

Public Document Pack



Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

Monday, 13 June 2022 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Walsh'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Geoffrey Logan (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor John Abbott	Labour
Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw	Conservative
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin	Labour
Councillor Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill	Labour
Councillor Eddie Jones	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Aimee Teeling	Labour

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 511 8276 or e-mail
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The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 12 September 2022*

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

Part I

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1. MINUTES		1 - 6
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)		
	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 24 January 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Abbott, Goodall, Jones, Loftus, Ratcliffe and Aimee Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh, Bramwell and V. Hill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Vasic, A. Jones, J. Farrell and M. West

Also in attendance: T. Dooks – Youth Justice Service

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP22 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP24 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio, that had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at Appendix 1 for information.</p>	
CYP25 OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT 13TH AND 14TH NOVEMBER 2021	
<p>The Board received a presentation from the Strategic Director – People, on the Ofsted focused visit which took place in October 2021 and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.</p> <p>Halton received the focused visit to its Children's</p>	

Services Department on 13 and 14 October and inspectors looked at the arrangements for children in need, including those who were subject to a child protection plan. This visit was carried out in line with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework, however the delivery model was adapted to reflect the Covid-19 context. Arrangements were made to deliver the visit effectively whilst working within national and local guidelines for responding to Covid-19.

The Board was advised that the Ofsted findings were published in a letter on 17 November 2021, and gave two Areas for Priority Action (APA's) as well as findings relating to Legal Access Meetings, Public Law Outline, Private Fostering and Homelessness.

The response to the findings in relation to the APA's were outlined to the Board, which included the establishment of a Children in Need Panel and an Improvement Board, the latter to oversee the implementation of the Improvement Plan being put in place, a draft of which had already been submitted to Ofsted.

It was noted that the Improvement Board would be presented with areas of progress; areas of concern; and areas of action. Actions in the Plan would be delivered operationally through the Children and Young People Service Improvement Meeting (CYPSIM).

Following the presentation, Members discussed with officers the following issues/areas:

- The shortage of social workers in Halton and in neighbouring authorities;
- What could be done to attract more social workers and retain the ones we have;
- The competitive nature of the profession, in that other local authorities had the same recruitment and retention difficulties;
- Better marketing and improving the Halton work offer for social workers and making Halton more attractive to potential staff;
- High caseloads of work and lack of skilled clerical support;
- Improving terms and conditions as well as pay;
- The increasing demand on the service;
- Staff evaluations, training and support; and
- Additional funding.

The Board conveyed their thanks and appreciation to

social workers and other staff employed in these services. It was agreed that the completed Improvement Plan would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the steps that have been taken and the role of the Improvement Board; and
- 2) agrees with the future reporting arrangements to this Board.

Strategic Director
- People

CYP26 HMI INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION REPORT OF CHESHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

The Board considered a report which shared the findings of an inspection of the Cheshire Youth Justice Service (CYJS), led by HM Inspectorate of Probation.

Members were advised that the CYJS provided the statutory services for children and young people who were at risk of offending or had committed offences. CYJS is a partnership of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West Local Authorities (LA); Cheshire Police; Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner; the respective clinical commissioning groups in each LA area; HM Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS); and the National Probation Service.

The CYJS was subjected to a joint inspection led by HM Probation Inspectorate and supported by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Services in July 2021.

Members received the findings of the inspection, the full report was published in December 2021; this was appended to the report. In summary, the overall judgement was that CYJS was good, with three outstanding areas and one area for improvement. An action plan to address four recommendations that were made would be approved by the Youth Justice Management Board in December, who would monitor its progress.

Members' welcomed the inspection report, the good working practice around keeping people safe and joint working with social workers. It was noted that to date, Cheshire YJS had the highest overall rating score nationally for a joint inspection.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board thanks the staff, partners, children and young people and their families; and volunteers for their contribution.

CYP27 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MONITORING AND BROKERING GRANT CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which shared a summary of the Department for Education (DfE) consultation regarding the DfE proposed changes to the Local Authority School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB) funding, and the role of the Local Authority in relation to School Improvement.

The DfE consultation *Reforming how Local Authorities' School Improvement Functions are Funded*, took place between 29 October and 26 November 2021. The areas of the consultation and its rationale were outlined in the report. The report also described the potential impact of this consultation paper on schools and wider LA services across the region.

The plan was to reduce the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant by 50% from 1 April 2022 and then fully remove the funding from 1 April 2023; the LA had opposed this. Members discussed the current grant funding that was available to Halton and the risks that a reduction in funding would pose, especially as Halton had a very high proportion of maintained schools.

It was reported that the outcome from the responses and plans following consultation moving forwards, were due to be published either late December 2021 or early in the New Year 2022. To date the feedback was still being analysed but it was expected soon.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the key risks and issues which may arise from this consultation if plans proposed do evolve; and
- 2) will consider future proposals to new ways of working with schools if this grant was reduced and/or fully removed.

Strategic Director
- People

CYP28 SEND STRATEGY 2021-25

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, advising them of the recently approved local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Strategy for 2021-25; this was appended to the report.

It was reported that the SEND Code of Practice 2014 required statutory bodies in local areas to work together to meet the education, health and care needs of children and young people with SEND. The Halton SEND Strategy was a joint strategy under the governance of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children’s Trust, so was not the sole responsibility of Halton Borough Council to deliver. The Strategy had been co-produced in partnership with other statutory bodies from education and health, including schools and the CCG, as well as parent/carer and young peoples’ representatives.

One Member challenged the ‘inclusive’ priority contained within the Strategy for children with EHCP’s, stating that not all children coped in mainstream education. In response, it was commented that mainstream education would only be pursued for a child with an EHCP where appropriate. All placements were discussed at length before decided upon and periods of transition were taken into consideration, to ensure the needs of the child were met.

It was noted that the SEND Strategic Partnership had the overall responsibility for improving the outcomes, life chances, services and provision in relation to special educational needs and disabilities. They owned and oversaw the area’s SEND strategy, to ensure that the outcomes were improving and objectives from the Strategy were being met.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report and presentation be received and comments made noted; and
- 2) annual progress updates on the delivery of the SEND Strategy be presented to the Board, to ensure that leaders remained informed and able to enquire and intervene as deemed necessary.

Operational
Director -
Education, Inclusion and
Provision

CYP29 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTER 2 2021/22

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2021-22 (1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021).

The key priorities for development or improvement in 2021-22 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority's Business Plan, for the various functional areas reported to the Board as follows:

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

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

It was noted that the production of these reports was interrupted by a focussed Ofsted inspection causing a delay, so they could not be presented as planned at the last meeting in November. They were emailed to Members on 8 December 2021 after they were completed.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 2 Performance Management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

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

DATE: 13 June 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
 - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
 - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
 - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
 - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;

- Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chair will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

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

DATE: 13 June 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2022**EXB60 | SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023 – KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which requested the approval of the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

The Board was advised that in October 2021, the Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2023 intake for primary and secondary schools (attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively). The primary scheme also included the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the Local Authority was the admission authority.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran from 1 October 2021 and 12 November 2021; no responses to the consultation were received. Additionally, no amendments to the oversubscription criteria were suggested, as these worked well and met the requirements of the Department for Education's School Admissions Code.

