeguarding partners should “take a broad community approach to establishing safeguarding arrangements raised.” Safeguarding “should be person-led and outcome-focused. It engages the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.”*

The aim of the Evaluation was to ensure that NWBH patients who experience abuse or neglect need to be empowered to have their wishes and feelings recognised. The evaluation audited 20 patient

records to ensure that practitioners are recording patients views in relation to safeguarding concerns and what their desired outcomes are (Care Act Guidance 2014) The findings of this small evaluation were as follows:

- Good evidence of recording type of abuse/concern
- Good evidence of documentation regarding immediate action/protection plan
- Very little evidence of the views of the patient is recorded within documentation, however the patient records do state a conversation has been held with the person about the concerns but there is poor evidence of the patient’s views being recorded.

Safeguarding Adults Training is delivered as part of all induction training. A range of specific topic based training has been developed including Domestic abuse/coercion and control/Mental Capacity and Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment/Self neglect/ financial exploitation.

NWBH provided level 1 training for all staff at induction and Level 2 Safeguarding Adult training via e-learning for clinical staff.

Group Supervision opportunities were provided to Mental Health Teams and in patient services to support the development of skills and competencies

NWBH Adult Safeguarding Named Professional attends Health Sub Group/SARL Group and SAR and Case Review Panels

Established a joint threshold model with Halton Local Authority to ensure that appropriate Safeguarding Adult concerns are referred onto Local Authority and that care concerns or complaints can be dealt with via other pathways. Halton North West Boroughs Healthcare in-patient wards historically have had a lower referral rate to both internal and Local Authority safeguarding team. Referrals to NWBH Adults Team have increased from 100 across 2017/18 to 147 across this report year 18/19.

The Advanced Practitioner is spending half day per week on the wards offering a drop in to assist staff in making decisions regarding safeguarding enquiries. This is being supported by Halton Local Authority safeguarding team.



PDS are represented on a number of safeguarding boards across LCR and Cheshire East.

More effective multi –agency working. Positive relationship building with partner services. Increased knowledge of issues within the sector and how to address them.

One of the keys questions asked of the adult is what outcome they would like to see from the safeguarding disclosure.



The Constabulary attends all Safeguarding adult boards within the Cheshire footprint.

DCI Williams chairs the Safeguarding Adult Review Group which reviews those incidents where an adult has come to harm within the Community. This is key in identifying any agency failings and to ensure best practice and learning is shared continually.



All NPS OASYs assessments require a service user self-assessment to be completed.

## **SECTION 6: THE YEAR AHEAD – 2019/2020**

**For the year ahead, the following three priorities have been identified by the Safeguarding Adult Board**



### **Quality Assurance**

Quality Assurance has been identified as a key priority for the year ahead by the HSAB. It will involve ensuring that HSAB members and provider services have systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of safeguarding adults in place, to ensure that standards of quality are being met. This will include

- Ensuring internal quality assurance frameworks are in place
- Ensuring any identified learning is shared
- A review of the Safeguarding Adults audit processes within Halton
- Sharing of information across HSAB members and Provider Services

### **Learning and Professional Development**

Learning and development has been identified by HSAB as a key priority for the year ahead. This will aim to further develop the work completed over the past few years in relation to the HSAB training schedule, as well as the introduction of the SAB annual event. In addition, other areas to consider will be the following:

- Ensuring HSAB partner agencies have learning and professional development opportunities in place for their individual workforce

- Ensure there is a consistency and standardisation of Safeguarding practice across Halton
- Ensure all agencies promote a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach
- Ensure that there is effective communication of training opportunities shared within HSAB Members and Partner agencies.
- Support the development of good multi-agency practice, sharing best practice, lessons learned and have the confidence to challenge decision making.
- To support adults at risk, informal carers and families with Safeguarding and ensuring that they all feel supported within the Safeguarding process.

### **Coproduction and Engagement**

Co-production involves working with people with care and support needs, their families and carers, along with Service Providers, voluntary organisations, statutory services and other stakeholders, on an equal footing, to design, influence, develop, deliver, monitor and review services. It is a relationship where professionals and citizens share power to plan and deliver support together, recognising that both partners have vital contributions to make in order to improve quality of life for people and communities.

The HSAB would like to work and have assurances regarding how safeguarding approaches are developed, ensuring that the following people and organisations are actively involved:

- Adult Social Care operational teams;
- Housing, Finance and Legal representatives;
- People with health and social care and support needs, carers and family members;
- Care and support Service Providers, relevant voluntary, user and other support organisations;
- Advocacy services
- Local communities

At the end of 2020, HSAB would like to ensure that the voice of people who use services are heard, are involved in developing policy and are at the centre of any health and social care intervention, Making Safeguarding Personal to the adult at risk and ensuring their rights, wishes and feelings are at the heart of the decision making process.

## **SECTION 7: APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX A: BOARD MEMBERS

Independent Chair – Audrey Williamson

Halton Borough Council - Sue Wallace-Bonner

Halton Borough Council – Tracey Coffey

Halton Borough Council – Helen Moir

NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group – Michelle Creed

Cheshire Constabulary – DCI Louise Cherrington ( Previous rep Gareth Lee)

Cheshire Fire and Rescue – Emma Coxon

North West Ambulance Service - Andrea Edmonson (previous rep Vivienne Forster)

Probation Services (Cheshire CRC) - Jenny Archer-Power

Healthwatch - Elizabeth Learyod (previous rep Hitesh Patel)

Elected member responsible for adult health and social care - Cllr Tom McInerney (previously Cllr Marie Wright)

Halton Safeguarding Adults Partnership Forum Chair – Mark Lunney (Mark Weights deputising)

APPENDIX B: PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS





## APPENDIX C: CONTACT DETAILS

**Email:** [hsab@halton.gov.uk](mailto:hsab@halton.gov.uk)

**Call:** 0151 511 8555 / 0151 907 8306

**Website:** [www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk)

**Address:** Halton Safeguarding Adults Board, Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit,  
Peelhouse Family Centre Peelhouse Lane, Widnes. WA8 6TJ

**HALTON**  
**SAFEGUARDING**  
**ADULTS**  
**BOARD**

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 14 November 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director, Finance

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Determination of Council Tax Base 2020/21

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

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required to determine annually the Council Tax Base for its area and also the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes.
- 1.2 The Council is required to notify the Council Tax Base figure to the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency by 31 January 2020. The Council is also required to calculate and advise if requested, the Parish Councils of their relevant Council Tax Bases.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) **set the 2020/21 Council Tax Base at 35,359 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency be so notified; and**
- 2) **set the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>
<b>Hale</b>	<b>663</b>
<b>Halebank</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>Daresbury</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Moore</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>Preston Brook</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Sandymoor</b>	<b>1,265</b>

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base is the measure used for calculating Council Tax and is used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (Cheshire Fire Authority, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority), in the calculation of their Council Tax requirements.
- 3.2 The Council Tax Base figure is arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula, and represents the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough, expressed in terms of the equivalent of Band 'D' dwellings.
- 3.3 The Council Tax Base is calculated using the number of dwellings included in the Valuation List, as provided by the Valuation Office Agency, as at 14 October 2019. Adjustments are then made to take into account the estimated number of discounts, voids, additions and demolitions during the period 14 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.
- 3.4 The tax base calculation has included an element for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (the replacement for Council Tax Benefit). The estimated amount of Council Tax Support payable for 2020/21 is converted into the equivalent number of whole properties which are deducted from the total.
- 3.5 The tax base calculation will include an element for Care Leavers Discretionary Discount. The estimated amount of Care Leavers Discount payable for 2020/21 is converted into the equivalent number of whole properties which are deducted from the total.
- 3.6 The tax base calculation will include an element for Foster Carers Discretionary Discount. The estimated amount of Foster Carers Discount payable for 2020/21 is converted into the equivalent number of whole properties which are deducted from the total.
- 3.7 An estimated percentage collection rate is then applied to the product of the above calculation to arrive at the Council Tax Base for the year.
- 3.8 Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 97.0% collection rate, the calculation for 2020/21 provides a tax base figure of **35,359** for the Borough as a whole.

- 3.9 Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 97.0% collection rate, the appropriate Council Tax Base figure for each of the Parishes is as follows

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>
<b>Hale</b>	<b>663</b>
<b>Halebank</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>Daresbury</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Moore</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>Preston Brook</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Sandymoor</b>	<b>1,265</b>

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council Tax Base will enable the Council to set the level of Council Tax to be charged for 2020/21.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS 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 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 There would be significant loss of income to the Council if the Council Tax Base were not agreed, as it would not be possible to set the level of Council Tax to be charged for 2020/21.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 None.

**9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

9.1 To seek approval for the 2020/21 Council Tax Base for the Borough.

**10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

10.1 There is no alternative option, as unless the Council Tax Base is approved, it would not be possible to set the level of Council Tax to be charged for 2020/21.

**11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

11.1 The 2020/21 Council Tax Base will be implemented from 1 April 2020.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Working Papers	Halton Stadium	Stephen Baker

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Operational Director, Finance
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Resources
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2023
<b>WARD(S):</b>	Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To establish the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;**
- 2) the 2020/21 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;**
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved; and**
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2020/21 remains at the 2019/20 level of 21.55%.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out a three-year projection of the Council's resources and spending. It has been based upon information that is currently available. Financial information has been announced by Government in relation to 2020/21, which will be finalised as part of the Local Government Financial Settlement in December 2019.
- 3.2 The projections in the Strategy must be treated with a considerable degree of caution, however, they clearly show there is continued need to make a significant level of savings over the next three years. The projections for 2020/21 take account of the Chancellor's 2019 Spending Review, however, as this was for one year only it creates uncertainty to the following two years projections.
- 3.3 The Strategy provides initial guidance to the Council on its financial position into the medium term. Adopting a prudent view the strategy identifies that revenue savings of approximately £7.9m, £15.1m, and

£4.40m are required over the next three years. As a result a total of £27.4m will need to be removed from the Council's budget, by reducing spending or increasing income. This represents approximately 25% of the Council's net budget. It continues to be a significant challenge to find sufficient savings over the medium term in order to balance the budget.

- 3.4 The Council's financial equity position remains sound with the level of reserves sufficient to meet existing needs. Of concern however, is the impact of continuing reductions to Government funding, together with increasing service demands which are beginning to have a serious impact on the Council's finances. This has been evidenced in the financial outturn position on the Council's budget over the last three years. In 2016/17 the Council's overall overspend was £0.6m, followed by £1.0m in 2017/18 and £2.4m in 2018/19. The projected overspend position as at March 2020 is forecast to be in the region of £6.1m
- 3.5 As at 31 March 2019 the Council had general reserves of £5.0m, earmarked reserves of £39.5m and provisions of £5.9m to meet existing known risks. It would not be considered prudent for general reserves to reduce any further and therefore earmarked reserves and provisions will be continue to be reviewed to release funds for general purposes.
- 3.6 In setting its revenue and capital budgets, the Council will need to have regard to its priority areas, namely:
- Healthy Halton
  - Environment & Regeneration in Halton
  - Children and Young People in Halton
  - Employment Learning and Skills in Halton
  - Safer Halton; and
  - Corporate Effectiveness and Business Efficiency
- 3.7 These priorities are set out in more detail in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 3.8 In summary, the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has the following objectives:
- To deliver a balanced and sustainable budget.
  - To prioritise spending towards the Council's priority areas.
  - To avoid excessive council tax increases.
  - To achieve cashable efficiency gains.
  - To deliver improved procurement.
  - To maximise the funding available to the Council.
  - To protect front line services and vulnerable members of the community as far as possible.

### **Budget Strategy**

- 3.9 The MTFS shows that in order to balance the budget over the medium term there is a requirement to make significant cost savings. In making

these savings the Council will need to have in mind the objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy set out above.

3.10 The Council will identify further savings by:

- Continuing to review the portfolio of land and other assets, including its use of buildings in accordance with the Accommodation Strategy.
- Identifying opportunities to generate new or additional sources of income.
- Continuing to drive improved procurement across the Council.
- Exploring opportunities for shared services and joint working with partner organisations.
- Offering staff voluntary redundancy under the terms of the Staffing Protocol, where there is a clear benefit to the Council.
- Delivering services in more efficient and effective ways such as via greater use of technology.
- Reducing the net cost of services either by reducing spend or increasing income.
- Utilising cost and performance benchmarking data from comparable authorities, to highlight potential areas where savings might be achieved.
- Considering alternative approaches to address high demand and high cost services.
- Using the Invest to Save Reserve to invest in initiatives which will deliver revenue budget savings through improved efficiency, reduced costs, and/or increased income.
- Continuing to facilitate economic development and regeneration across the Borough, particularly in light of the opportunities provided by the Mersey Gateway Bridge, in order to deliver new jobs, generate additional business rates income and additional council tax income.
- Reducing or ceasing the delivery of some lower priority services.

### **Capital Strategy**

3.11 On 6 March 2019 the Council approved the 2019/20 Capital Strategy which provided the following:

- a high-level, long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity will contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability

3.12 The Asset Management Strategy sets out how the land and buildings that are in Council ownership or occupation are structured to support the Council's priorities. The capital programme is a major part of the Strategy.

3.13 The MTFS shows that there is sufficient resource to cover the cost of the current Capital Programme. However, the scope for the Council to

generate capital receipts is limited. Therefore, it is likely that proposals for new capital schemes will need to include their own funding.

- 3.14 Prudential borrowing remains an option for funding capital schemes, but the capital financing costs as a result of that borrowing will increase the Council's revenue budget gap and would therefore require greater revenue savings to be found.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The MTFS represents the "finance guidelines" that form part of the medium term corporate planning process. These guidelines identify the financial constraints which the Council will face in delivering its key objectives, and are an important influence on the development of the Corporate Plan, Service Plans and Strategies.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The MTFS provides a guide to projected receivable funding resources over the three year term. The grant amounts included in the MTFS are based on the latest information provided by Government. As new information comes to light the forecast of future income streams will be updated. Decreases to funding resources will create further budget pressures for the Council in delivering its key objectives.

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

- 6.1 The revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities. Reductions of the magnitude identified within the Strategy are bound to have a negative impact upon the delivery of those priorities.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The MTFS is a key part of the Council's financial planning process, and as such minimises the risk that the Council fails to achieve a balanced budget.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues.

#### **9.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION**

- 9.1 To seek approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2022/23.

**10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 10.1 The alternative option of not maintaining a Medium Term Financial Strategy has been considered. However, this would not follow good financial management practice, as the Medium Term Financial Strategy is a key element in informing the Council's financial planning and budget setting processes.