It was noted that all Halton's secondary schools were either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting and determining their own admissions criteria and their own Published Admission Number (PAN).

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places to community and voluntary controlled schools through random allocation (lottery), as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy and co-ordinated schemes would apply for the September 2023 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2022

EXB96	SERVICES FOR MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS CHESHIRE FOR HALTON, CHESHIRE EAST, CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER AND WARRINGTON: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS
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The Board received a request for a waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), to allow the continuation of a contract with ‘We are With You’ to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care Service, for a period of one year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

We are With You had been commissioned to deliver this service in July 2018. It worked across all of the four local authority areas with clear links to Cheshire Constabulary’s missing from home co-ordinators. The rationale for the waiver request was provided in the report together with the value of the contract extension and the agreed funding commitments from each of the participants – Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Warrington Council and Halton.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) and the contract with ‘We are With You’ be extended for a further 12 months.

EXB97	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY: WAIVER REQUEST
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The Board considered a request to waive Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders, by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), to extend the contract for Children and Young People’s Speech and Language Therapy for a period of 11.5 months.

Members were advised that the waiver request was to allow a comprehensive review and reshaping of the provision to be undertaken, which would focus upon current and emerging needs and demands on the service, particularly regarding the impact of Covid-19 on children’s development and learning.

The report discussed the contract value relating to the waiver and gave further details on the requirement for a review of the provision. The contact was jointly commissioned by Halton Borough Council and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) and both partners were in support of the waiver request.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), to extend the contract for Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy, for a period of 11.5 months.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People & Families Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	16 th June 2022
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO:	Children & Young People
SUBJECT:	Children's Social Care Update
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Members of the Board to receive a presentation on an update of the work undertaken to date following the Ofsted focused visit which took place in October 2021 and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board:**

- i) **Note the steps that have been taken and the role of the Improvement Board;**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Halton received a focused visit to its children's services department in October 2021 and inspectors looked at the arrangements for children in need, including those who are subject to a child protection plan.

3.2 Since then, steps have been taken to make improvements to the service including an establishment of an improvement board.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Having a strong and robust framework for identifying and responding across all agencies is the key to ensuring that children and young people are safe and protected, and partners are clear about their responsibilities and role in working together.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Children and young people whose health needs and level of development is potentially compromised are identified early and multi-agency support is in place to support them.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Children who are at risk of harm are identified quickly and services work together to minimise the risk of harm and take action to formally protect children in a timely way.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 All key stakeholders are committed to working together to ensure a robust and consistent approach to protect children in Halton.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Issues arising from a child's equality and diversity needs will inform the decision-making at the point of contact and it will be ensured that the voice of the child is to the forefront.

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

None.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	13 th June 2022
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO:	Children & Young People
SUBJECT:	Halton Local Area SEND Strategy 2021-25
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise the board on the progress and updates in relation to the local area SEND Strategy and current pressures.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **Members are asked to consider the presentation and raise any questions they may have on SEND provision and support, the local area strategy and its implementation.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **EHCP POSITION**

3.1.1 The number of applications for EHC needs assessments has continued on the high rate seen since covid restrictions were eased in schools over summer 2021. To the end of April Halton has received 241 applications for assessment. This remains on course to be the highest level of applications received over an academic year and is (with three months to go) already the second highest year. Of the 240 applications received, the Partnership Panel agreed to assess for 208 indicating that in the main the thresholds for application is well understood in the system.

3.1.2 The rise in parental applications over the year is becoming cause for concern. Parental applications now account for almost 20% of applications. Applications from parents are often missing information or not backed up by schools resulting in delays in the application process.

3.1.3 Halton SENAT have issued 75 EHCPs in the first four months of 2022. Until the end of March the completion rate within 20 weeks had remained at 75.6% broadly in line with 2021 rates. However this

has declined in April and the year to date completion rate stands at 62.5%.

- 3.1.4 The decline in completion rates is due to three factors. The first is the increase in EHC needs assessments coming through the system placing an increased caseload for each assessment co-ordinator. Caseloads currently sit at an average of 170 per co-ordinator up from 100 four years ago.
- 3.1.5 The second factor has been an ongoing lack of capacity within the admin hub. The admin hub is responsible for monitoring the SENAT inbox, maintaining and moving workflows forward on the system, receiving and logging new applications and annual reviews on synergy and sending out requests for professional advice. Lack of capacity and delays in a number of these areas have led to cases going over timescales.
- 3.1.6 The final factor that is impacting the timeliness of plan delivery is the increasing complexity of cases and the ongoing challenge to find appropriate provision for a number of children and young people. In addition to the current sufficiency challenges faced by the local area with respect to its in borough specialist provision, the availability of more regional independent school places is under increasing pressure creating delays in finalising plans as provision placements are sought.
- 3.1.7 Quality monitoring and assurance continues to be a priority despite the pressure faced by the team. The assistant DCO for Halton is now co-located part time with the assessment team to support better quality and partnership working with respect to the health elements of EHCPs. Earlier this term an exploratory meeting was held with Invision360 to review their online moderation and QA tool. This allows for the tracking of plan quality and benchmarking against the other 50 plus LAs who use the tool. QA scoring can be done across a range of partners and the analysis tools provided by the platform will allow the SENAT manager to see both which elements of the EHCP and which stakeholders have particular concerns. The platform will also provide quality performance dashboards that can provide assurance to the SEND Strategic partnership and evidence for local area inspections. Budget has been identified for the tool and it is hoped that procurement can take place before the end of the academic year. As the tool is used by a number of other LAs in the North West a subgroup of the NWADCS SEND Leads including Halton is looking at a program of regional plan moderations.
- 3.1.8 A new SEN Assessment Team manager will be starting with the LA on the 11th July. This will add much needed capacity both for the team and the Inclusion Division more broadly while being able to accelerate quality improvement for EHCPs to support better outcomes for children. Progress has also been made in Halton

SEND parent carer forum (HSPCF) representation at Partnership Panel and the necessary training and memorandums of understanding regarding confidentiality are being developed based on best practice models from other local areas.

3.2 **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS**

- 3.2.1 The Working Better Together sub-group of the SEND Partnership have been focussed in the early stages of their work in the review and implementation of a joint equipment policy to support schools and settings in accessing equipment for children and young people with SEND. This will have an impact in reducing waiting times to access equipment, improve storage and sharing of equipment and put in place clear processes and expectations for schools and practitioners.
- 3.2.2 Great strides have also been made in the development of a Halton Co-production Charter. The Charter will set out the expectations and ambitions for organisations and families as we work together to improve outcomes for Halton's children and young people with SEND. Co-production at both a strategic, service design, level and individually with families is at the heart of the local areas ambitions and part of our statutory duties and the charter will support the workforce development required to deliver this. A draft co-production charter is due to be completed by the 6th July and in place for the next academic year.
- 3.2.3 Halton have been identified as a region to be part of the DFE "Delivering Better Values" programme. The programme is designed to ensure that Halton can improve services and outcomes for children and young people with additional needs within the available high needs funding allocation. Further details will be released by the DFE shortly but Halton's involvement will bring investment and scrutiny focused on timeliness and ensuring CYP and families receive the right support at the right time in the right way.
- 3.2.4 A new SEND Sufficiency Strategy is being developed for publication before the Summer. The high levels of demand in the borough has led to a range of capacity constraints in local school. The Sufficiency Strategy will set out how the local authority will work with schools and other education providers to meet the needs of local children. The sufficiency work will be supported by the SEN Capital Grant announced at the end of March. The grant provides for £3.3m in capital funding to support the development of provision.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The purpose of the 2021-2025 Halton SEND Strategy is to improve outcomes for, and the lived experience of, children and young people with SEND and their families. Currently children recognised as having a special educational needs and/or disability make up over 17% of the areas school age population therefore the strategy will make a significant contribution towards ensuring that Halton's children and young people have the best possible start in life.

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

Young people with SEND and Learning difficulties are disproportionately likely to be NEET or unemployed. Elements of the strategy are aimed at improving employability and skills for these young people leading to meaningful employment.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Children and young people with SEND are disproportionately likely to be overweight, lack opportunities to access healthy lifestyles and leisure activities and die young. Improving health outcomes for these children and young people is a core objective of SEND Strategic Priority 3: Preparation for Adulthood.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Without a coherent and joined up strategic approach to meeting the needs and improving the life outcomes and lived experience of children and young people and their families it will be considerably more challenging for the local area to meet its statutory and morale duties.

7.2 Individual objectives within the strategy will in some cases contain projects that may require separate risk analysis. Where this is the case these will be overseen by the SEND Strategic Partnership.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Individual objectives within the strategy will in some cases contain projects that require separate and individual equality impact analysis and assessment as part of good practice. Where this is the case these will be overseen by the SEND Strategic Partnership.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	13 th June 2022
REPORTING OFFICER:	Operational Director – Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency
PORTFOLIO:	Children and Young People
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Report for Quarter 3 &4 2021/22
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider, and to raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for quarter three and four period 01 October 2021 to 30 April 2022.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2021/22 were agreed by Members and included in the Business Plan, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
 - Education, Inclusion, Provision Services
 - Children and Families Services

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

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's

strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

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

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

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

Not applicable

Children and Young People Priority Based PPB Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 3 & 4 2021/22

1.0 Introduction

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

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 During the Easter Break, DFE released a White Paper with a vision to ensure the national education offer was for strong schools with great teachers for every child. The paper sets out the government's vision for education, which includes a range of programmes for teacher development and recruitment; additional support for schools to secure the fundamentals of behaviour, attendance and wellbeing for all including various interventions to target support to those who need it most. It also proposes that all schools will become a fully trust-led system with a singular regulatory body by 2030. Halton was also announced to be an Educational Investment area (EIA). This will secure funding to drive long term improvements across education, led and monitored by a strategic board including DFE representation. Further information will be shared as detail becomes available
- 2.2 The 2022 green paper was also published during Easter break, focusing upon children and young people gaining the Right support in the Right place at the Right time. The paper sets out the government's proposals to ensure that every child and young person has their needs identified quickly and met more consistently. This includes establishing a single national special educational needs and disability (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system that sets clear standards for the provision that children and young people should expect to receive. It identifies strengthened accountabilities and investment that will help to deliver real change for children, young people and their families. The aim is also to create a single national system that has high aspirations and ambitions for children and young people with SEND and those in Alternative Provision (AP), which is financially sustainable. Halton have also been included within the DFE "Delivering Better Values" programme which will also secure some investment to addressing need by system change and will also be monitored and evaluated through DFE advisors.

3.0 Emerging Issues

- 3.1 **Virtual School**
During the previous quarter, the Virtual School, in consultation with schools, moved to a new online ePEP platform which meant that the process could be streamlined. It has also provided greater clarity on improving quality. Although in its infancy, we have received positive feedback from school colleagues and we are beginning to see an improvement in quality of Peps throughout all age ranges. We are now working closely with the Performance team in order to create a process to ensure that Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are transferred to Eclipse in a timely manner.
- 3.2 **Attendance of Children in Care**
Schools returned to full time provision for the Autumn term. However, COVID rates in Halton were particularly high and lead to a high number of our children self-isolating. 27% of the Primary cohort missed days of learning through having to self-isolate and 21% in Secondary

aged pupils. In Primary 17 pupils came into care during the term and 13 young people in Secondary. The Virtual School supported all children who had to learn remotely due to COVID19.

- 3.3 Increase of children and young people with special education needs and disabilities is evident. Increasing numbers of children are being placed out of borough with increasing placement and transport costs. In the Early Years the predominance is linked to communication and language and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), older concerns relate to Social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH). As an education system in its entirety, work is taking place to support schools and educational provisions to review their offer so that we can meet more children and young people's needs in borough.
- 3.4 Many schools and educational establishments are awaiting Ofsted inspections. It is anticipated that in the near future we will experience a high number of Ofsted inspections across the system, as Ofsted catch up on their inspection plans. Any school judged to be Requires Improvement (RI) will now be offered DFE intervention by an approved National Leader of Education.
- 3.5 We have experienced an unprecedented turnover in the last academic year of Headteacher posts. Most changes in school leadership are due to retirements and early retirements as colleagues are re-evaluating work life balance post Covid.

4.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate. It should be noted that given the significant and unrelenting downward financial pressures faced by the Council there is a requirement for Departments to make continuous in-year adjustments to the allocation of resources in order to ensure that the Council maintains a balanced budget. Whilst every effort continues to be made to minimise any negative impact of such arrangements upon service delivery they may inevitably result in a delay in the delivery of some of the objectives and targets contained within this report.