**11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

- 11.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 will be implemented from 1st April 2020.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Local Government Grant Settlement 2019/20	Revenues and Financial Management Division, Halton Stadium, Widnes	Steve Baker
Government Spending Round 2019	“ “	“ “
Local Government Finance Settlement 2020-21	“ “	“ “
Technical Consultation 2019/20 Local Government Finance Settlement	“ “	“ “

# **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

**2020/21 to 2022/23**

**Finance Department  
November 2019**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out a three-year projection of the Council's resources and spending covering the period 2020/21 to 2022/23. The projections made within the MTFS must be treated with caution and require continuous updating as the underlying assumptions behind them become clearer.
- 1.2 The MTFS represents the "finance guidelines" that form part of the medium term corporate planning process. These guidelines identify the financial constraints which the Council will face in delivering its key objectives, and are an important influence on the development of the Corporate Plan, Service Plans and other Strategies.
- 1.3 Beyond 2020/21 there is great uncertainty regarding the funding of Local Government. The impact of Brexit negotiations and the possibility of a General Election have exacerbated this uncertainty and a number of major reviews to local government finance have all been delayed as a result, along with the Government's multi-year Spending Review. The potential impact of Brexit on the Council's budget remains unclear.
- 1.4 The impact for Halton of the following matters will continue to be considered for 2021/22. It is expected that further information should be known as progress is made with them through the next financial year:
  - Fair Funding Review – A review of how cumulative Local Government funding should be apportioned between Councils. The last review was in April 2013 and since then cuts made to Local Government have been on a percentage basis. This has had the impact of protecting those authorities less reliant on Government grant funding with those Councils more reliant (such as Halton) have had to deal with the bigger cuts in funding on a per head basis.
  - 75% Business Rate Retention – Government have confirmed the percentage share of retained rates at a local level will be 75%. It is unclear how this will impact on pilot authorities, such as Halton, if they will continue at 100% or switch to 75% retention.
  - Business Rate Baseline Reset – It is currently proposed there will be a reset of the business rate baseline. This could work against Halton and similar authorities who have seen significant growth in business rates since the current baseline was set in 2013. It is not known if there will be a transition process put in place to protect authorities from too high a loss in funding from an increase to the baseline position.
  - 2020 Public Spending Review – The next medium term review of public spending is expected to be announced in 2020 and is likely to cover a three year period.
  - Social Care Green Paper – This was expected to be announced by Government in the summer of 2018 but has been delayed. It is uncertain what impact this will have on the future of Local Government funding.

- 1.5 There are a number of Government announcements which in addition to service demands form the basis of the financial forecast, details of which are outlined below.

## **2.0 Local Government Finance Settlement 2019/20**

- 2.1 Government announced the 2019/20 final Local Government Finance Settlement on 29 January 2019.

- a) The Settlement Funding Assessment for Halton was £44.9m a reduction of £2.9m (6.2%) from the previous year.
- b) There was no change to the referendum limit for Council Tax of 3%.
- c) There was an additional funding announcement of £180m made available to Local Government, funded from the surplus on the Business Rate retention levy/safety net account. The value of this to Halton was £0.5m, payable for the one year only.
- d) The final 2019/20 award of New Homes Bonus grant to Halton was confirmed as £2.4m.
- e) The final 2019/20 Public Health grant was confirmed as £9.9m, a reduction of £0.3m (2.6%) from the 2018/19 grant award.
- f) A new additional grant was made available to help with existing social care pressures. The value of the grant to Halton was £1.1m and no reporting requirements or conditions were attached to the grant.
- g) A Winter Pressures grant was announced, relating to spend on Adult Social Care needs to help alleviate winter pressures on the NHS. The funding was required to be pooled and reported as part of the Better Care Fund and the grant for Halton was £0.6m.
- h) The Secretary of State said that he shared the concerns of CIPFA regarding some councils' commercial investments and the potential "risks they are exposing" themselves and the public to and he would discuss with the Treasury "whether further intervention might be required"

## **3.0 2019 Spending Review**

- 3.1 Government announced the 2020/21 Spending Review on 04 September 2019, setting out their spending plans over the next year.

- 3.2 All Government Departments, including local government, are guaranteed at least an inflationary increase in 2020-21.
- 3.3 The Spending Review document show that councils will increase “core spending power” by £2.9 billion against the 2019-20 allocation of £46.2 billion, Including:
- Additional Social Care Grant of £1 billion for councils in 2020-21.
  - Option to raise an additional £0.5 billion by a 2% adult social care precept on Council Tax.
  - Council tax referendum threshold increase will be set at 2% for 2020-21.
- 3.4 MHCLG will consult on the detailed methodology of new social care funding allocations as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 3.5 High Needs schools funding is increasing by over £700 million in 2020-21. In 2020-21, the Government will ensure that per pupil funding for all schools can rise in line with inflation (1.8%). The minimum per-pupil amount for 2020-21 will increase to £5,000 for secondary schools and £3,750 for primary schools (rising to £4,000 in 2021-22 ).
- 3.6 Councils are also expected to benefit from additional resources through a real terms increase in NHS Better Care Fund contributions and the Public Health grant.
- 3.7 Core funding for Brexit preparation by Government Departments continues at £2 billion in 2020-21.
- 3.8 A full multi-year Spending Review will be conducted in 2020, which will hopefully cover the following three financial years.

#### **4.0 Technical Consultation – Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21**

- 4.1 Following the 2019 Spending Review MHCLG published a technical consultation seeking views on the 2020/21 Finance Settlement. The consultation included a number of confirmations and proposals.
- 4.2 Reflecting the one-year Spending Review and plans for a more substantial Spending Review during 2020, proposal is to implement a ‘roll-forward’ settlement for 2020-21, which MHCLG identify as providing stability for the majority of funding sources for local government.
- 4.3 The Government remains committed to reforming local government finance and the proposed multi-year Spending Review in 2020 will lay the groundwork for these reforms. MHCLG will continue to work towards their aim to implement these reforms in 2021-22, including a full reset of business rates retention baselines.

- 4.4 Confirmation was provided that the five initial business rate retention pilots (including Liverpool City Region) first introduced in April 2017 would continue for a further year into 2020/21. As planned, all other pilots (except for London) will end at March 2020.
- 4.5 The Settlement Funding Assessment for each council will be increased by the small business rate multiplier.
- 4.6 It was confirmed that there will be a core council tax referendum principle of up to 2%; an Adult Social Care precept of 2% on top of the core principle; and no referendum principles will apply for Parish Councils or Mayoral Combined Authorities.
- 4.7 Existing Improved Better Care Fund funding will be maintained at 2019/20 levels, as well as rolling the £240 million which was allocated as Winter Pressures Grant into the Improved Better Care Fund, with the same distribution as for 2019/20.
- 4.8 Indicative allocations were provided of the additional £1 billion available nationally for Social Care. Based on the proposed allocation methodology this would be worth approximately £2.9m to Halton.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the methodology for New Homes Bonus grant will not change for 2020/21 but there will be no legacy payments made for new homes or homes brought back into use in previous years. It is estimated the Council will lose approximately £0.885m over the three year period 2021/22 to 2023/24 as a result of this change in approach.

## **5.0 Council Tax Support**

- 5.1 Support funding for council tax discounts is funded by Government through a grant included in the Settlement Funding Assessment. Every council is responsible for implementing a local scheme to offer council tax discounts to those residents who may have been eligible to this previously through Council Tax Benefit.
- 5.2 The Halton scheme uses as a basis the previous Regulations relating to Council Tax Benefit, which ensures that support for claimants with disabilities, claimants with children and claimants who are working is maintained. At the end of the existing support calculation, a reduction of 21.55% is made from every non pensioner award of benefit, to cover the shortfall in the Government grant funding for Halton's Scheme.
- 5.3 In 2013/14 the level of grant awarded was shown separately within the formula for Settlement Funding Assessment, but from 2014/15 onwards the grant is no longer separately identifiable. It is assumed the level of funding will therefore have reduced in line with the Council's overall Settlement Funding Assessment.

- 5.4 The MTFs assumes that the level of council tax support given to existing claimants will remain at the rate of 21.55% for the period of the MTFs. It also assumes that council tax support funding will not be shared with Parish Councils.

## **6.0 Business Rate Retention Scheme**

- 6.1 The aim of the business rate retention scheme is to promote economic development and generating future growth in business rates. The Council will only be rewarded if it increases its local share of business rates above a pre-set baseline. Conversely if the local share of business rates collected falls below the baseline position this would be to the Council's detriment.
- 6.2 In 2019/20 the Council used £1.385m of surplus (one-off) business rates income generated to help fund the budget position. The mid-year forecast of cumulative retained business rates as at 30 September 2019, indicates that by year-end there will be a relatively small surplus relating to the Council within the Collection Fund.
- 6.3 It is difficult to accurately forecast retained business rates due to appeals and changing rating values, the financial forecast therefore assumes the small balance held at 31 March 2019 of £0.374m will be available for distribution.
- 6.4 An estimate of the Council's share of retained business rates will be provided to MHCLG in January 2020. It is currently forecast that the 2020/21 retained amount will be above the baseline figure. It is difficult to predict the level of business rates for future years due to the unpredictability of the economic climate and the high level of appeals received on the rateable value of properties, but the forecast assumes retained business rates will total £53.027m.
- 6.5 The business rate baseline position will be reset in 2021/22 which could potentially have an adverse impact on Halton as the growth generated in business rates since 2013 may be reduced as part of the reset. The forecast therefore assumes a loss in funding of £4m to business rates in 2021/22.

## **100% Business Rate Retention – Pilot Scheme**

- 6.6 As part of the Liverpool City Region, the Council is within the pilot scheme for 100% business rate retention. The pilot scheme has been in operation since April 2017. MHCLG have provided confirmation the pilot scheme will continue in 2020/21.
- 6.7 The pilot scheme results in Halton no longer being in receipt of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) through the Settlement Funding Assessment. RSG will be replaced by the additional business rates retained; in addition,

funding for the Improved and Additional Better Care Fund has been included within the pilot and is funded by business rates retained.

- 6.8 MHCLG has confirmed the operation of the pilot scheme should be at “no financial detriment” to participating councils. Therefore whilst the pilot scheme operates, Halton will be no worse off financially than it would have been if it is was still operating under 49% rate retention.
- 6.9 Operation of “no financial detriment” within the pilot scheme means that any LCR council who suffer a deficit as a result of the pilot will at first be reimbursed from the other LCR councils who are in surplus as a result of the pilot. Only when any available surplus has been exhausted will Government step in and provide financial support.
- 6.10 For the first two years of the pilot scheme all LCR councils reported a surplus position as a result of retaining 100% business rates. The forecast assumes that this situation will continue and therefore Halton’s retained income of £2m from the pilot scheme will be used towards balancing the budget for 2020/21.
- 6.11 As at 30 September 2019 all LCR councils were estimating they would be in surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and therefore no detriment funding would be required.

### **Settlement Funding Assessment**

- 6.12 In 2019/20 MHCLG allocated Halton a Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) of £51.002m. This was made up of £46.107m business rates baseline funding and £4.895m of top-up grant funding. Top-up grant funding is received as the Council’s funding baseline is greater than the business rate baseline i.e. the Council’s financial needs are greater than the funding it can generate from business rates. The business rates baseline and funding level is set in the system until 2021 and uplifted each year by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- 6.13 Table 1 shows the expected Settlement Funding Assessment for the next two years based on information provided at the time of the 2019/20 settlement announcement. As Government have yet to publish any public spending plans from 2021/22 onwards, the SFA for those years have been increased by the Government’s inflation target of 2%.
- 6.14 Also included at Table 1 are the forecasts for business rate growth retained for the next three years and the difference between each of the years. The significant reduction forecast in retained growth between 2020/21 and 2021/22, is due to the assumed impact of the national roll-out of 75% rates retention and the introduction of the Fair Funding Review.

**Table 1 – Business Rate Retention**

	19/20 £'000	20/21 £'000	21/22 £'000	22/23 £'000
Business Rate Baseline	46,106	47,028	47,969	48,928
Top-Up Funding	4,896	4,993	4,189	4,273
<b>Total Settlement Funding Assessment</b>	<b>51,002</b>	<b>52,021</b>	<b>52,158</b>	<b>53,201</b>
Business Rates Growth Retained	<b>4,901</b>	<b>5,999</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>2,161</b>
<b>Forecast Business Rates Retained (Incl Top-Up Funding)</b>	<b>55,903</b>	<b>58,020</b>	<b>54,277</b>	<b>55,362</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Business Rates Retained</b>		<b>2,117</b>	<b>(3,743)</b>	<b>1,085</b>

## 7.0 Specific Grants

- 7.1 The level of specific revenue grants received by Halton in 2019/20 is approximately £179.4m, including Housing Benefit Subsidy of £42.6m, Dedicated School Grant of £87.3m, Public Health Grant of £9.9m and DfT Support Grant for the Mersey Gateway crossing of £25.8m.
- 7.2 Halton was allocated a New Homes Bonus grant of £2.381m for 2019/20 which was used to balance the budget. Halton will receive additional allocations in each year of the scheme, based upon the number of new homes and empty homes brought back into use entering the council tax register in each year. The allocation for 2020/21 has not been announced although based on how the New Homes Bonus scheme operates it is forecast the Council will lose approximately £0.217m in the first year of the forecast. Further grant losses are expected in the final two years of the forecast as MHCLG have proposed legacy payments are gradually eradicated.
- 7.3 There is limited information available on 2020/21 Public Health grant allocations other than that grant funding will be protected at 2019/20 levels as a minimum.
- 7.4 The Social Care Grant announced at the time of the 2019/20 finance settlement will be increased in 2020/21 with Halton receiving an additional allocation of £2.915m. It is not known if the new allocation plus the allocation announced at the time of the 2019/20 finance settlement will continue in future years. The forecast assumes a prudent approach that the funding will no longer be receivable in 2021/22.

- 7.5 The forecast change in the level of specific grant funding for Halton is shown in Table 2:

**Table 2 – Change in Grant 2020/21 to 2022/23**

	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Increase (Decrease) to New Homes Bonus	(217)	(807)	(687)
Increase (Decrease) to Social Care Grant	2,915	(4,007)	0
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Grants</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>(4,814)</b>	<b>(687)</b>

## 8.0 Council Tax Forecast

- 8.1 For 2019/20 the Council Tax for a Band D property in Halton is £1,419.08 (excluding Police, Fire, LCR and Parish precepts), which is expected to generate income of £49.597m.
- 8.2 When setting Council Tax levels it is clear that higher increases reduce the requirement to make savings. However, there are other factors that need to be considered when determining the appropriate increase in Council Tax. These factors include:
- Halton has the 4th lowest Council Tax level in the North West for 2019/20,
  - Halton's 2018/19 Council Tax is £65.14 (4.4%) below the average Council Tax set by unitary councils in England.
  - Inflation - the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at September 2019 (latest available) is currently at 1.7% and the Retail Price Index (RPI) is at 2.4%.
  - The public spending review, welfare reforms and high needs, which are all placing pressure upon the Council's funding and demand for the Council's services.
- 8.3 The technical consultation on the 2020/21 Local Government finance settlement, detailed the Government's proposals for 2020/21 council tax referendum principles. The proposal is for a core referendum principle of less than 2% increase in general council tax; with the option of an Adult Social Care precept of up to an additional 2% increase.
- 8.4 The 2020/21 Council Tax Base shows an increase of 409 Band D equivalent properties in the Borough, to a total of 35,359 assuming a

collection rate of 97%. The increase in the Tax Base will generate an additional £0.581m of council tax income.

- 8.5 For the purposes of this strategy it is assumed the Council will apply a council tax increase of 2% in 2020/21. It is further assumed there will be a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care precept in 2020/21.
- 8.6 Table 3 below estimates the net amount of council tax income that will be produced for various percentage increases in Halton's Band D Council Tax for the next three years and assumes no change in council tax base beyond 2020/21.

**Table 3 – Additional Council Tax Income 2020/21 to 2022/23**

<b>Projected Increases in Council Tax Income</b>	<b>2020/21 £'000</b>	<b>2021/22 £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 £'000</b>	<b>Total £'000</b>
0%	-	-	-	-
1%	504	509	514	1,527
2%	1,009	1,029	1,049	3,087
3%	1,513	1,558	1,605	4,676
4%	2,017	2,098	2,182	6,297

- 8.7 Over the past few years the amount of council tax collected has been greater than forecast. As at 31 March 2019 there was a surplus of £3.332m of council tax held as part of the Collection Fund relating to the Council only (excluding Police, Fire and LCR). In 2019/20 £2.050m of this was used in balancing the budget. This strategy assumes that an amount of £1.282m will be released in 2020/21 to provide a one-off budget saving. This will be shared with all major preceptors, the value to the Council being approximately £1.084m.

## **9.0 Spending Forecast**

- 9.1 The spending forecast provides an estimate of the increase in revenue expenditure that will be required over the next three years in order to maintain existing policies and programmes. In effect this represents an early estimate of the standstill budget requirement using the information that is currently available.
- 9.2 The scope of the forecast covers General Fund revenue activities that are financed through the Settlement Funding Assessment, Specific Grants and Council Tax.
- 9.3 The forecast includes the budgetary consequences of previous budget decisions, including one-off savings used to balance the 2019/20 budget. This adds £4.868m to the spending forecast for 2020/21.
- 9.4 Pay and price inflation is the biggest uncertainty in the spending forecast. Pay awards have been forecast at 2.5% in 2020/21 and 2% in each of the following two years. This takes into account the level of public sector

pay awards made over the last year which have been higher than at any point during the austerity period.

- 9.5 The Cheshire Pension Fund triennial revaluation is currently taking place, the outcome of which is expected shortly. The funding level of Halton's part of the Pension Fund is running above 95% whereas in 2016 (the last triennial review) it was running at below 90%. Modelling by the Cheshire Pension Fund Actuary (Hymans) has been undertaken of funding levels over the medium term, which suggests that the Council will benefit from decreasing pension contribution rates of 1% in each of the three years of the forecast. Employer contribution rates are forecast to be as follows:
- 2019/20 – 23.4%
  - 2020/21 – 22.4%
  - 2021/22 – 21.4%
  - 2022/23 – 20.4%
- 9.6 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2019 – the index by which the Government measures inflation - stands at 1.7% which is below the Government's 2% target. The spending forecast assumes that many items of supplies and services expenditure will continue to be cash limited. In other cases the forecast assumes an appropriate rate that reflects current and estimated future prices.
- 9.7 The spending forecast takes account of the Executive Board decision of 11 April 2019 setting care provider contract uplifts for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The report highlighted risks with regard to future quality of care provision and financial sustainability of care providers in the Borough, based on existing rates paid. Inflation is therefore included within the forecast to increase care rates to those approved by Executive Board.
- 9.8 The Council has a significant capital programme and the spending forecast includes the financing costs of the existing programme, including the investment of Council cash balances. The Council has a strong cash position which has helped negate the need for borrowing over the past number of years whilst at the same time increase interest receivable over budgeted rates. The Council will continue to review the need for additional borrowing at opportune times in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy.
- 9.9 The net revenue costs associated with the capital programme are included in the forecast at a marginal increase of £0.044m in 2020/21, whilst an increase of £0.376m is forecast in the last two years of the forecast. The MTFs assumes that any new capital projects which are approved over the medium term will be self-funded through capital grant, capital receipts or will generate revenue savings to fund the cost of borrowing.

9.10 Over the last three financial years the Council has recorded a net overspend against available budget. The forecast for the current year projects the budget will overspend in the region of £6m. Notably pressures are continuing to be recorded against the following areas:

- Direct Payments for Adults and Children's Social Care Services
- Children in Care Costs
- Community Care Costs for Adult Social Services
- Transport arrangements across Adults and Children's Social Care and school transport.
- Income targets for a number of traded services
- Increasing ICT costs for software licensing.

9.11 Increasing demand for front line and support services is further evidenced in the recently published Indices of Deprivation 2019. The Indices of Deprivation measure relative deprivation levels across all local authorities. Halton's average deprivation score national ranking is 23 out of 317 local authorities. In 2015 this was 27 out of 326. The categories where Halton has the highest ranking is Health Deprivation and Disability.

- Health – 45% of Halton's population live in areas falling in the most deprived areas nationally.
- Income Affecting Children - 24% of Halton's population live in areas falling in the most deprived areas nationally.
- Education - 17% of Halton's population live in areas falling in the most deprived areas nationally.
- Income Affecting Older People - 12% of Halton's population live in areas falling in the most deprived areas nationally.

9.12 The Indices highlight the resulting significant demand pressures which fall upon Council services. To help address the underlying overspends within certain areas of the Council's current budget, growth of £5m is included within the forecast to assist with bringing net spending back within the approved budget and help address areas where service demand is increasing.

9.13 Led by the Local Government Association, in September 2019 the Council undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge. The core components of the challenge consisted of:

- Understanding of the local place and priority setting
- Leadership of Place
- Financial planning and viability
- Organisational leadership and governance
- Capacity to deliver

Growth of £1m has been included in the first year of the forecast to help the Council address the areas for consideration which have been suggested by the peer challenge.

- 9.14 The construction of the Mersey Gateway crossing was completed in October 2017. The Council has made a contribution towards the construction costs of the bridge funded by prudential borrowing, the financing costs of which will be met from toll revenues and Department for Transport (DfT) grant. The Mersey Gateway Crossing Board will continue to manage the Mersey Gateway; their costs will be met from future toll revenues and DfT grant.
- 9.15 No surplus toll revenue is included with this forecast, as if revenue is greater than forecast this will be offset by reductions in the annual revenue grant provided by the DfT.
- 9.16 A key assumption that has been used in constructing the forecast is that total spending in the current year is kept within the overall budget. In particular it can be difficult to control 'demand led' budgets such as children in care and care in the community and many income streams. In this context it is important to consider the contingency for uncertain and unexpected items. Due to the considerable uncertainty in inflation, interest rates, demand led budgets, impact of spending cuts and loss of income, the spending forecast includes a contingency of £1m in 2020/21, £1.5m in 2021/22 and £2.0m in 2022/23.
- 9.17 The Council has an arrangement in place whereby staff have included within their terms and conditions 4 days unpaid leave. It is estimated this saves the Council £0.750 per year. The current arrangement ends in 2021 with the effect of increasing overall staff costs. Growth is therefore included in the last year of the forecast to reflect the additional cost, should the arrangement not be renewed.
- 9.18 The additional Better Care Fund grant has been extended to cover 2020/21, payable at 2019/20 funding levels. The grant is funded through the LCR 100% business rate retention pilot and the effect of this funding ending in 2020/21 is shown in the business rate retention figures earlier on within the Strategy. The spending forecast shows the reduction in spend of £0.904m in 2021/22.
- 9.19 The Council has held an Equal Pay reserve for a number of years to provide for the cost of claims being received. The risk of the receipt of claims reduces on an annual basis and therefore £0.500m of the reserve is used in balancing the budget each year. As at March 2021 the reserve will be fully utilised and from 2021/22 growth of £0.500 is included in the forecast position.

9.20 Table 4 summarises the Spending Forecast.

**Table 4 – General Fund Medium Term Standstill Spending Forecast**

Increase in spending required to maintain existing policies and services	Year on year change (£'000)		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Full Year Effect of Previous Year Budget (incl Council Tax and Business Rate Surplus)	7,989	3,458	0
Capital Programme	44	374	2
Pay and Price Inflation	3,757	1,633	2,036
Service Demand Pressures	5,000	0	0
Peer Review Areas for Consideration	1,000	0	0
Contingency	1,000	1,500	2,000
Additional Better Care Fund	0	-904	0
4 Days Unpaid Leave Arrangement	0	0	750
Equal Pay – Release of Reserve	0	500	0
<b>TOTAL INCREASE</b>	<b>18,790</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>4,788</b>

## 10.0 The Funding Gap

10.1 At this level of spending there is a funding gap with the forecast level of resources. Table 5 demonstrates the forecast gap between spending and forecast resources at different levels of council tax increase.

**Table 5: Funding Gap with a given % increase in Council Tax**

	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Increase in Spending Forecast	18,790	6,561	4,788
Change in Business Rates Retained (Incl Top-Up)	-2,117	3,743	-1,085
Change in Grant	-2,698	4,814	687
Increase in Council Tax Base	-581	0	0
Council Tax Surplus	-1,084	0	0
Business Rate Surplus	-374	0	0
Use of Business Rate Pilot Reserve	-2,000	0	0
<b>Funding Gap Before Council Tax</b>	<b>9,936</b>	<b>15,118</b>	<b>4,390</b>
<b>Funding Gap After Council Tax Increase at Various Levels</b>			
0%	9,936	15,118	4,390
1%	9,432	14,609	3,876
2%	8,927	14,089	3,341

<b>3%</b>	8,423	13,560	2,785
<b>4%</b>	7,919	13,020	2,208

- 10.2 The table shows that total savings of £7.919m are forecast to be needed to balance next year's budget after the use of one-off surplus council tax and business rates, use of reserves and an assumed 4% total increase to council tax.
- 10.3 The use of surplus council tax and business rates income adds to the deficit position for the following year and are included in the above table.
- 10.4 Further savings of £15.118m in 2020/21 and £4.390m in 2021/22, are required, assuming no increase to Council Tax. The total funding gap is approximately £27.427m and represents 25.2% of the Council's 2019/20 net budget.
- 10.5 This represents a significant challenge for the Council to balance its budget. As a result every aspect of the Council's budget needs to be scrutinised to identify potential savings. In addition, all opportunities will continue to be taken to generate additional income from charging for services and generating additional council tax and business rates, in order to reduce costs whilst maintaining levels of service delivery.

## 11.0 Capital Programme

- 11.1 The Council's capital programme is updated regularly throughout the year. Table 6 summarises the fully funded capital programme for the next two years.

**Table 6 – Capital Programme**

	<b>2020/21 (£'000)</b>	<b>2021/22 (£'000)</b>
<b>Spending</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>5,098</b>
Funding:		
Prudential Borrowing	3,160	2,643
Grants	1,276	586
Capital Receipts	1,959	1,869
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>5,098</b>

- 11.2 The current system of capital controls allows councils to support and fund the capital programme by way of prudential borrowing. Such borrowing is required to be:
- prudent
  - affordable, and
  - sustainable

- 11.3 The capital programme is underpinned by the Capital Strategy agreed by Council in March 2019.
- 11.4 The Council has used prudential borrowing provided that the cost of borrowing has been covered by revenue budget savings and the spending forecast continues this assumption.
- 11.5 In previous years the Council has been extremely successful in attracting capital grants and contributions. In this way the Council has been able to undertake significant capital expenditure without the financing costs falling on the revenue budget and this approach will continue.

## **12.0 Reserves and Balances**

- 12.1 The Council's Reserves and Balances Strategy is attached in the Appendix. It sets out the Council's strategy in respect of the level of reserves and balances it wishes to maintain, by reference to the financial needs and risks associated with the Council's activities.
- 12.2 The level of balances and reserves will be reviewed as part of the budget monitoring and final accounts processes.

## **13.0 Schools Budget**

- 13.1 Schools are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is used to fund the Individual Schools Budget which is allocated to schools through a locally agreed formula. The central allocation of DSG is in accordance with the revised Department for Education guidance.
- 13.2 The Schools Forum assesses and considers current and future arrangements and changes to schools funding following consultation with local schools and academies.
- 13.3 From April 2018 Halton has adopted the National Funding Formula (NFF) as the basis for the methodology behind the allocation of Schools Block DSG monies. The Schools Block of DSG is now ring-fenced for allocation through the formula to local mainstream schools and academies with the exception of a transfer to the High Needs Block of DSG.

## **14.0 Partnership/Joint Working/Shared Services**

- 14.1 In 2015/16 the Government introduced a £3.8 billion fund to support the pooling of budgets for health and social care services, shared between the NHS and local authorities. This was intended to deliver better outcomes and greater efficiencies through more integrated services for older and disabled people. The Better Care Fund (BCF) provides an opportunity to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, to provide them with a better service and better quality of

life. The Fund will be an important enabler for integrated care, acting as a significant catalyst for change.

- 14.2 The Council has been the host body for a Complex Care Pooled budget for a number of years. From 01 April 2015 the Better Care Fund was included within the pooled budget arrangements, working jointly with Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG). The gross expenditure value of the pooled budget for 2019/20 is approximately £60.370m.
- 14.3 The Council will receive a number of different strands of Better Care funding in 2020/21. As part of the 2019 Spending Round Government proposes to continue existing iBCF funding at 2019/20 levels and using the same methodology. The Spending Review announced that the NHS contribution to Adult Social Care through the BCF will increase by 3.4% in real terms in 2020/21, although details of the methodology used are still to be announced. Table 6 summarises BCF allocations for 2019/20 and 2020/21:

**Table 6 - Better Care Funding (BCF) 2019/20 to 2020/21**

	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Original BCF	10,377	Not Yet Known
Improved BCF	5,233	5,233
Additional BCF	904	904

- 14.4 The Council has established partnerships and shared service arrangements with a number of councils and other organisations over recent years for activities including, Children Services, Adult Social Services, Procurement and ICT Services. The Council is also part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the agreement with Government regarding devolution of powers and resources to the City Region. These arrangements should provide opportunities to achieve significant on-going savings from alternative ways of working and improved service delivery across the City Region.