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

Ref	Measure	20/21 Actual	20/21 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED01 01	Increase the number of children with an early help assessment (measured as those subject to MAP, pre-MAP or specific target interventions in Children's Centres at any point in the year) (financial year cumulative to end of quarter)	716 EH Intervention 170 MAP (31 Mar)	N/A	466 EH Intervention 194 MAP (31 Mar)	Refer comment	N/A
<i>Supporting Commentary: Val Armor</i> Data was undergoing QA for previous year due to a change in system so is not comparable for this year.						
PED01 02	Improve overall attendance at schools: Primary –Pri PRU – PRU Secondary – Sec Special – Spec Total	LA 92.8% Pri 93.2% Sec 92.8% Spec 88.7% PRU 62.5% (2019/20)	95%	LA - 91.83% Primary – 93.51 Secondary- 90.09% Special 85.31% PRU 59.09%		
<i>Supporting Commentary: Debbie Houghton/Scott Middlehurst</i> See PER01a milestone						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED01a	Work with schools to maintain the level of attendance at Primary and Secondary Schools. Martin West / Debbie Houghton (March 2022)	
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Debbie Houghton</i> School attendance has been significantly affected nationally due to Covid related absence and a subsequent Government change in attendance coding for Covid which has impacted on overall attendance data. Halton has also seen a subsequent rise in children with mental health and anxiety and the Education Welfare Service are working with schools and health partners to look at a multi-agency approach to better support such pupils. Also there has been an increase in norovirus in some schools and parents taking children out of school for family holidays in term time.</p>		
PED01b	Implement Pause project and support women to make positive choices, improving their relationships with their children and preventing further children being taken into care. (Val Armor March 2022)	
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Val Armor</i> Pause is coming up to 12 month anniversary and there is a partnership event to mark this in June. We will be working with partners in the coming months on a sustainability plan.</p>		
PED01c	Revise Halton's parental offer that will include further developmental of reducing parental conflict training (Val Armor March 2022)	
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Val Armor</i> Halton offers a variety of parenting support groups from low level terrific twos and 1-1 support through to evidence based parenting such as Nurture and Triple P. We now have a parenting co-ordinator in post that will be responsible for the parenting offer including the reducing parental conflict agenda.</p>		

Objective: Keeping Children and Young People safe by improving practice (PED02)

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	20/21 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED02 01	Monitor the rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10000 0-18 year olds (Forecast annualised rate at end of financial year)	465	500 (full year)	625 (prov full year)		
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> The rate of referrals projection remains above the annual target. There continue to be a high level of complex cases. The assessment toolkit is utilised to improve the quality of referrals, ensuring we have all relevant information at the earliest opportunity for children to receive the appropriate level of support as soon as possible. The Multi-Agency Contact challenge meetings continue to review and monitor the responses and decision making.</p>						
PED02 02	Monitor the rate of children in need (CIN) per 10000 0-18 year olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	221	380	235 (prov)		
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> As outlined above, we have continued to experience an increase in complex of cases. The conversion to referral/allocation has also increased slightly. This further evidences CIN cases are being effectively managed, seeing the throughput of cases. The temporary Duty and Assessment Team has continued to support the progression of cases and plans and alleviate the additional pressures due to capacity within the CIN Teams. Due to the success of the temporary Duty and Assessment team, as outlined above.</p>						
PED02 03	Monitor the rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10000 0-18 year olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	50	45	58.5 (prov)		
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> Child Protection cases have increased in this quarter. We have continued to see an increase of complex cases particularly in children under 5 years old. We have seen an increase in allocations/referrals, this correlates with the increase of contacts received. The temporary Duty and Assessment Team has continued to support the progression of cases and plans. The introduction of the overview panel remains operational ensuring senior management oversight and review of cases were children have been subject to lengthy Child Protection plans</p>						

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	20/21 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED02 04	Monitor the rate of children in care per 10000 0-18 year olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	103	90	132 (prov)		
<i>Supporting commentary: Sarah Riley</i> There has been an increase in the number of children where a decision has been made that they needed to come into care						
PED02 05	Reduce the number of children and young people who enter the care system (financial year, cumulative to end of quarter)	75	68	171 (prov full year)		
<i>Supporting commentary: Sarah Riley</i> Halton have seen an increase in children and young people who enter the care systemic, this has been impacted by a number of contributing factors, including; cases blocked within Court Proceedings (this is a national issue); and the increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children.						
PED02 06	Reduce the average caseload in Children in Need Teams (snapshot end of quarter)	22	18	23 (prov)		
<i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> The average caseload remains similar with provisional data identifying an increase to 23. The introduction of the temporary Duty and Assessment Team has enabled the CIN Teams to focus on CIN cases in order to progress plans and appropriately reduce the level of need and progress cases to Early Help where appropriate.						
PED02 07	Increase the proportion of missing incidents where a return interview is completed (financial year, cumulative to end of quarter)	88%	85%	71%		
<i>Supporting commentary: Clare Hunt</i> For this time period, there have been 101 return interviews completed with 110 young people by the commissioned service. 71% of young people completed a return interview and 64% were completed within 72 hours. Declines for return interviews have increased with 62 incidents by 52 young people.						
PED02 08	Reduce the number of children who repeatedly run away in Halton (in last 12 months, snapshot end of quarter)	38	N/A	12		N/A
<i>Supporting commentary: Clare Hunt</i> For this reporting period, there has been a total of 307 notifications. Across the 2 quarters here have been 12 CYP with repeat missing incidents. These 12 CYP that made five or more incidents during the quarter, accounted for 30% of all missing incidents in the quarter. 10% of all CYP for the quarter are within the repeat cohort. All of the CYP that fit in this cohort received at least one return home interview during the quarter, there was one declined interviews. The commissioned service has supported the repeat cohort to reduce missing episodes this quarter through direct work, taking a different approach both with face to face and virtual contacts						
PED02 09	Reduce the number of children who go missing in the year (number of children recorded as missing in last 12 months, snapshot end of quarter)	243	N/A	154		N/A
<i>Supporting commentary: Clare Hunt</i> There has been an increase from Q3 to Q4 of 77 missing incidents as well as an increase of 28 young people. It continues to be the case that the majority (71%) of CYP reported missing are residing at home, following the trend seen in the previous quarters. However in the repeat cohort, the converse is true with the minority (17%) of CYP reported missing living at home. The significant reasons that CYP reported as their main reasons/trigger for going missing this quarter were boundary issues (Home & Care), direct family conflict, substance misuse and issues at school. Where school issues have been identified, With You have liaised with education providers and Education Welfare Officers in order to address these issues.						
PED02 10	Record the number of young people flagged as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (snapshot end of quarter)	19	20	15		
<i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> Young people continue to be appropriately recorded as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation within our new case management system. The multi-agency monthly CSOG meeting reviews children who are high risk of child sexual exploitation.						

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	20/21 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED02 11	Record the number of young people flagged as at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (snapshot end of quarter)	35	12	36		
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> Young people continue to be appropriately recorded as at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation within our new case management system. The multi-agency monthly CSOG meeting reviews children who are high risk of child criminal exploitation.</p>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED02a	Embed a systemic model of social work practice across the whole service; social workers, managers and senior leaders. CFS Operational Director (March 2022)	Refer comment
<p><i>Supporting commentary: CFS Operational Director</i> Supporting commentary available next quarter</p>		
CFS Operational Director	Review and update Workforce Strategy in line with the Knowledge and Skills framework and the Professional Capabilities Framework. Developing the competencies, skills and knowledge of the workforce making them motivated, stable and ambitious will improve the outcomes for families and keep them at the heart of everything we do. CFS Operational Director (March 2022)	Refer comment
<p><i>Supporting commentary: CFS Operational Director</i> Supporting commentary available next quarter</p>		
PED02c	Implement redevise structure for children and need service to ensure better resilience and management accountability to provide a safe and structured environment for social workers. (March 2022 Liz Davenport)	
<p><i>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</i> The restructure of the Child in Need Teams has been approved at Steering Group and was to be implemented on 1st November 2021 (now deferred to January 2022). The restructure is informed by staff feedback, that is, the current remit of the team is too broad, and this is linked to the outcome of Ofsted Inspection in March 2020 that identified drift and delay. The new structure will consist of the Assessment and Support Team (Duty); Children and Family Support Team (Long Term Team) to ensure families are receiving appropriate support and intervention at the earliest opportunity. This team will provide intensive therapeutic support to families, supporting children to remain at home with their families by utilising a systemic theoretical approach to practice.</p>		
PED02d	Implement redevise quality and assurance framework to monitor improvements in practise (CFS Operational Director 2022)	Refer comment
<p><i>Supporting commentary: CFS Operational Director</i></p>		

Objective: Improve outcomes for Children in Care and Care Leavers (PED03)

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED03 01	Reduce the number of children who are placed in residential care (snapshot at end of quarter)	34	20	41		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport /Sam Murtagh Murtagh</i> Young people who are 12 years old and below are regularly reviewed in terms of potential for them to be placed in a fostering placement. The increase in Residential numbers is echoed across the neighbouring local authorities and in line with the increase of children and young people entering care. A review of the local authorities Sufficiency Strategy will begin in Q1 2022/23 , this will include other more localised Residential options operating as a Community Interest Company linked to the Liverpool City Regional Market Reform Programme . Within Halton a number of sites for children's homes are being explored. The Permanency Planning Framework is operational in respect of reviewing placements for children and young people. There are two focus areas, those children in residential care with a plan to return to a fostering family placement and secondly, those young people aged 16 and over who require pathway and transition planning through to full independence. A number of children and young people are in the targeted cohort where placements and regional events are sought to support children moving back to a fostering family. Furthermore, the Care Leavers Accommodation Group continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss all referrals for those young people aged 17 plus who require their own accommodation in line with their</p>						

Pathway Plan. The increase in residential numbers is echoed across neighbouring local authorities and in line with the increase of children and young people entering care.						
PED03 02	Reduce the number of children who are placed in independent fostering agencies (snapshot at end of quarter)	49	35	61		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport /Sam Murtagh</i></p> <p>All placements are tracked through the resource and placements meeting where sourcing Halton's mainstream foster carers is a primary focus. The current level of sufficiency due to increase of Children in Care is resulting in the use of Independent Fostering Agencies, and in some circumstances residential, however as foster carers approvals are also tracked there are means to place with in house carers planned. Recently there have also be an increase in the number of sibling groups requiring placements (2 x2 , 1 x3 and 1x4 child)</p>						
PED03 03	Maintain the percentage of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (snapshot at end of quarter)	94%	95%	97%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport /Sam Murtagh</i></p> <p>The care leaver's accommodation group runs monthly and tracks all care leavers requiring independent accommodation. This is a multi-agency meeting with housing providers. The panel has successfully moved a growing number of Care Leavers into their own accommodation via this route. Recently a further 2 Registered Social Landlord has joined the group. A Care Leavers Support tender was recently commissioned which will also provide suitable accommodation. Furthermore we have successfully obtained a two bedroom flat from Halton Housing Trust in Widnes, which is utilised to support and develop Care Leavers independent living, prior to moving onto their own tenancy. More recently we have also taken on a tenancy of a 2nd trainer flat from Onward in the Runcorn area. It is planned that young people will arrive in the commissioned service in late April/early May 2022</p>						
PED03 04	Increase the percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (snapshot at end of quarter)	39%	65%	56%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport</i></p> <p>Strong links have been established with the Virtual School to provide advice and support to care leavers in relation to engaging in education, training or seeking employment options. Pupils Causing Concerns meetings are held on a monthly basis where the Virtual School and Managers from CIC and Care Leavers Team attend and discuss all children and young people up to the age of 25 to share information in respect of education and any placement or accommodation difficulties. The view being that these discussions with enable both the CIC and Care Leavers team and Virtual School to capture those lower level concerns before they escalate by way of this meeting and to close the loop between education and placement. This meeting also extends to include reviewing the EET status for all care leavers over 18 to ensure that those who are NEET are provided with targeted support to enable them into education, training or employment.</p>						
PED03 05	Benchmarking year – Percentage of CIC Residential and Leaving Care placements that have received a Quality Assurance Visit from the Placements Team within the previous 12 months (cumulative from April to end of quarter)	N/A	N/A	Residential 60% Leaving Care 50%	N/A	N/A
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh</i></p> <p>The increase in Children In Care numbers have continued to increase impacting on the increased numbers of placements being required at the same time as taking more team resource to placement search for young people with complexity . This in turn impacts on the requirement for a quality monitoring visit as well as some previously visited providers now requiring a further annual visit. The Placement team have prioritised visits for the coming quarter to increase the % with each Officer completing a minimum of 2 visits each month. Currently 60% of current Residential placements have received a quality monitoring visit with a total of 10 visits planned for quarter 1 (2022/23) .In terms of Leaving Care provision 6 of the 12 providers have received a quality monitoring visit – this means that 22 of the 28 Care Leavers placements have been visited Its expected that these % figures will rise in the coming quarter as the team has had it confirmed that Admin Support will be available which will free up a little capacity to focus on the visits with higher intensity.</p>						
PED03 06	Report on the budget spent on independent and out of borough placements for Children in Care (Forecast end of year) (Liz Davenport/Sam Murtagh)	Year end Residential £9,695,579 IFA £2,201,092 Total £11,896,671 (*these figures include all Covid-19 related costs)	Projected 9,583,822	Residential £12,482,817 -84 IFA£2,213,831-29 UASC Residential 859,545-83		