## **15.0 Efficiency Strategy**

- 15.1 In order to maintain the level of performance across services delivered by the Council, it needs to find new and innovative ways to deliver services whilst making efficiency savings. The Council recognises the need to look more radically at the way it does business in order to achieve the level of savings that will protect key services.
- 15.2 The Council previously had an Efficiency Programme to review services in a consistent way. This approach is now embedded into the Council's culture and assists with the identification of opportunities to enhance productivity, reduce costs, explore alternative delivery mechanisms and ensure that services are configured in the most appropriate way to meet

the needs of service users. The Council will consider the findings from the Peer Challenge to consider how it can develop further ideas to drive efficiency savings.

- 15.3 The Council has proper arrangements for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This is strengthened and improved by centrally coordinated procurement arrangements via the Procurement Division. Procurement is considered a key mechanism for delivering efficiencies across the Council.
- 15.4 The Council's strategy regarding accommodation aims to rationalise the land and property portfolio and wherever possible to locate staff in Council owned buildings. Progress continues to be made with implementation of the strategy, which has and will continue to result in revenue budget savings during the period of the forecast.

## **16.0 Monitoring**

- 16.1 Spending against each Department's revenue budget and capital programme is monitored and reported to the relevant Policy and Performance Boards, alongside service outcomes, within the quarterly performance management reports. The Council-wide position is also reported quarterly to Executive Board.

## **17.0 Summary**

- 17.1 This Strategy highlights that considerable savings will be required over the next three years, alongside this there remains great uncertainty regarding the future funding of Council services.
- 17.2 The Business Rates Retention Scheme and localisation of Council Tax Support carry further risk to the funding available to the Council over the medium and longer term. Whilst there may be opportunity to take advantage of growth, there will be circumstances outside of the Council's control such as decline in the national economy which could be at the detriment of business rates and council tax collected.
- 17.3 Future levels of growth and savings required will be directly influenced by the decisions made concerning council tax increases. Council tax increases will reduce the level of savings required, although the legislative requirements regarding council tax referendums will restrict the Council's scope to increase council tax.
- 17.4 The Medium Term Financial Strategy has been based on information that is currently available. Revisions will need to be made regularly as new developments take place and new information becomes available.

## **APPENDIX**

### **RESERVES AND BALANCES STRATEGY**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The following sets out the Council's Strategy in respect of the level of reserves and balances it wishes to maintain, by reference to the financial needs and risks associated with the Council's activities.
- 1.2 The overall strategy is to provide the Council with an appropriate level of reserves and balances in relation to its day to day activities and to ensure the Council's financial standing is sound and supports the achievement of its long term objectives and corporate priorities.
- 1.3 The Operational Director, Finance will undertake quarterly reviews of the level of reserves and balances and take appropriate action in order to ensure the overall strategy is achieved. The outcome of the reviews will be reported to the Executive Board and will be used to inform the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the annual budget setting process and the final accounts process.
- 1.4 The Strategy concentrates upon the Council's key reserves and balances, being those which may potentially have a significant affect upon the Council's financial standing and its day to day operations.

#### **2.0 GENERAL BALANCES**

- 2.1 It has been the Council's policy to maintain general balances at a reasonable level, based upon the financial risks and challenges it faces. This is particularly important at the current time given the increasing demand-led pressures upon Children's Services and Adult Social Care. Close monitoring and control of budgets has meant this policy has been successfully achieved. As at 31 March 2019 the balance of the Council's general reserve was £5.0m.

#### **3.0 PROVISIONS**

##### **Sundry Debtors**

- 3.1 The Council makes provision for bad and doubtful debts based upon an annual review of outstanding debts profiled by age and the associated risks of non-payment, depending upon the types of debt.
- 3.2 Past experience has shown that after 43 days (the period covering the initial stages of recovery action) the likelihood of sundry debts being paid reduces significantly and therefore the risk of them not being recovered increases greatly. Full provision will therefore be made for all sundry debts outstanding for more than 43 days.

- 3.3 The bad debt provisions in respect of sundry debtors at 31 March 2019 totals £2.8m.

#### **Council Tax / Business Rates**

- 3.4 Bad debt provisions are made in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates debts. The bad debt provisions (Council Share) in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates debtors at 31 March 2019 totals £8.1m.

- 3.5 The levels of bad debt provisions held are considered prudent in relation to the current level and age profile of outstanding debts. But they will be reviewed annually, particularly in the light of the prevailing economic climate and reductions in Council Tax Support payments and empty property discounts which may affect collection rates. Therefore appropriate provisions will be made to minimise the risk of financial loss to the Council.

- 3.6 The Council is also required to hold a provision for Business Rates valuation appeal claims. The provision as at 31 March 2019 totals £5.4m. The treatment and funding of appeals is currently being considered nationally as part of the consultation regarding the implementation of 75% business rates retention from 2021/22 onwards. Once the outcome of this is known, the implications for future provisions for appeals can be determined.

#### **4.0 CAPITAL RESERVE**

- 4.1 The Council holds a Capital Reserve to support the financing of the Council's capital programme which currently totals £2.0m and is based upon current capital funding needs.

#### **5.0 INVEST TO SAVE FUND**

- 5.1 The Council has an Invest to Save Fund which at 31 March 2019 stood at £0.4m. This is held in order to provide one-off funding for proposals which will generate efficiencies and thereby create significant, permanent, revenue budget savings, whilst also supporting the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.

#### **6.0 TRANSFORMATION FUND**

- 6.1 The Council has a Transformation Fund to fund the costs associated with efficiency reviews and structural changes required in order to deliver a balanced budget. At 31 March 2019 the fund's balance stood at £0.8m.

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 14 November 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Finance

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** 2019/20 Quarter 2 Spending

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

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report the Council's overall revenue and capital spending position as at 30 September 2019.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) All spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;**
- 2) Departments seek to implement as soon as possible the remaining 2019/20 budget savings proposals which were approved by Council in March 2019;**
- 3) Strategic Directors take appropriate action to ensure overall spending is contained as far as possible within their total operational budget by year-end; and**
- 4) Council be asked to approve the revised Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Revenue Spending**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the revenue budget up to 30 September 2019, along with individual statements for each Department. In overall terms revenue expenditure is £2.654m above the budget profile. This compares with the position of £1.247m reported as at the end of June 2019. The trend shows the overspend is continuing at a steady pace over the first six months of the year.
- 3.2 Based on current spend patterns, projections show the Council will have a year-end outturn overspend position of approximately £6.145m, if no corrective action is taken. This is slightly less than the outturn forecast reported at Q1 but still represents a significant risk to Council finances. As at 31 March 2019 the Council's General Fund balance was £5.0m. Unless the projected overspend is reduced and net spending brought

back into line with budget as far as possible, the general reserve will be fully consumed and impact negatively on the financial sustainability of the Council. The level of earmarked reserves will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and any surplus funds identified will be released to the General Reserve.

- 3.3 In March 2019 the Council approved budget savings proposals totalling £9.250m for the current year's budget. The value of permanent savings was £4.432m, of which a number of savings proposals totalling £1.754m remain unallocated to specific budgets and are still in the course of being implemented. The resulting delay with their implementation impacts detrimentally upon the forecast outturn position in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 There are a number of departments where net spend for the quarter significantly exceeds the budget to date. The main budget pressure continues to be within the Children & Families Department where the forecast outturn overspend is in the region of £4.5m. There are four departments with forecast overspend positions of over £1m at 31 March 2020.
- 3.5 Total spending on employees is £0.364m above budget profile at the end of the quarter, compared to an overall staffing budget to date of £36.381m. This is a concern, as the overspend is likely to continue at this rate unless action is taken to delay even further the filling of vacancies.
- 3.6 Details of spend and income on Mersey Gateway is included within Appendix 1 to the report. Overall the Mersey Gateway has no impact on the Council's 2019/20 budget position as all spend is funded from either toll charges or Government grant.
- 3.7 Within the overall budget position for the quarter, the key budget variances are as follows;

(i) **Children and Families Department:-**

The Department's spending is currently £2.234m over budget. The projected outturn forecast is for the Department to overspend by £4.471m against a net budget of £22.824m. The forecast is slightly lower than at quarter 1, but given the nature of demand within the service could increase again in the second half of the year.

It is forecast that staffing will overspend by £0.584m by year-end. Included within this figure are a number of 2019/20 savings which have not yet been implemented. These budget reductions are offset by staffing costs not being incurred whilst Edinburgh Road remains closed.

Spend on supplies and services over the past six months has been consistently above the profiled budget. If spend continues at the same levels in the second half of the year it is forecast to be £0.284m higher than the available budget.

Spend on direct payments has increased each year since 2016/17 as a result of increased users and cost of packages. Extrapolating similar levels of increase in 2019/20 results in a forecast overspend of £0.342m. A saving proposal of £0.127m was applied in 2019/20, with regard to the short break respite service.

The biggest pressure on the budget continues to be as a result of costs for residential and independent fostering placements. Extensive work continues with the aim of reducing the number of placements and cost per placement. There is evidence that this work has had an impact as the level of forecast overspend has reduced from £3.711m to £2.935m over the past quarter. This is offset by an increase in costs for in-house foster carers although the cost per placement will be much lower.

Chart A, B and C below provide analysis of the growing costs of residential placements, independent fostering placements and in-house fostering placements over the past 6 years (inclusive of 19/20 forecast – based on current demand).

**Chart A**

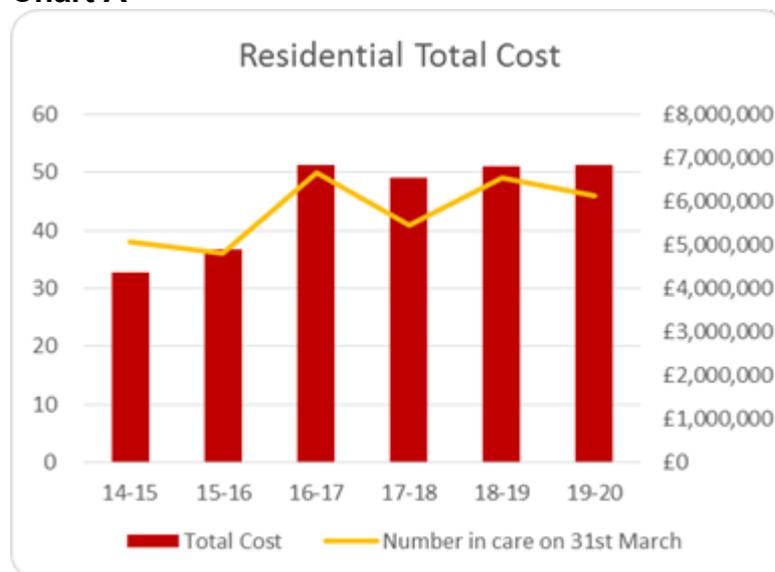


Chart B

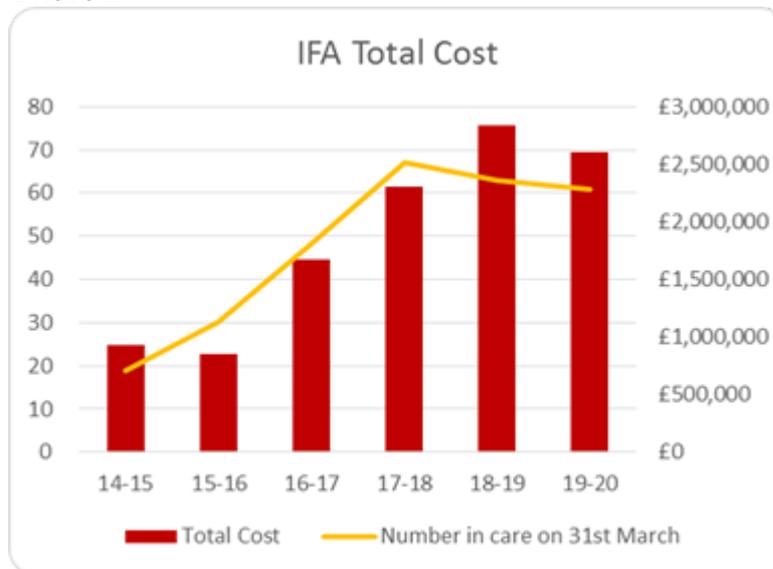
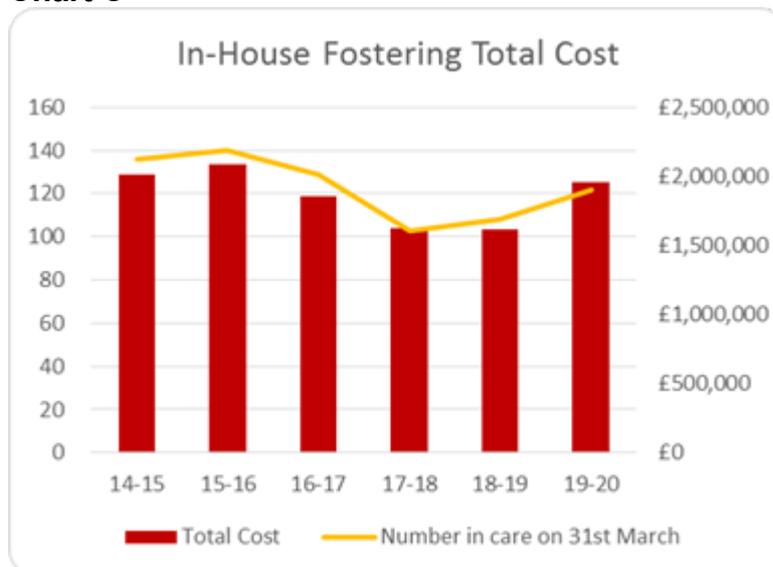


Chart C

(ii) **Community & Environment Department:-**

The Department's spending is currently £0.749m above budget. The projected outturn forecast is for the Department to overspend by £1.396m against a net budget of £21.040m.

Spend on employee costs is forecast to be £0.134m above budget at year-end, which assumes that the use of casual and agency staff will continue at similar levels to 2018/19. A restructure of the Stadium was implemented in June 2019 and it is anticipated this will reduce staffing costs throughout the remainder of the year.

The most significant issue for the Department once again relates to income targets not being achieved. The current forecast shows income will be £1.327m below the budgeted target by year-end. Income targets were reviewed as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process and were reduced wherever possible. A prudent

view has therefore been taken of forecast income levels, due to the historical shortfalls over the past number of years.

The majority of the shortfalls in sales income budgets relate to activities within the stadium and the commercial catering division. The shortfall in the fees and charges income budget is primarily due to activities within leisure management and the difficulties in recruitment and retention of swimming instructors, leading to cancelled swimming lessons and lack of fitness classes.

The position has however been assisted by fee income including crematorium fees being £0.68m higher than at this point last year and buy-back for the green waste collection service being higher than forecast.

(iii) **Education, Inclusion & Provision:-**

As at 30 September 2019 the Department's net spend is exceeding the profiled budget by £0.619m. Based upon current projections it is forecast that the Department will overspend in the region of £1.243m by 31 March 2020, a reduction of £0.080m from that forecast at Q1.

The main budget pressure area for the Department relates to costs for school transport. In 2018/19 costs for the service were £0.438m above budget. A saving proposal of £0.375m was approved for 2019/20, relating to the review of transport arrangements across the whole of the People Directorate, which has yet to be implemented. Based on existing anticipated service usage the forecast for the year shows an estimated overspend against budget of £0.785m, a reduction of 6% (£0.050m) from that forecast at the end of June 2019.

A general budget savings target of £0.590m was approved for the People Directorate, to reduce costs associated with the re-procurement of contracts across the Directorate. To date £0.391m of this target has been allocated to specific budget areas, but £0.199m remains unallocated and is temporarily held within this Department's budget.

Inter authority income is expected to be £0.267m short of the budget target as the Council has reduced capacity to accept pupils from other authorities as special schools and units are full as a result of the volume of SEN pupils.

(iv) **ICT & Support Services:-**

The Department's net expenditure is £0.323m above budget. The forecast net outturn spend for the Department is estimated at £0.620m over budget. This is a significant reduction from the £1.0m forecast at 30 June 2019.

Employee costs are forecast to be £0.168m above the budget profile, compared to £0.352m at 30 June. If vacancy levels continue at the same rate for the remainder of the year it is likely the forecast overspend will continue to reduce. Included within the employee budget is a staff savings target of £0.213m which has not yet been achieved.

Software costs for the current year are estimated at £1.075m, compared to available budget of £0.940m, due to increasing costs for Microsoft licences.

The Department has an income target of £1.107m for income, predominantly from the charging of services to other local authorities. Based upon current known agreements and income levels from last year, it is forecast that external income generation will be £0.432m below the budget target by year-end, inclusive of the 2019/20 saving target of £0.250m. Work is being undertaken to seek alternative external income if at all possible.

#### **5)Complex Care Pool:-**

The Complex Care Pool arrangement hosted with Halton Clinical Commissioning Group has seen an increase in costs over the past quarter. This has resulted in a forecast outturn overspend significantly higher than was anticipated at the end of quarter 1. The main increase in forecast costs relates to the number and value of direct payments made.

There has been an increase in the care package of 30 service users, resulting in an increase of costs amounting to £320k to the end of the financial year. In addition there are 35 new service users from July to September, an increase of £430k.

There has also been an increase in the number of service users commissioning services from agencies, which charge more than the council's contract rate of £14.50 per hour. These are generally complex needs clients whose needs cannot be met by Council contracted providers. The annual projection of additional costs for these clients is currently £162,000.

The financial recovery working group remains in place to look at addressing the current cost pressures within health and social care, whilst ensuring the needs of clients continue to be met.

Established as a short term solution, Ward B3 was initiated to support individuals who no longer require ongoing care in an acute setting i.e. who are medically optimised and have reached their functional potential, but are delayed being discharged from hospital. Costs up to November 2019 are forecast to be in the region of £1.3m, funded from slippage on BCF and iBCF schemes. In previous years this funding has been used to help achieve a balanced budget position for the Complex Care Pool.

(vi) **Corporate & Democracy:-**

Corporate and Democracy is currently £1.134m under budget. The 2019/20 net spend for this area is forecast to be £2.833m below budget.

Investment income is currently forecast to be £0.327m above the target income level, as a result of higher investment rates than expected and cash balances being higher than forecast.

Slippage in the capital programme over the past couple of years will result in capital financing costs for the year being lower than anticipated by approximately £1.109m.

The business rate pool budget arrangement operated between Halton, St Helens and Warrington recorded a significant surplus as at the end of March 2019. Halton has therefore received a one-off share of income from the pool of £0.421m in accordance with the pool agreement.

- 3.8 The council tax collection rate for the first quarter of 55.05% is marginally lower (0.02%) than at this stage last year. However, the collection rate for business rates of 55.05% is up by 0.39% from last year. The forecast retained element of business rates and council tax is in line with the estimate used when setting the 2019/20 budget.

**Capital Spending**

- 3.9 The Capital Programme has been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding as schemes have developed. These are reflected in the capital programme presented in Appendix 3. The schemes which have been revised within the Programme are as follows;

1. Stadium Reconfiguration
2. Open Spaces
3. Children's Playground Equipment
4. Crow Wood Play Area
5. Crow Wood Park Pavilion
6. Peelhouse Lane Cemetery
7. Linnets Clubhouse
8. Widnes Waterfront
9. Former Crosville Site
10. Broseley House
11. Solar Farm
12. Moor Lane Bus Depot
13. Manor Park
14. Integrated Transport & Network Management
15. Grangeway Court Refurbishment

16. Bredon Reconfiguration
17. Orchard House
18. Disabled Facilities Grant
19. Stairlifts (Adaptations Initiative)
20. RSL Adaptations (Joint Funding)
21. Madeline McKenna Care Home
22. Basic Need
23. SEND capital allocation
24. Chesnut Lodge

Capital spending at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 totalled £14.9m, which is 94% of the planned spending of £15.9m at this stage. This represents 40% of the total Capital Programme of £37.1m (which assumes a 20% slippage between years).

### **Balance Sheet**

- 3.10 The Council's Balance Sheet is monitored regularly in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy which forms part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The key reserves and balances have been reviewed and are considered prudent and appropriate at this stage in the financial year.

### **4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

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

- 5.1 There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 There are a number of financial risks within the budget. However, the Council has internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget.
- 6.2 In preparing the 2019/20 budget, a register of significant financial risks was prepared which has been updated as at 30 September 2019.

### **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 None.

### **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072**

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

## Summary of Revenue Spending to 30 September 2019

Directorate / Department	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
Community & Environment	21,040	6,562	7,311	(749)	(1,396)
Economy, Enterprise & Property	1,766	1,481	1,394	87	182
Finance	4,462	2,870	2,777	93	99
ICT & Support Services	17	-343	-20	(323)	(620)
Legal & Democratic Services	545	366	320	46	73
Planning & Transportation	8,445	2,924	2,724	200	402
Policy, People, Performance & Efficiency	169	-234	-225	(9)	4
<b>Enterprise, Community &amp; Resources</b>	<b>36,444</b>	<b>13,626</b>	<b>14,281</b>	<b>(655)</b>	<b>(1,256)</b>
Adult Social Care	17,648	9,338	9,321	17	0
Children & Families	22,843	10,350	12,584	(2,234)	(4,471)
Complex Care pool Budget	25,871	10,073	10,801	(728)	(1,542)
Education, Inclusion & Provision	7,176	4,474	5,093	(619)	(1,243)
Public Health & Public Protection	901	301	293	8	15
<b>People</b>	<b>74,439</b>	<b>34,536</b>	<b>38,092</b>	<b>(3,556)</b>	<b>(7,241)</b>
<b>Corporate &amp; Democracy</b>	<b>-2,262</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>-455</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>2,352</b>
<b>Mersey Gateway</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-12,155</b>	<b>-12,155</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>108,621</b>	<b>37,109</b>	<b>39,763</b>	<b>(2,654)</b>	<b>(6,145)</b>



**ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY & RESOURCES DIRECTORATE**  
**Community & Environment**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	14,453	7,150	7,228	(78)	(134)
Premises	2,034	1,169	1,236	(67)	(143)
Supplies & Services	1,005	636	647	(11)	(23)
Book Fund	135	74	71	3	5
Hired & Contracted Services	932	269	289	(20)	(40)
Food Provisions	450	208	207	1	4
School Meals Food	1,919	777	765	12	24
Transport	115	45	44	1	2
Agency Costs	394	245	196	49	64
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,140	166	166	0	(55)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	67	12	12	0	47
Grant To Norton Priory	172	86	87	(1)	(1)
Rolling Projects	26	26	26	0	0
Capital Financing	46	46	56	(10)	(10)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>27,888</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>11,030</b>	<b>(121)</b>	<b>(260)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sales Income	-1,672	-846	-629	(217)	(434)
School Meals Sales	-2,305	-844	-789	(55)	(110)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,909	-2,911	-2,590	(321)	(651)
Rents Income	-207	-101	-107	6	12
Government Grant Income	-1,198	-1,198	-1,021	(177)	(177)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-675	-174	-142	(32)	(64)
Schools SLA Income	-1,349	-1,349	-1,405	56	56
Internal Fees Income	-141	-67	-89	22	43
School Meals Other Income	-254	-105	-103	(2)	(4)
Catering Fees	-114	-25	-20	(5)	(30)
Capital Salaries	-173	-86	-88	2	5
Transfers From Reserves	-106	-96	-96	0	27
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-14,103</b>	<b>-7,802</b>	<b>-7,079</b>	<b>(723)</b>	<b>(1,327)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>13,785</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>(844)</b>	<b>(1,587)</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	1,499	749	749	0	0
Transport Recharges	2,365	1,194	1,099	95	191
Central Support Services	3,892	1,946	1,946	0	0
Asset Charges	146	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-647	-434	-434	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>7,255</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>21,040</b>	<b>6,562</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>(749)</b>	<b>(1,396)</b>

## Economy, Enterprise &amp; Property

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	4,522	2,326	2,293	33	65
Repairs & Maintenance	2,137	1,059	936	123	246
Premises	63	53	53	0	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	683	275	278	(3)	(7)
NNDR	530	524	532	(8)	(6)
Rents	301	173	173	0	0
Economic Regeneration Activities	34	5	4	1	2
Supplies & Services	1,643	874	877	(3)	(7)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	58	25	25	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	217	117	117	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10,188</b>	<b>5,431</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>292</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Fees & Charges Income	-348	-185	-185	0	0
Rent – Commercial Properties	-1,106	-436	-394	(42)	(84)
Rent – Investment Properties	-44	-21	-21	0	0
Rent – Markets	-771	-378	-373	(5)	(9)
Government Grant Income	-1,691	-400	-400	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-212	-129	-127	(2)	(4)
Schools SLA Income	-512	-485	-478	(7)	(13)
Capital Salaries	-113	-90	-90	0	0
Transfers From Reserves	-940	-592	-592	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-5,737</b>	<b>-2,716</b>	<b>-2,660</b>	<b>(56)</b>	<b>(110)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,451</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>182</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	1,868	934	934	0	0
Transport	28	14	14	0	0
Asset Charges	4	0	0	0	0
Central Support Services	1,975	1,003	1,003	0	0
HBC Support Income	-6,560	-3,185	-3,185	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-2,685</b>	<b>-1,234</b>	<b>-1,234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>182</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	5,497	2,700	2,746	(46)	(91)
Supplies & Services	371	246	239	7	14
Insurance	1,053	697	686	11	21
Rent Allowances	42,900	17,371	17,371	0	0
Non HRA Rent Rebates	65	30	30	0	0
Discretionary Social Fund	106	58	58	0	0
Discretionary Housing Pmts	470	216	216	0	0
Concessionary Travel	2,218	895	875	20	40
LCR Levy	2,241	2,241	2,241	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>54,921</b>	<b>24,454</b>	<b>24,462</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(16)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Clerical Error Recovery	-400	-81	-81	0	0
Rent Allowances	-42,500	-16,095	-16,095	0	0
Fees & Charges	-228	-126	-145	19	37
Non HRA Rent Rebate	-65	-39	-39	0	0
Burdens Grant	-66	-66	-90	24	24
Dedicated Schools Grant	-102	0	0	0	0
Discretionary Hsg Payment Grant	-469	-156	-156	0	0
Hsg Benefit Admin Grant	-445	-223	-223	0	0
Council Tax Admin Grant	-204	-204	-208	4	4
Council Tax Liability Order	-406	-350	-350	0	0
Business Rates Admin Grant	-156	0	0	0	0
Schools SLAs	-818	-818	-855	37	37
LCR Reimbursement	-2,241	-2,241	-2,241	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grants	-196	-107	-124	17	13
Transfer from Reserves	-27	-10	-10	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-48,323</b>	<b>-20,516</b>	<b>-20,617</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>99</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	248	124	124	0	0
Central Recharges	2,493	1,246	1,246	0	0
Central Recharge Income	-4,877	-2,438	-2,438	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-2,136</b>	<b>-1,068</b>	<b>-1,068</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>4,462</b>	<b>2,870</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>99</b>

ICT &amp; Support Services

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	7,332	3,578	3,662	(84)	(168)
Supplies & Services	1,029	573	539	34	68
Capital Financing	78	24	14	10	19
Computer Repairs & Software	940	890	958	(68)	(135)
Communication Costs	17	17	30	(13)	0
Transfer to Reserves	15	0	0	0	0
Premises Costs	64	48	55	(7)	(13)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,475</b>	<b>5,130</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(229)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Fees & Charges	-1,107	-323	-108	(215)	(432)
Schools SLA Income	-532	-494	-514	20	41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-1,639</b>	<b>-817</b>	<b>-622</b>	<b>(195)</b>	<b>(391)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>7,836</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>4,636</b>	<b>(323)</b>	<b>(620)</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support Recharges	424	212	212	0	0
Transport Recharges	20	10	10	0	0
Central Support Recharges	1,116	558	558	0	0
HBC Asset Rental Support	1,494	0	0	0	0
Support Services Income	-10,873	-5,436	-5,436	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-7,819</b>	<b>-4,656</b>	<b>-4,656</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-343</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>(323)</b>	<b>(620)</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	1765	942	943	(1)	(2)
Supplies & Services	271	136	138	(2)	(3)
Civic Catering & Functions	49	20	11	9	18
Legal Expenses	215	180	180	0	0
Transport Related Expenditure	11	9	8	1	3
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Land Charges	-80	-28	-32	4	8
School SLAs	-80	-80	-80	0	0
Licence Income	-250	-98	-107	9	18
Government Grant	0	0	-21	21	21
Fees & Charges Income	-56	-65	-70	5	10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-466</b>	<b>-271</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>73</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	64	32	32	0	0
Central Support Recharges	363	181	181	0	0
Support Recharges Income	-1,727	-863	-863	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,300</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>73</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	4,663	2,341	2,172	169	338
Premises	169	103	77	26	53
Contracted Services	186	49	181	(132)	(263)
Supplies & Services	162	74	147	(73)	(145)
Street Lighting	1,583	437	432	5	12
Highways Maintenance	2,495	1,134	1,110	24	47
Fleet Transport	1,332	583	479	104	208
Halton Hopper Tickets	193	73	73	0	0
Bus Support	519	178	178	0	0
Finance Charges	16	4	4	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	61	30	30	0	0
LCR Levy	882	441	441	0	0
NRA Levy	66	66	65	1	1
Contribution to Reserves	432	20	0	20	41
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,759</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>5,389</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>292</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sales	-121	-80	-81	1	2
Planning Fees	-546	-333	-331	(2)	(5)
Building Control Fees	-213	-101	-88	(13)	(27)
Fees & Charges	-746	-407	-451	44	89
Grants & Reimbursements	-127	1	-55	56	112
Government Grant Income	-10	-12	-17	5	10
Halton Hopper Income	-203	-87	-87	0	0
Efficiency Savings	-68	-14	0	(14)	(28)
School SLA's	-44	-43	-43	0	0
Capital Salaries	-317	-67	-13	(54)	(109)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-441	-441	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,277</b>	<b>-1,584</b>	<b>-1,607</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>9,482</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>3,782</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>336</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Recharges	542	271	271	0	0
Transport Recharges	688	339	332	7	14
Asset Charges	1,036	0	0	0	0
Central Support Services	1,643	824	824	0	0
Transport Recharge Income	-4,296	-2,134	-2,160	26	52
Support Service Income	-650	-325	-325	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,037</b>	<b>-1,025</b>	<b>-1,058</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>8,445</b>	<b>2,924</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>402</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	2,000	1,015	1,064	(49)	(98)
Employees Training	133	45	24	21	43
Supplies & Services	137	65	58	7	14
Apprentishp Levy	300	117	108	9	17
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(24)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Reimbursement & Other Grants	0	0	-8	8	14
Fees & Charges	-95	-95	-107	12	31
Schools SLAs	-435	-435	-418	(17)	(17)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-530</b>	<b>-530</b>	<b>-533</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	89	44	44	0	0
Central Support Recharges	900	450	450	0	0
Support Service Income	-2,860	-1,440	-1,440	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,871</b>	<b>-946</b>	<b>-946</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>-234</b>	<b>-225</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>4</b>

PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

Adult Social Care

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	15,077	7,505	7,449	56	85
Premises	327	180	195	(15)	(10)
Supplies & Services	528	242	251	(9)	0
Aids & Adaptations	113	47	42	5	0
Transport	186	93	83	10	0
Food Provision	203	101	90	11	0
Contracts & SLAs	536	268	270	(2)	0
Emergency Duty Team	100	23	23	0	0
Agency	644	320	334	(14)	(15)
Payments To Providers	1,443	722	719	3	(10)
Revenue Contributions To Capital	44	44	44	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,201</b>	<b>9,545</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sales & Rents Income	-311	-189	-188	(1)	0
Fees & Charges	-680	-340	-327	(13)	(10)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-1,100	-360	-344	(16)	(40)
Transfer From Reserves	-1,467	0	0	0	0
Capitalised Salaries	-111	-56	-56	0	0
Government Grant Income	-123	-113	-115	2	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,792</b>	<b>-1,058</b>	<b>-1,030</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(50)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>15,409</b>	<b>8,487</b>	<b>8,470</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	490	245	245	0	0
Asset Charges	13	0	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,029	1,514	1,514	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-1,844	-1,233	-1,233	0	0
Transport Recharges	551	325	325	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>17,648</b>	<b>9,338</b>	<b>9,321</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>

**Children & Families**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	8,836	4,259	4,548	(289)	(584)
Premises	279	136	104	32	66
Supplies and Services	897	359	501	(142)	(284)
Transport	97	14	49	(35)	(76)
Direct Payments/Individual Budgets	483	215	387	(172)	(342)
Commissioned Services	224	75	67	8	16
External Provider Residential Placements	4,891	2,112	3,092	(980)	(1,958)
Out of Borough Adoption	84	18	18	0	0
Independent Fostering Agency Placements	1,630	587	1,075	(488)	(977)
In House Adoption	277	103	139	(36)	(69)
Special Guardianship	1,699	854	838	16	31
In House Foster Carer Payments	2,008	958	934	24	49
Care Leavers	331	147	165	(18)	(35)
Family Support	53	20	39	(19)	(37)
Emergency Duty Team	102	20	22	(2)	(6)
Contracted Services	4	1	1	0	0
Early Years	86	0	135	(135)	(270)
Transfer to Reserves	65	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>22,046</b>	<b>9,878</b>	<b>12,114</b>	<b>(2,236)</b>	<b>(4,476)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Fees and Charges	-12	-6	-3	(3)	(6)
Sales Income	-43	-27	-28	1	3
Rents	-82	-23	-26	3	6
Dedicated Schools Grant	-97	0	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-491	-175	-176	1	2
Government Grants	-1,201	-619	-619	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-77	-77	-77	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-2,003</b>	<b>-927</b>	<b>-929</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>20,043</b>	<b>8,951</b>	<b>11,185</b>	<b>(2,234)</b>	<b>(4,471)</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	138	69	69	0	0
Transport Support	19	9	9	0	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,687	1,344	1,344	0	0
Support Service Income	-45	-23	-23	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>2,799</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>22,842</b>	<b>10,350</b>	<b>12,584</b>	<b>(2,234)</b>	<b>(4,471)</b>

## Complex Care Pool Budget

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Intermediate Care Services	6,114	2,440	2,455	(15)	(32)
End of Life	200	96	92	4	8
Sub-Acute	1,783	813	874	(61)	(123)
Urgent Care Centres	615	0	0	0	0
Joint Equipment Store	613	307	317	(10)	(25)
CCG Contracts & SLA's	1,219	480	433	47	103
Intermediate Care Beds	599	299	299	0	0
BCF Schemes	1,729	865	865	0	0
Carers Breaks	444	253	208	45	91
Madeline McKenna Home	573	273	299	(26)	(74)
Millbrow Home	1,710	857	1,081	(224)	(465)
B3 Beds	1,300	687	687	0	0
Development Fund	270	0	0	0	0
Adult Health & Social Care Services:					
Residential & Nursing Care	20,530	8,292	8,502	(210)	(441)
Domiciliary & Supported Living	13,451	6,068	5,698	370	740
Direct Payments	8,775	4,604	5,719	(1,115)	(2,265)
Day Care	445	151	216	(65)	(127)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>60,370</b>	<b>26,485</b>	<b>27,745</b>	<b>(1,260)</b>	<b>(2,610)</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Residential & Nursing Income	-6,279	-2,757	-2,801	44	88
Domiciliary Income	-1,445	-543	-580	37	64
Direct Payments Income	-581	-197	-260	63	126
Winter Pressures	-639	-320	-320	0	0
BCF	-10,377	-5,188	-5,188	0	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-13,677	-6,833	-6,833	0	0
ILF	-656	-164	-164	0	0
Income from other CCG's	-112	-56	-56	0	0
Madeline McKenna fees	-275	-121	-118	(3)	(6)
Millbrow fees	-398	-203	-244	41	81
Falls Income	-60	-30	-30	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-34,499</b>	<b>-16,412</b>	<b>-16,594</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>25,871</b>	<b>10,073</b>	<b>11,151</b>	<b>(1,078)</b>	<b>(2,257)</b>
CCG risk share overspend on aligned budgets (CHC, FNC and Joint funding)	0	0	-350	350	709
<b>Adjusted Net Dept. Expenditure</b>	<b>25,871</b>	<b>10,073</b>	<b>10,801</b>	<b>(728)</b>	<b>(1,548)</b>

## Education, Inclusion &amp; Provision

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	5,421	2,576	2,673	(97)	(195)
Premises	28	29	50	(21)	(42)
Supplies & Services	1,108	689	686	3	6
Transport	43	11	14	(3)	(7)
Schools Transport	593	297	695	(398)	(785)
Commissioned Services	2,404	643	643	0	1
Independent School Fees	3,381	1,558	1,558	0	0
Inter Authority Special Needs	175	88	88	0	0
Pupil Premium Grant	181	12	12	0	0
Nursery Education Payments	6,275	4,165	4,165	0	0
Capital Finance	1	0	0	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	1,471	854	854	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,081</b>	<b>10,922</b>	<b>11,438</b>	<b>(516)</b>	<b>(1,022)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Fees & Charges	-131	-19	-35	16	21
Government Grants	-481	0	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grants	-489	-125	-130	5	8
Schools SLA Income	-482	-275	-283	8	15
Transfer from Reserves	-431	-166	-167	1	2
Dedicated Schools Grant	-13,555	-6,778	-6,778	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	-254	-121	(133)	(267)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-16,147</b>	<b>-7,617</b>	<b>-7,514</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>(221)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>(619)</b>	<b>(1,243)</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Central Support Services	138	69	69	0	0
Support Service Income	-79	-39	-39	0	0
Premises Support	1,756	878	878	0	0
Transport Support	17	0	0	0	0
HBC Asset Rental Support	410	261	261	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>7,176</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>(619)</b>	<b>(1,243)</b>

## Public Health &amp; Public Protection

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	3,693	1,864	1,818	46	90
Other Premises	5	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	293	142	99	43	83
Contracts & SLA's	6,586	3,074	3,122	(48)	(95)
Transport	10	5	5	0	1
Agency	18	18	19	(1)	(1)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>5,063</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>78</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Other Fees & Charges	-86	-76	-67	(9)	(18)
Government Grant	-9,919	-4,961	-4,961	0	0
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-229	-180	-157	(23)	(45)
Transfer from Reserves	-405	-44	-44	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-10,639</b>	<b>-5,261</b>	<b>-5,229</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(63)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-158</b>	<b>-166</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises Support	143	72	72	0	0
Central Support Services	786	393	393	0	0
Transport Recharges	23	11	11	0	0
Support Income	-17	-17	-17	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Employees	250	125	149	(24)	(48)
Contracted Services	35	17	7	11	0
Supplies & Services	130	59	104	(46)	0
Members Allowances	877	439	441	(2)	0
Interest Payable	2,236	1,119	564	555	1,109
Bank Charges	83	41	63	(22)	(44)
Audit Fees	124	62	62	0	0
Contingency	964	482	0	482	482
Capital Financing	1,350	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	2,455	2,455	2,455	0	0
Debt Management Expenses	34	17	11	6	0
Precepts & Levies	192	48	48	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>8,730</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1,499</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Interest Receivable – Treasury	-1,508	-377	-459	82	327
Interest Receivable – Other	-25	-12	-12	0	0
Fees & Charges	-54	-27	-23	(4)	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-65	-32	-446	414	421
Government Grant Income	-7,608	-3,804	-3,909	105	105
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-9,260</b>	<b>-4,252</b>	<b>-4,849</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>853</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>-530</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>-945</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>2,352</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Premises	5	2	2	0	0
Central Support Services	1,315	658	658	0	0
Support Services Income	-3,052	-170	-170	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,732</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>-2,262</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>-455</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>2,352</b>

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Premises	160	134	124	10	10
Hired and Contracted Services	0	0	2	(2)	(2)
Unitary Charge	37,053	15,489	15,594	(105)	(437)
DMPA fee	8,449	3,521	4,948	(1,427)	(2,553)
Insurance	1,540	1,272	242	1,030	1,003
MGCB Ltd	2,208	1,248	531	717	765
MGET Ltd	573	98	85	13	125
Sustainable Transport	500	305	128	177	177
External Interest	5,173	2,246	2,246	0	0
Finance Charges	151	151	148	3	3
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>55,807</b>	<b>24,464</b>	<b>24,048</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>(909)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Toll Income	-29,492	-10,746	-20,218	9,472	19,010
Grants & reimbursements	-25,808	-25,808	-15,933	(9,875)	(17,976)
Transfer from reserves	-573	-98	-85	(13)	(125)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-55,873</b>	<b>-36,652</b>	<b>-36,236</b>	<b>(416)</b>	<b>909</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>-66</b>	<b>-12,188</b>	<b>-12,188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>					
Central Support Recharges	66	33	33	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-12,155</b>	<b>-12,155</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Capital Programme as at 30 September 2019

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2019/20 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2020/21 £'000	Capital Allocation 2021/22 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
<b>Enterprise Community &amp; Resources Directorate</b>						
<b>Community and Environment</b>						
Stadium Minor Works	0	20	30	39	30	30
Stadium Pitch	0	0	21	21	0	0
Stadium Reconfiguration	119	119	300	464	0	0
Open Spaces Schemes	249	200	385	560	0	0
Children's Playground Equipment	42	85	100	154	65	65
Upton Improvements	0	5	10	13	0	0
Crow Wood Play Area	10	10	15	20	15	0
Crow Wood Park Pavilion	217	217	270	320	0	0
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery	92	400	700	939	39	20
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery – Enabling Works	7	5	7	11	1	0
Pheonix Park	3	3	3	3	0	0
Victoria Park Glass House	144	144	225	305	0	0
Sandymoor Playing Fields	27	25	30	40	30	0
Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries	179	100	150	190	9	0
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	2	2	10	20	340	340

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2019/20 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2020/21 £'000	Capital Allocation 2021/22 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Runcorn Town Park	7	75	150	200	280	280
Bowling Greens	2	10	20	32	2	0
Litter Bins	0	0	0	20	20	20
Community Shop	0	0	50	50	0	0
Libraries IT equipment	83	83	94	94	0	0
<b>ICT &amp; Support Services</b>						
ICT Rolling Programme	159	159	400	700	700	700
<b>Economy, Enterprise &amp; Property</b>						
3MG	40	40	80	126	0	0
Widnes Waterfront	0	0	0	0	1,000	0
SciTech Daresbury – EZ Grant	40	40	96	96	0	0
Venture Field	0	0	41	41	0	0
Linnets Clubhouse	32	32	50	50	59	0
The Croft	0	0	30	30	0	0
Murdishaw redevelopment	0	0	20	38	0	0
Former Crosville Site	127	127	127	127	0	0
Advertising Screen at The Hive	0	0	0	100	0	0
Widnes Market Refurbishment	32	32	50	100	40	0
Broseley House	12	12	15	15	5	441
Solar Farm	21	21	353	1,209	0	0

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2019/20 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2020/21 £'000	Capital Allocation 2021/22 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Moor Lane Bus Depot	4	4	4	247	0	0
Manor Park	0	0	0	37	0	0
Equality Act Improvement Works	198	198	250	300	300	300
<b>Mersey Gateway</b>						
Land Acquisitions	0	35	52	3,395	0	0
Development Costs	34	45	75	105	0	0
<b>Other</b>						
Risk Management	39	39	200	377	120	120
Fleet Replacements	457	457	1,154	1,471	1,760	3,043
<b>Policy, Planning &amp; Transportation</b>						
Bridge & Highway Maintenance	3,041	3,041	4,200	5,867	0	0
Integrated Transport & Network Management	200	200	430	618	0	0
Street Lighting – Structural Maintenance & Upgrades	109	109	1,190	1,755	2,000	200
STEPS Programme	1,218	1,218	2,013	2,013	0	0
Silver Jubilee Bridge Major Maintenance	1,876	1,876	3,250	4,126	0	0
Silver Jubilee Bridge Decoupling	2,315	2,315	4,200	5,705	0	0
Widnes Loops	188	188	3,070	4,553	0	0