				IFA £239,744- 54		
<p>Supporting Commentary: Sarah Riley / Sam Murtagh in order to address these rising costs, the following initiatives have been introduced help to reduce spend in this area: Residential Step Down ,Supported Lodgings, Care Leavers Training Flat, In House Care Leaver/Edge of Care accommodation. Since the start of the financial year there has been over a 10% increase in the numbers of Residential placements, a 6% increase in the use of IFAS (Independent Fostering Agencies) and a significant increase in the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – at the start of the financial year this was 4 and is now 48 There is also ongoing work to build a children’s home within the borough to be operated by a social enterprise to begin reduce reliance on the private Residential sector. The increase in budget costs is directly linked to the increase in the Children in Care overall numbers. Currently a number of land sites in the borough are being explored for this purpose with recent feedback received from both planning colleagues as well as from legal. The average placement costs per young person remain around the regional average</p>						
PED03 07	Report on number of children placed within 20 miles of Halton	N/A	N/A	To follow	N/A	N/A
<p>Supporting Commentary: This will be picked up by the performance team going forward.</p>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED03a	Ensuring all children in care achieve permanency in a timely way. (Liz Davenport/Sarah Riley March 2022)	
<p>Supporting Commentary: The progress of long term matching to achieve permanency is tracked on a monthly basis. For those children and young people, where a plan of Special Guardianship Order to their foster carers is also tracked on a monthly basis. When adoption is the child’s plan, monthly tracker meetings are held to identify children within care proceedings to enable earlier tracking and to review and prevent any delay in family finding for those children who are subject to a Placement Order.</p>		
PED03b	Ensure that Safeguarding Unit escalate any delays or concerns using escalate policy (Susanne Leece March 2022)	
<p>Supporting Commentary: The Independent Reviewing Managers (IRM) escalate concerns about delay through the dispute resolution process. There is a recording process built into Eclipse to support this with extractable performance data. These data reports are used in monthly Performance Management Meetings with the IRMs, where patterns in individual IRM activity is scrutinised and discussed. Themes and issues including obstacles in achieving timely permanence are also identified and there is then wider service activity to address these. An example of this includes the development of practice standards around the monitoring of Placement Orders. The safeguarding unit has had a name change to the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit. This reflects a greater emphasis on the QA function of the unit and the IRM and CP Chair role</p>		
PED03c	Review and quality assure the commissioning of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers to ensure that they meet the needs of Halton’s population and inform future commissioning decisions (March 2022 Sam Murtagh)	
<p>Supporting Commentary: A Liverpool City Region framework for Fostering the Residential placements has now been fully implemented. Work has now been completed on a procurement for a Halton based Leaving Care group and individual support provider – Care leavers were directly involved in the provider interview stages as well as evaluating the final outcome Work also continues with the LA Assets team and Regeneration team regarding the potential development of a children’s home on a development site in Runcorn as well as a scoping exercise of all available land sites in the borough for Residential purpose – currently 3 sites have been highlighted for possible development Work is planned for the next quarter to review the local authorities Sufficiency Strategy in terms of attempting to ensure more placement availability and localised placements for Haltons children in care. Recently discussions have taken place with 3 providers who are developing local services – these were instigated as part of the planning application process in order that they reflect totally the local needs.</p>		

PED03d	Through the quality assurance of Personal Education Plans (PEP), identify areas of need and support to improve outcomes for individual Children in Care (March 2022 Peter McParland and Jo Lloyd)	
<p>Supporting Commentary: At the end of the Autumn term 2021 percentage PEP completion was as follows: Early Years 100%; Primary 100%; Secondary 91%; Post 16 84%, meaning that overall 92% of children and young people in care had a PEP completed, this is an increase in completion since last year. Of the PEPs completed the percentage rated as at least good were as follows: Early Years 89%; Primary 85%; Secondary 63%, Post 16 53%, meaning that overall 63% of PEPs completed were judged as good or better. As can be seen from the data above there is still more work to be done in Post 16 & Secondary in terms of quality, however, completion rates have increased across all cohorts. The quality of PEPs across all phases has improved since last year, however, due to the change of system, expectations around quality have risen and therefore the data shows that more Primary PEPs have become RI. There has been an increase in the number of outstanding PEPs in Secondary. Post-16 has also shown an increase in those that are good or better. This term there has been an increase in capacity in the team, therefore further internal moderation and scrutiny of the PEPs will be taking place. Termly Designated Teacher network meetings are continuing to take place to address any common themes we see in the PEPs. Our new PEP Leads are continuing to develop our toolkit which will support the creative use of Pupil Premium Plus. The Virtual School continues to run its activity programme to support our children in care in transferable skill development.</p>		

Objective: Improve the offer for children and young people with disabilities and those with Special Educational Needs (PED04)

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED04 01	Increase the percentage of Education Health Care Plan assessments completed within 20 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	2021 YTD= 80.9%	75%	78.9%		
<p>Supporting Commentary: <i>Adrian Leach</i> Halton continues to deliver above national and regional average performance in completing EHCPs within 20 weeks. The first four months of 2022 have seen the highest number of referrals for needs assessment ever seen for EHCPs. At current referral rates Halton expect to receive over 300 requests to assess, a 30% increase in demand. Caseloads per Assessment co-ordinator currently stand at 170, a 60% increase in workload since 2018. Due to the ongoing demands and the current constraints in the LA's budget position it is forecast that completion rates will begin to fall back to 50% by the end of the calendar year.</p>						
PED04 02	Reduce the number of incidents of fixed term exclusion (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	707	500	535		
<p>Supporting Commentary: <i>Behaviour Team / Scott Middlehurst</i> Commentary will be supplied next quarter</p>						
PED04 03	Reduce the number of children subject to fixed term exclusions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	349	350	308		
<p>Supporting Commentary: <i>Behaviour Team / Scott Middlehurst</i> Commentary will be supplied next quarter</p>						
PED04 04	Reduce the number of children subject to a permanent exclusion (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	21	30	15		
<p>Supporting Commentary: <i>Behaviour Team / Scott Middlehurst</i></p>						

Commentary will be supplied next quarter

PED04 05	Report on the proportion of children subject to Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) placed in independent and out of borough provisions (snapshot end of quarter) – long term target is to reduce	N/A	94%	7.4%		
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Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach

As highlighted in the report for PED04 06 continued place pressure in the borough coupled with high demand for places has made reducing the reliance of OOB specialist provision challenging. The announcement of capital grant funding for SEND places and the opening of the SEMH special school in Sept2023 will allow the improvements in place sufficiency locally to reduce these numbers over the next 3-5 years.

PED04 06	Report on the budget spent on independent and out of borough (OOB) provision for SEND (Forecast end of year)	ISS/NMSS OOB Schools end of year £4,280,879 Overspend of £1,108,429	£250000 reduction	TBC		
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Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh

There continues to be a rise in the number of requests for out of borough Non Maintained/ Independent Special Schools (NMISS) placements. 21 children were referred in January, February and March 2022 bring the number of referrals since September 2021 to a total of 37, 2 of which were September 2022 Reception Year places. For context there were 27 referrals for NMISS placements made between Sept 20 and Aug 21. This has resulted in an increase in children placed at NMISS settings and at the end of quarter 4: 98 children were placed in 32 NMISS settings, a rise of 10 children compared to March 2021.

Many schools are reporting as being at capacity for immediate placements with a smaller number of schools reaching capacity for September 2022 provision. This is resulting in placements being accessed further away leading to increased travel and transport costs. Communication is taking place with providers expressing an interest in opening new provision in Halton. Work continues on a special educational needs and disability (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy being collated by the Divisional Manager Inclusion that will offer a number of opportunities in relation to types of provision locally available in Halton – it is planned this will in turn result in the reduced requirement for Out of Borough SEN placements. New providers wishing to open some smaller provision in the borough are being communicated with.