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2019/20 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2020/21 £'000	Capital Allocation 2021/22 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
KRN – Earle Road Gyratory	3	3	160	238	0	0
Travelodge / Watkinson Way Footpath	0	0	80	128	0	0
SUD Green Cycle / Walk Corridors	9	9	123	245	435	267
<b>Total Enterprise Community &amp; Resources</b>	<b>11,337</b>	<b>11,703</b>	<b>24,283</b>	<b>37,307</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>5,826</b>
<b>People Directorate</b>						
<b>Adult Social Care</b>						
ALD Bungalows	0	0	0	0	199	0
Grangeway Court Refurbishment	1	1	135	273	0	0
Bredon Reconfiguration	17	20	25	30	0	0
Purchase of 2 adapted properties	124	130	320	512	0	0
Orchard House	26	30	200	407	0	0
Carefirst Upgrade	362	362	362	362	0	0
<b>Complex Pool</b>						
Disabled Facilities Grant	277	300	450	601	0	0
Stairlifts (Adaptations Initiative)	111	125	190	256	0	0
RSL Adaptations (Joint Funding)	126	130	195	260	0	0
Carehome Acquisitions and refurbishment	1,946	1,950	3,000	3,837	0	0

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2019/20 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2020/21 £'000	Capital Allocation 2021/22 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Oakmeadow refurbishment	19	20	105	105	0	0
Madeline McKenna Care Home	14	14	14	14	0	0
<b>Schools Related</b>						
Asset Management Data	3	5	5	5	0	0
Capital Repairs	181	588	608	883	0	0
Asbestos Management	5	10	20	43	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	0	5	17	17	0	0
Basic Need Projects	0	0	0	194	437	0
Fairfield Primary School	19	34	34	34	0	0
Kitchen Gas Safety	19	30	50	68	0	0
Small Capital Works	16	16	75	126	0	0
Bridge School Vocational Centre	1	11	27	27	0	0
Simms Cross	1	1	1	1	0	0
SEND capital allocation	245	350	550	639	233	0
Healthy Pupils Capital Fund	4	13	17	17	0	0
The Grange – Brookfields Provision	0	30	30	30	0	0
Chesnut Lodge	0	0	0	300	0	0
<b>Total People Directorate</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>6,430</b>	<b>9,041</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>15,878</b>	<b>30,713</b>	<b>46,348</b>	<b>8,119</b>	<b>5,826</b>
Slippage (20%)				-9,270	-1,624	-1,165
					9,270	1,624
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>15,878</b>	<b>30,713</b>	<b>37,078</b>	<b>15,765</b>	<b>6,285</b>

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 14 November 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Finance

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**TITLE:** Treasury Management Half Year Report 2019-20

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update regarding activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Economic Outlook**

3.1 The following analysis of the economic situation has been provided by Link Asset Services, the Council's treasury management advisors.

3.2 During the six months ended 30 September 2019

- Brexit was delayed until 31 October 2019 and Boris Johnson Replaced Theresa May as Prime Minister
- The fundamentals that determine consumer spending remained healthy;
- Inflation fell below the Bank of England's 2% target;
- There was a widespread fall in investors' global interest rate expectations;
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the bank base rate on hold at 0.75%.

3.3 In the UK after only tepid annual economic growth of 1.4% in 2018, growth in quarter 1 of 2019 was unexpectedly strong at 0.5%. However, this was boosted by stock building by businesses ahead of the original March Brexit deadline, and resulted in a reduction of 0.2% in quarter 2.

3.4 We are unlikely to see any changes to the base rate from the Monetary Policy Committee until the uncertainties over Brexit clear. If there were a no deal exit, it is likely that bank base rate would be cut in order to support growth, but the MPC does have concerns over the trend in wage inflation which peaked at a

new post financial crisis high of 3.9% in June before edging back to 3.8% in July (excluding bonuses). Growth in employment fell to only 31,000 in the three months to July, well below the 2018 average, while the unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent, its lowest rate since 1975.

- 3.5 CPI inflation fell to 1.7% in August 2019 and is likely to remain close to 2% over the next two years. If there was a “no deal” Brexit though, it could rise towards 4%, primarily as a result of imported inflation on the back of a weakening pound.
- 3.6 The rise in wage inflation and fall in CPI inflation is good news for consumers as their spending power is improving in this scenario as the difference between the two figures is now around 2.1%, i.e. a real terms increase. Given the UK economy is very much services sector driven, an increase in household spending power is likely to feed through into providing some support to the overall rate of economic growth in the coming months.
- 3.7 In the USA President Trump’s massive easing of fiscal policy in 2018 fuelled a (temporary) boost in consumption in 2018, which generated an upturn in the rate of growth to 2.9% for 2018, just below his target of 3%. Growth in quarter 1 of 2019 was a strong 3.1% but fell back to 2.0% in quarter 2
- 3.8 The strong growth in employment numbers during 2018 has reversed into a falling trend during 2019, indicating that the economy is cooling, while inflationary pressures are also weakening. After the Federal Reserve had increased rates by 0.25% in December 2018 to 2.50%, it has taken decisive action to reverse monetary policy by cutting rates by 0.25% in each of July and September in order to counter the downturn in the outlook for US and world growth. There are expectations that it could be cut again in December.
- 3.9 In the Eurozone the annual rate of growth for 2018 was 1.8% but is expected to fall to possibly around half that rate in 2019. The European Central Bank (ECB) ended its programme of quantitative easing purchases of debt in December 2018, which meant that the central banks in the US, UK and EU had all now ended their post financial crisis support for the financial markets through the purchase of debt. However, the downturn in EZ growth in the second half of 2018 and into 2019, together with inflation falling well under the upper limit of its target range of 0 to 2%, (but it aims to keep it near to 2%), has prompted the ECB to take new measures to stimulate growth. At its March meeting it said that it expected to leave interest rates at their present levels at least through to the end of 2019.

## Interest Rate Forecast

3.10 The following interest rate forecast has been provided by Link Asset Services.

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View											
	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22
Bank Rate View	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25
3 Month LIBID	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.20
6 Month LIBID	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40
12 Month LIBID	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60
5yr PWLB Rate	1.20	1.30	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.10
10yr PWLB Rate	1.50	1.60	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40
25yr PWLB Rate	2.10	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.00
50yr PWLB Rate	2.00	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	2.90

## Short Term Borrowing Rates

3.11 The bank base rate remained at 0.75% since 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call Money (Market)	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.66
1 Month (Market)	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.71	0.71	0.72
3 Month (Market)	0.85	0.82	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76

## Longer Term Borrowing Rates

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Year (Market)	1.06	1.10	1.00	0.95	0.85	0.84	0.89
10 Year (PWLB)	1.89	2.06	1.73	1.71	1.54	1.24	1.30
25 Year (PWLB)	2.40	2.54	2.30	2.30	2.22	1.82	1.83

3.12 Market rates are based on LIBOR rates and PWLB rates are for new loans based on principal repayable at maturity. The rates are shown for the end of each month.

3.13 It should be noted that on 9 October 2019, the Treasury announced a 1% increase in PWLB rates with immediate effect. Any future borrowing planned by the Council will therefore be at the new higher rate.

**Borrowing and Investments**Turnover during the period

	<b>No of deals</b>	<b>Turnover £m</b>
Short Term Borrowing	-	-
Short Term Investments	7	75

Position at month end

	<b>Mar £m</b>	<b>Apr £m</b>	<b>May £m</b>	<b>Jun £m</b>	<b>Jul £m</b>	<b>Aug £m</b>	<b>Sep £m</b>
Total Borrowing	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
Total Investments	(80)	(80)	(105)	(105)	(110)	(110)	(105)
Call Account Balance	(17)	(23)	(25)	(25)	(18)	(19)	(22)

Investment benchmarking

<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Benchmark Return %</b>	<b>Performance Apr - Sep %</b>	<b>Investment Interest Earned £000</b>
7 day	0.57	0.69	69
1 month	0.60	-	-
3 months	0.66	1.06	112
6 months	0.73	0.93	25
12 months	0.83	1.15	257
Over 12 months		1.36	169
Property Fund		3.99	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>732</b>

- 3.14 This shows the Council has over achieved on all benchmarks for the first 6 months of the year. There are no benchmarks available for the Council's investment in the CCLA property fund, or for investments held over 12 months.

## Budget Monitoring

<b>Net Interest at 30th September 2019</b>			
	<b>Budget Year to Date £000</b>	<b>Actual Year to Date £000</b>	<b>Variance (o/spend) £000</b>
Investment	(528)	(732)	205
Borrowing	550	550	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(183)</b>	<b>205</b>

### New Long Term Borrowing

3.15 No new long term borrowing has been taken in this period.

### Policy Guidelines

3.16 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2019/20, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 6 March 2019. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital;
- Liquidity; and
- Yield

3.17 The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate and the heightened credit concerns it is considered appropriate to keep the majority of investments short term and to ensure all investments are in line with Sector's credit rating methodology.

### Treasury Management Indicators

3.18 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators were set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and are reviewed in Appendix 1.

3.19 Between 20 March 2019 and 19 September 2019 the Council held £25m of investments with Thurrock Council. The limit for a Local Authority counterparty was lowered to £20m in the 2018/19 strategy statement meaning the Council broke the Counterparty limit by £5m. This was done in error and the 5m investment was not renewed on 19 September to bring the Council's investments within the Counterparty limits.

### Debt Rescheduling

3.20 No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the quarter.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

**5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial implications are as set out in the report.

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

6.1 There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The main risks with Treasury Management are security of investment and volatility of return. To combat this, the Authority operates within a clearly defined Treasury Management Policy and annual borrowing and investment strategy, which sets out the control framework

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None.

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

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

## Treasury and Prudential Indicators – 2019/20 – Quarter 2

Prudential Indicators	2018/19	2019/20	
	Full Year Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Quarter 2 Estimate £000
Capital Expenditure	21,901	19,565	46,330
Net Financing Need for the Year <i>(Borrowing Requirement)</i>	3,254	10,591	22,944
Increase / (Decrease) in CFR <i>(Capital Financing Requirement)</i>	(14,817)	(4,464)	7,887
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream <i>(Proportion of cost of borrowing to Council's net revenue)</i>	2.0%	1.5%	1.6%
External Debt	172,000	172,000	172,000
Operational Boundary <i>(Limit of which external debit is not expected to exceed)</i>	856,312	841,500	841,500
Authorised Limit <i>(Limit beyond which external debit is prohibited)</i>	926,312	889,540	889,540

Maximum Principal invested > 365 days	Investment Limit £000	2018/19	2019/20
		Actual £000	Estimate £000
Principal Sums Invested over 365 days	40,000	25,000	25,000

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	14 November 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Resources
<b>WARD(S):</b>	Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the application for discretionary rate relief for Runcorn and District Foodbank in respect of their premises at Russell Road, Runcorn, be approved at 15%.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council is able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not-for-profit organisation.
- 3.2 From 1 April 2017, the Council became responsible for meeting the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.
- 3.3 An application for 15% discretionary business rate relief has been received as outlined below, from Runcorn and District Foodbank. As a registered charity they automatically receive 80% mandatory rate relief.
- 3.4 Currently, where discretionary rate relief has been granted to registered charities, it has been provided until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in order to provide the organisations with some degree of certainty.

**Runcorn and District Foodbank**

**Russell Road, Runcorn**

- 3.5 Runcorn and District Foodbank is a registered charity established for the prevention or relief of poverty within Halton. The charity has used the above premises since 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 for the collection and distribution of food for people in need. The office at the premises is used for all administration needs for the charity.
- 3.6 The organisation helps to provide emergency food boxes containing a three day supply of balanced and nutritional food to suit individual's needs. Almost all food is donated by the local community through churches, schools, businesses and supermarket collection days.
- 3.7 Customers are referred to the foodbank by front line care agencies who identify their needs. They are then provided with a voucher which is exchanged for a food box.
- 3.8 The organisation relies on the support of the local community through volunteering, food donations and fundraising.
- 3.9 The cost of granting 15% discretionary rate relief would be £287.86 for the part-year of 2019/20 as shown below and £393.12 in a full financial year.

Actual cost of 80% mandatory relief from 08/07/19 – 31/03/19	£ 1,168.62
Actual cost of 15% discretionary relief from 08/07/19 - 31/03/19	<u>£ 287.86</u>
Total	£ 1,456.48

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Board is required by the regulations to consider each application on its own merit. Any recommendations provided are given for guidance only, are consistent with Council policy and, wherever possible, previous decisions.

**5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Appendix presents the potential costs to the Council of granting rate relief.

**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 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no key risks associated with the proposed action.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The applicant offer their services to all sections of the community, without any prejudice.

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

9.1	<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
	Application form	Kingsway House, Caldwell Road, Widnes	Louise Bate Revenues Manager

**APPENDIX**

<b>Ratepayer</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Annual Rates Liability 2019/20</b>	<b>Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC</b>	<b>Disc. Rate Relief</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC</b>	<b>Actual Rates Liability 8<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Mandatory Relief to HBC 8<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 8<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>
		<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Runcorn and District Foodbank	Russell Road, Runcorn, WA7 4BH	2,620.79	80%	2,096.63	15%	393.12	1,919.05	1,168.62	287.86

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 14 November 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Returning Officer – David Parr

**SUBJECT:** Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and incorporating the ward boundary review

**WARDS:** All Wards

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the results of the formal Polling District, Places and Stations Review, highlight recommended changes to the polling scheme and put forward a revised polling scheme for approval.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council be recommended to adopt the amendments to the scheme detailed in the appendix to the report for the period 2019-2024.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires the Council to carry out a review of all its polling stations every five years. The main purpose of the review is to ensure that all residents have reasonable facilities for voting.

As part of the review process we have to consult electors, councillors and other interested parties. Details of all polling districts and polling stations were on the Council's website and notices were placed in the Direct Link offices. Comments were required by 1 August and those received have been taken into account.

The responses to the consultation were considered by the Polling Station Review Working Party on 21 August 2019. The recommendations of the Working Party are detailed in the Appendix.

## **4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific policy implications although it is important to ensure that all electors have equal access to polling stations and places in line with the Council's priority on accessibility of services. Subject to the decisions on the location of polling stations there may or may not be financial implications.