PED04 07	Increase the percentage of children subject to EHCP placed in mainstream provision (snapshot end of quarter)	26.3%	65%	44.6%		
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Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach

Ongoing work with and support for mainstream schools continues to have an impact on the proportion of pupils with an EHCP that are educated in mainstream. Investment in educational psychology services, specialist teachers and a clearer support and challenge role by the local authority have moved Halton closer to the national average in terms of school inclusion.

PED04 08	Monitor the percentage of Special Schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a
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Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell

All special schools are good+ in Ofsted overall effectiveness.

PED04 09	Increase the percentage of Education Health and Care plans for Child Protection and Children in Care completed in 16 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Adrian Leach)	N/A	75%	Refer to comment	n/a	N/A
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Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach

This target remains aspirational in addition to our statutory targets. Lack of staffing and the current surge in demand for EHC assessments has prevented significant progress against this measure during the reporting period

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED04a	Develop and Implement the Social Emotional and Mental Health Strategy (SEMH) by March 2022. Impact to be monitored through the action plan. (Adrian Leach)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach</i></p> <p>SEMH is one of four areas of need recognised by the 2015 SEND Code of Practice. Halton has experienced a significant rise in SEMH needs over the last few years in line with many other local authority areas. Because of the central importance in identifying early pupils SEMH needs and helping schools to meet them effectively the objectives and outcomes for pupils with SEMH needs are fully embedded into the local areas SEND Strategy 2021-25. In particular the Inclusive Education Priority focused on understanding the causes of SEMH needs and the associated behaviour and identifying them and managing them more effectively.</p>		
PED04b	Review the current framework of support for children and young people with disabilities, including short breaks provision (Sam Murtagh March 2022)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh</i></p> <p>All Short Breaks Provision contracts have been recommissioned in quarter 3 informed by feedback from SEND Parent / Carer forum and children. Applications were invited for Sports, Arts and Crafts, Trips and Visits and Swimming Lessons, a Play Service, a Youth Support Service and a new service to support families to recruit their own PAs as this an area of need. Sixteen bids were received, 22 Parents and Carers and 28 children were involved in evaluating the small grant applications (this is the highest number of participants we have seen to date) and awards have been made for 6 small grants:- in pool/wet play sessions; a monthly outdoor activity program; monthly digital and creative media workshops; art lessons; trips and visits during school holidays and swimming lessons together with a reshaped play service that offers weekend play groups for 50 weekends of the year and a 2 week summer play scheme, a reshaped weekly youth support service (previously fortnightly) and a PA Service.</p>		
PED04c	Review direct payments with all recommissions co-produced with parents and young people. (March 2022 Val Armor)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Val Armor</i></p> <p>All short breaks services have been commissioned in a co-produced manner involving parents and young people. Commissioned short breaks all have performance reports that are submitted and interrogated.</p>		
PED04d	Improve quality and timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans. (March 2022 Adrian Leach)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach</i></p> <p>Halton continues to deliver above national and regional average performance in completing EHCPs within 20 weeks. The first four months of 2022 have seen the highest number of referrals for needs assessment ever seen for EHCPs. At current referral rates Halton expect to receive over 300 requests to assess, a 30% increase in demand. Caseloads per Assessment co-ordinator currently stand at 170, a 60% increase in workload since 2018. Due to the ongoing demands and the current constraints in the LA's budget position it is forecast that completion rates will begin to fall back to 50% by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>The ongoing presence of the DCO for Halton is improving the quality of health advice in plans and better partnership working with the local authority. There remains a gap in QA and oversight of care and social care advice, however it is hoped that this will be addressed as capacity grows in the system to support more integrated working. A new manager for the SEN assessment team will be in port in July which will accelerate and imbed the quality improvements already seen.</p>		
PED04e	Quality assure all provision currently being utilised to ensure that provision meets the needs of our children and young people (March 2022 Sam Murtagh)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh</i></p> <p>One new monitoring visit took place in quarter 4 in collaboration with the SEN Team and Designated Clinical Officer resulting in 10 of 32 schools receiving a monitoring visit, which encompasses 58% of children placed in NMISS settings. The school that had referrals suspended has received a further monitoring visit from OFSTED, linked to this and the extensive work completed by Officers with the local provider referrals have now been reopened. We continue to work closely with the Safeguarding Children In Education (SCIE) Officer.</p>		
PED04f	Review in borough specialist provision and revise to meet the needs of Halton's children and young people (March 2022 Adrian Leach)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach</i></p> <p>Work continues in the development of SEND provision in Halton. The delayed SEMH free school is still scheduled to open in September 2023 and this will cut by 50% the borough's out of borough requirement for SEMH places for children and young people 11-16.</p>		

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
	<p>Despite an absence of capital funding available in the reporting period additional places have been funded at all 4 special schools who continue to work with the local authority in meeting local demand. Additionally resource base provision in mainstream schools continues to be developed with an additional class for KS2 pupils with ASD funded at The Grange and provision expanded for 2022/23 at Simms Cross.</p> <p>Growth in demand however continues to place pressure on places. A SEND Sufficiency Strategy will be published at the end of May identifying our projected provision gaps and calling for expressions of interest from local schools. The development of provision will be supported by the SEND Capital Grant (£3.3 million for 2022-25).</p>	

Objective: Raise achievement across Early Years and all Key Stages, and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers (PED05)

Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED05 01	Ensure all eligible children for the vulnerable 2 year old funding access quality EY provision (internally collected termly information – may not match to published data from Jan census)	85	100% of eligible	91		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell / Belinda Yen/Gail Hodgkinson-Vaughan</i></p> <p>The DfE provided a target of 574 children to be placed. Halton have placed 538 (not including 3 Out of Borough (OOB) settings) which equates to 94%. This number is slightly higher than usual; process of placement continues as normal, however some places were declined until parents felt more comfortable for their children to return/commence due to the effects of the pandemic. 100% of day care and pre -school settings are good or outstanding; funded two year olds are only placed in good/outstanding Childminders provision.⁴⁴</p>						
PED05 02	Increase the take up of Early Years Entitlement for 3 to 4 year olds.	97%	96%	89%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary:</i></p> <p>89% uptake based on data submitted in LAIT information from March 2022.</p>						
PED05 03	Monitor the percentage of Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter)	95%	N/A	93.8%		N/A
<p><i>Supporting Commentary:</i></p> <p>Currently we have 93.8% of settings who are graded by Ofsted at 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This figure does not include any settings who have not yet been inspected or those with a 'met' judgement.</p>						
ED05 04	Monitor the percentage of Primary schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding N.B. 7 out of the 8 schools are academies. (snapshot end of quarter)	85% (as of August 31st 2021)	N/A	81.6% (as of 30th April 2022)		N/A
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i></p> <p>Ofsted paused school inspections during Covid and then gradually reintroduced inspections focusing upon remote learning offer during the pandemic. Full inspection frameworks returned from 1st September 2022, although Ofsted have many school inspections to carry out nationally and are limited in capacity to carry out, therefore many schools are awaiting an inspection.</p>						
PED05 05	Monitor the percentage of Secondary schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter)	50% (as of August 31st 2021)	N/A	50% (as of 30th April 2022)		N/A
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i></p> <p>Ofsted paused school inspections during Covid and then gradually reintroduced inspections focusing upon remote learning offer during the pandemic. Full inspection frameworks returned from 1st September 2022, although Ofsted have many school inspections to carry out nationally and are limited in capacity to carry out, therefore many schools are awaiting an inspection. One secondary school has been inspected during May 2022, but the outcome and report is not yet published</p>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress				
PED05a	Monitor and evaluate educational outcomes of all pupils, vulnerable pupils (CIC: EHCP etc.), disadvantaged pupils and the impact of funding streams (including Free EY Entitlement, Catch Up funding, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium etc.) to raise achievement for all and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers (March 2022 Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> Case studies and qualitative information is shared at the disadvantaged working group network and with Associate School Improvement Advisors. Quantitative pupil outcomes data is not currently available as statutory assessments were paused and this year's results will not be available until late summer.</p>						
PED05b	Monitor and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 lockdown and remote learning offer on all pupils and vulnerable pupils learning (March 2022, Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> Impact of remote learning was shared as qualitative information with Associate School Improvement Advisors (ASIA's) and effective practice shared across the sector. Whilst schools still provide a remote offer if young people have covid but are well enough to work, most schools are operating on a more typical offer onsite now Covid measures and lockdown have been eased.</p>						
PED05c	Review the process of risk assessment for schools and settings to target support and drive improvement (March 2022 Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> Schools are risk assessed on a range of information shared across services including safeguarding; inclusion; educational performance/outcomes; governance; leadership and management stability; leadership experience and other strengths/vulnerabilities.</p>						
PED05d	Build engagement, capacity and governors understanding of the strategic roles and responsibilities (March 2022 Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> Governor training is continuing, although uptake has been limited in both physical and online training. The summer term governor briefing returned to face to face meeting and was well attended as was the governor conference. Halton Governor Association is re-building post pandemic and wider governor training is being offered by the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer; School Improvement colleagues and Governor Services, as well as online offers from NGA and Modern Governor.</p>						
PED05e	In partnership with schools, review and design an effective educational vision for the region that meets pupils needs whilst raising ambitions (March 2022 Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> Educational vision for the region has been coproduced through Halton Learning Alliance. Whilst this was launched and shared virtually during the pandemic, progress and further updates will be shared with stakeholders in early autumn term.</p>						
PED05f	Launch Halton Learning Alliance Strategic Partnership to develop an inclusive, ambitious approach developing contributing, successful citizens locally, nationally and globally. All educational stakeholders and community members acting with morale purpose for Halton children, young people and community members (March 2022, Jill Farrell)	Refer comment				
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> The partnership was launched during covid and a shadow working board has been developing work stream priorities for the region. This term we will be moving towards a strategic governance structure with subgroups for each priority driving forward the ambition.</p>						
<p>Objective: Improve participation and skills for young people to drive Halton's future (PED06)</p>						
Ref:	Measure	20/21 Actual	21/22 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED06 01	Maintain the percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (snapshot end of quarter, end of year information February)	3.4%	4.0%	3.7%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> There were more young people whose activity was not known to the Local Authority last year. We've reduced that number this year, those we do now know are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is why the NEET figure has increased this year. The overall NEET and Not Known figure is equivalent to the same performance as last year.</p>						

PED06 02	Maintain the percentage of 16-17 year olds whose activity is not known (snapshot end of quarter, end of year information February)	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%		
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> The reintroduction of visiting homes when we are unable to make contact with a young person via telephone, email or social media has allowed us to reduce the number of young people whose activity is not known to us.						
PED06 03	Increase the percentage of 16-17 year olds with an offer of learning (September guarantee)	96.8%	98%	96.6%		
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> The final figure for September 2021 is down 0.2% from September 2020. Looking at a breakdown of September Guarantee figures for the Year 11 cohort and the Year 12 cohort separately, the Year 11 cohort results were 0.2% higher than 2020 but the Year 12 cohort results were 0.6% down from 2020. The reasons for the decrease is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 young people progressed into employment without training in 2021 (therefore doesn't count as a September Guarantee) compared to 17 in 2020 • There were also 20 young people considering their options in 2021 (i.e. not made a decision on where they wanted to progress to) compared to 14 in 2020. 						
PED06 04	Increase the percentage of 16-17 year olds participating in education or training that meets the Government definition of full participation (known as Raising the Participation Age)	92.9%	92%	90.9%		
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Young people who progress to employment without training are defined as not meeting the duty to participate in education or training and therefore not counted in the Raising the Participation Age figures. We saw an increase of academic age 17 year olds progressing into employment without training in September 2021 and this has been sustained through to March 2022 when the Raising the Participation Age measure is taken.						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED06a	Closely monitor the cohort of young people not in education, employment or training and identify common patterns/issues to inform actions, guide the effective use of resources and to identify any future commissioning needs (Háf Bell) (March 2022)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Analysis of cohort and discussions with those working with young people have informed the re-commissioning of a service to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education, employment or training from April 2022.		
PED06c	Work with schools, the College and training providers to review the post 16 offers of learning made to young people and increase the amount of offers made before the end of an academic year. (July 2022) (Háf Bell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> First data return was for schools and due in March 2022. 55% of schools meet the deadline, with 100% meeting the deadline shortly afterwards. The delay was due to new staff responsible for making the returns. Data is still being inputted currently therefore a comparison to last year is not yet possible. Further returns will take place before the end of the academic year.		
PED06d	Work with schools, the College and training providers to report where young people progress to Post 16 as quickly as possible so those who haven't progressed can be identified and contacted to offer support (October 2021) (Háf Bell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Whilst institutions have been working well with us we have found inaccuracies in data provided that hindered our ability to identify where young people had progressed too efficiently. Young people were identified during the autumn term, but additional response to home visit young people who were then found to be studying in institutions, who should have informed us of this, was an ineffective use of time.		
PED06d	Work with Post 16 education and training providers in the borough to support the development of provision that does have clear progression opportunities (March 2022) (Háf Bell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Individual work has taken place with providers to discuss their offer and ensure all staff providing careers guidance is aware of the provision offer in Halton. A face to face meeting to bring all providers together to discuss their offer and the		

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
<p><i>progression routes has been moved back to the summer 2022 term as uncertainties about social distancing expectations was making planning difficult in the first part of 2022.</i></p>		

5.0 Financial Summary


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Financial Statements attached

6.0 Appendix I

6.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

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

6.2 Direction of Travel indicator

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

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

6.3 Key for responsible officers:

- JF** Jill Farrell, Interim Operational Director, Education, Inclusion and Provision Service
- OD** Operational Director, Children and Families Service