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

- 5.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** – If polling stations are situated in the right places it could encourage voter turnout for electors in this age group.
- 5.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** – There are no implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 **A Healthy Halton** – The provision of polling stations in suitable locations could encourage engagement with the democratic process and in turn promote a healthy living environment.
- 5.4 **A Safer Halton** – The location of polling stations in a safe environment for all electors could encourage voter turnout.
- 5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** - There are no implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

There are no risk assessment implications.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 Historically every effort has been made to make sure that all polling buildings are accessible for electors with disabilities. At the most recent elections problems were encountered with access for wheelchair users and action was taken on the day to enable the elector to exercise their right to vote. It is important to ensure that all electors have equal access to polling stations and places in line with the Council's priority on accessibility of services.

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

- 8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

## APPENDIX

## POLLING PLACES AND ELECTORATE

## APPLETON WARD

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
BA	Mobile Polling Station, Victoria Park, (Lockett Road entrance), Widnes	1498	St Johns Church Hall, Fairfield Road
BB	St Bedes Scout Hut, Appleton Village, Widnes	1094	None
BC	Fairfield Primary School, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes	1573	None
BD	Mobile Polling Station, Frederick Street/Dickson Street, Widnes	331	From May 2020 to Simms Cross School
BE	Halton & St Helens VCA, Lugsdale Road, Widnes  (Shared with Riverside Ward – polling district EA)	484	None

## BEECHWOOD WARD

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
PA	Beechwood Community Centre, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn	1286	None
PB	Hillview Primary School, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn	1614	None

**BIRCHFIELD WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
XA	Marquee, Upton Tavern, Upton Lane, Widnes	3360	None
XB	Mobile Polling Station, Queensbury Way, Widnes	1965	None

**BROADHEATH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
FA	John Dalton Centre, Mayfield Avenue, Widnes  (Shared with Ditton Ward – polling district GD)	646	None
FB	Mobile Polling Station, Delamere Avenue (rear of Quarry Court), Widnes	808	Quarry Court Community Room
FC	Mobile Polling Station, Omiston Chadwick School, Liverpool Road, Widnes	785	Naughton Fields Community Room – <b>dual station with FD</b>
FD	Mobile Polling Station, Blundell Road/Hanley Road, Widnes	1235	Naughton Fields Community Room
FE	Widnes Rugby Union Football Club, Heath Road, Widnes	1285	None

**DARESBUY WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
TK	Milner Institute, Runcorn Road, Moore, Runcorn	654	None
TL	The Lewis Carroll Centre, All Saints Parish Church, Daresbury Lane	265	None
TM	Preston Brook Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Runcorn	693	None
TT	Sandymoor Community Centre, Pitts Heath Lane, Sandymoor, Runcorn	2413	None

**DITTON WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
GA	Nursery Unit, Oakfield Community Primary School, Edinburgh Road, Widnes	836	None
GB	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School, Clincton View, Widnes	1083	None
GC	Halebank Youth Club, Baguley Avenue, Widnes	1351	None
GD	Mobile Polling Station, Ditchfield Road, Widnes	993	Community Room Ditton Library
GE	John Dalton Centre, Mayfield Avenue, Widnes  (Shared with Broadheath Ward – polling district FA)	646	None
GF	Scout Hut, Hall Avenue, Widnes	547	None

**FARNWORTH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
AA	Lunts Heath Primary School, Wedgewood Drive, Widnes	3261	None
AB	Farnworth CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Pit Lane, Widnes	1672	None
AC	Moorfield Primary School, Moorfield Road, Widnes (shared with Halton View Ward)	1179	None
AD	Farnworth Methodist Church Hall, Derby Road, Widnes	784	None

**GRANGE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
NA	Bertha's Room, St Edwards Parish Centre, Ivy Street, Runcorn	1275	None
NB	Grangeway Community Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn	1628	None
NC	Halton Lodge Children's Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn	1909	None

**HALE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
JA	Hale Village Hall, High Street, Hale	1521	None

**HALTON BROOK WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
MA	Wicksten Drive Christian Centre, Wicksten Drive, Runcorn	1945	None
MB	Brook Chapel, Boston Avenue, Runcorn	1335	None
MC	Halton Brook Community Centre, Meadway, Runcorn	1552	None

**HALTON CASTLE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
OA	Castlefields Community Centre, Tyrell Way, Runcorn	1512	None
OB	Castlefields Community Centre, Tyrell Way, Runcorn	850	None
OC	St Mary's Halton CE Aided Primary School, Castlefields Avenue South, Runcorn	1283	None
OD	The Brow Community Primary School, The Clough, Runcorn	998	None

**HALTON LEA WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
QA	Palacefields Community Centre, The Uplands, Runcorn	1907	None
QB	The Lapwing Centre, Lapwing Grove, Runcorn	1059	None
QC	Hallwood Park Primary School, Hallwood Park Avenue, Runcorn	923	None
QD	Halton Lodge Community Centre, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn	529	None

**HALTON VIEW WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
CA	Mobile Polling Station, Weates Close, Widnes	1461	None
CB	Mobile Polling Station, Bancroft Road, Widnes	1754	From May 2020 Crow Wood Pavillion, Crow Wood Park
CC	St Ambrose Church Hall, Warrington Road, Widnes	1246	None
CD	Moorfield Primary School, Moorfield Road, Widnes (Shared with Farnworth Ward)	528	None

**HEATH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
LA	Christ Church Hall, Sandy Lane, Runcorn	701	None
LB	St Clements Catholic Primary School, Oxford Road, Runcorn	1381	None
LC	St John's CE Church Hall, Heath Road South, Weston Village, Runcorn	886	Weston Primary School
LD	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Clifton Road, Runcorn	1578	None

**HOUGH GREEN WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
HA	All Saints Upton CE Controlled Primary School, Hough Green Road, Widnes	2061	None
HB	Upton Community Centre, Hough Green Road, Widnes	785	None
HC	Mobile Polling Station, Arley Drive, Widnes	1137	Dual Station with Upton Community Centre
HD	St Basil's Club, Hough Green Road, Widnes	1006	St Basils School being checked if suitable

**KINGSWAY WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
DA	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Building, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic College, Highfield Road, Widnes	1028	None
DB	Frank Myler Pavilion , Liverpool Road, Widnes	611	None
DC	Creche - Fitness Suite – Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes	2139	None
DD	Simms Cross Primary School, Kingsway, Widnes (Entrance on Kingsway, near Sharp Street)	586	None
DE	Creche - Fitness Suite – Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes	378	None

**MERSEY WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
KA	Runcorn Spiritualist Church, Ashridge Street, Runcorn	1620	None
KB	The Partnership Centre, Old Police Station, Bridge Street, Runcorn	761	None
KC	Victoria Road Primary School, Victoria Road, Runcorn	682	None
KD	West Runcorn Youth Club, Russell Road, Runcorn	955	None
KE	Westfield Primary School, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn	1114	None

**NORTON NORTH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
RA	St Bertelines CE Primary School, Norton Lane, Runcorn	2569	None
RB	Gorsewood Primary School, Gorsewood Road, Runcorn	2291	None

**NORTON SOUTH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
ZX	Brookvale Community Centre (Higher House), Old Northwich Road, Runcorn	1049	None
ZY	Murdishaw Community Centre, Barnfield Avenue, Runcorn	1467	None
ZZ	Brookvale Community Centre (Higher House), Old Northwich Road, Runcorn	1973	None

**RIVERSIDE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
EA	Halton & St Helens VCA, Lugsdale Road, Widnes  (Shared with Appleton Ward – polling district BE)	528	None
EB	Widnes Academy, Cholmondeley Street, Widnes	1011	None
EC	Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes	838	None
ED	St Michael's Parish Centre, St Michaels Road, Widnes	1355	None

**WINDMILL HILL WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate	Suggested Changes
SA	Priory View Community House, 231-233 Lockgate West, Runcorn	935	None
SB	Windmill Hill Primary School, Windmill Hill, Runcorn	791	None

## POLLING PLACES AND WARDS FOLLOWING BOUNDARY REVIEW – to be confirmed by Polling Station Working Party

### APPLETON WARD

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
AP1	St Johns Church Hall, Fairfield Road, Widnes	1511
AP2	St Bedes Scout Hut, Appleton Village, Widnes	1222
AP3	Fairfield Primary School, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes	1529
AP4	Simms Cross Primary School, Kingsway, Widnes (Shared with Central & West Bank Ward)	462

### BANKFIELD WARD

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
BK1	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School, Clincton View, Widnes	1084
BK2	Scout Hut, Hall Avenue, Widnes	553
BK3	Nursery Unit, Oakfield Infants School, Edinburgh Road, Widnes	843
BK4	The John Dalton Centre, Mayfield Avenue, Widnes	649
BK5	Quarry Court Community Room, Off Delamere Avenue, Widnes	873
BK6	Naughton Fields Community Room, Liverpool Road, Widnes ( Shared with Highfield Ward)	1182

### BEECHWOOD & HEATH WARD

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
BH1	St Clements Catholic Primary School, Oxford Road, Runcorn	1546
BH2	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Clifton Road, Runcorn	1598
BH3	Hill View Primary School, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn	1621
BH4	Beechwood Community Centre, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn	1291

**BIRCHFIELD WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
BF1	Halton Farnworth Hornets, ARLFC, Wilmere Lane, Widnes	1073
BF2	Marquee Upton Tavern, Upton Lane, Widnes	3291
BF3	Mobile Polling Station, Queensbury Way, Widnes – **To be re-sited further up Queensbury Way	1659

**BRIDGEWATER WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
BW1	Brook Chapel, Boston Avenue, Runcorn	1643
BW2	Wicksten Drive Christian Centre, Wicksten Drive, Runcorn	1505
BW3	The Partnership Centre, Old Police Station, Bridge Street, Runcorn	1032
BW4	Halton Brook Community Centre, Meadway, Runcorn	1389

**CENTRAL & WEST BANK WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
CB1	Legends Bar- Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes	2123
CB2	Widnes Academy, Cholmondeley Street, Widnes	927
CB3	Halton & St Helens VCA, Lugsdale Road, Widnes	1030
CB4	Legends Bar – Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes	407
CB4	Simms Cross Primary School, Kingsway, Widnes (Shared with Appleton Ward)	230

**DARESBUY, MOORE & SANDYMOOR WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
DM1	Sandymoor Community Centre, Otterburn Street, off Pitts Heath Lane, Sandymoor, Runcorn	2444
DM2	Milner Institute, Runcorn Road, Moore, Runcorn	659
DM3	The Lewis Carroll Centre, All Saints Parish Church, Daresbury Lane, Daresbury, Runcorn	271

**DITTON, HALE VILLAGE & HALEBANK WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
DH1	Hale Village Hall, High Street, Hale	1528
DH2	Halebanks Youth Club, Baguley Avenue, Widnes	1370
DH3	Community Room, Ditton Library, Queens Avenue, Widnes	1004
DH4	St Michaels Parish Centre, St Michaels Road, Widnes	1266

**FARNWORTH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
FW1	Lunts Heath Primary School, Wedgewood Drive, Widnes	2325
FW2	Farnworth CE Controlled Primary School, Pit Lane, Widnes	1537
FW3	Farnworth Methodist Church Hall, Derby Road, Widnes	922
FW4	Moorfield Primary School, School Way, Widnes (Shared with Halton View Ward)	1078

**GRANGE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
GR1	Bertha's Room, St Edwards Parish Centre, Ivy Street, Runcorn	1290
GR2	Grangeway Community Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn	1888
GR3	Halton Lodge Children's Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn	2005
GR4	Halton Lodge Community Centre, Whitchurch Way, Runcorn	537

**HALTON CASTLE WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
HC1	The Brow Community Primary, School, The Clough, Runcorn	936
HC2	St Mary's Halton CE Aided Primary School, The Clough, Runcorn	970
HC3	Castlefields Community Centre, Tyrell Way, Runcorn	700
HC4	Castlefields Community Centre, Tyrell Way, Runcorn	1525
HC5	TBC	547
HC6	Castlefields Community Centre, Tyrell Way, Runcorn	159

**HALTON LEA WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
HL1	Hallwood Park Primary School. Hallwood Park Avenue, Runcorn	939
HL2	Palace Fields Community Centre, The Uplands, Runcorn	1632
HL3	Bethesda Church, Lapwing Grove, Runcorn	1070
HL4	Brookvale Community Centre, Old Northwich Road, Runcorn (Shared with Norton South & Preston Brook Ward)	1349

**HALTON VIEW WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
HV1	Moorfield Primary School, School Way, Widnes (Shared with Farnworth Ward)	569
HV2	Mobile Polling Station, Weates Close, Widnes	1484
HV3	Crow Wood Pavillion, Crow Wood Park, Widnes	1479
HV4	St Ambrose Church Hall, Warrington Road, Widnes	1743

**HIGHFIELD WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
HF1	Community Room, Naughton Fields, Liverpool Road, Widnes (Shared with Bankfield Ward)	884
HF2	Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes	721
HF3	Widnes Rugby Union Football Club, Heath Road, Widnes	742
HF4	Widnes Rugby Union Football Club, Heath Road, Widnes	951
HF5	The Frank Myler Pavillion, Liverpool Road, Widnes	894
HF6	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Building, St Peter & Paul Catholic High School, Highfield Road, Widnes	1019

**HOUGH GREEN WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
HG1	All Saints CE Primary School, Hough Green Road, Widnes	2066
HG2	Upton Community Centre, Hough Green Road, Widnes	1603
HG3	Prescot Road Changing Rooms, Hough Green Road, Widnes	1801

**MERSEY & WESTON WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
MW1	Runcorn Spiritualist Church, Ashridge Street, Runcorn	1366
MW2	Victoria Road Primary School, Victoria Road, Runcorn	679
MW3	Westfield Primary School, Clayton Crescent, Runcorn	961
MW4	Runcorn District Foodbank, formerly West Runcorn Youth Club, Russell Road, Runcorn	1025
MW5	Christ Church Hall, Sandy Lane, Runcorn	686
MW6	Weston Primary School, Lamsickle Lane, Runcorn	875

**NORTON NORTH WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
NN1	Priory View Community House, 231-233 Lockgate West, Runcorn	777
NN2	Windmill Hill, Primary School, Windmill Hill, Runcorn	790
NN3	St Bertelines CE Primary School, Norton Lane, Runcorn	2595
NN4	Gorsewood Primary School, Gorsewood Road, Runcorn	1504

**NORTON SOUTH & PRESTON BROOK WARD**

Polling District	Polling Place	Electorate
NS1	Murdishaw Community Centre, Barnfield Avenue, Runcorn	2264
NS3	Preston Brook Village Hall, Sandy lane, Runcorn	2007
NS4	Brookvale Community Centre, Old Northwich Road, Runcorn (Shared with Halton Lea Ward)	693